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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 4, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EARL L. ''BUDDY'' CARTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

DHS FUNDING AND IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Speaker and the Republican majority for coming to their senses and allowing the House of Representatives to pass a bill funding the Department of Homeland Security for the rest of the fiscal year.

It seems odd that I would have to come to this well to congratulate the majority for funding one of the largest and most important departments in the U.S. Government. I cannot congratulate the majority alone because the bill funding the Department of Homeland Security was passed largely on the strength—yes—of Democratic votes.

The vote was strong, 257–167, but 182 of those votes came from Democrats. In fact, every Democrat who voted voted to keep the Department of Homeland Security open and protecting America until the end of the fiscal year, 100 percent. Only 75 Republicans supported paying our border security and airport security professionals.

Mr. Speaker, it should never have come to this. On the one hand, it should never have come to this because Members of Congress should never play around with the paychecks of our fellow government employees and threaten them with furloughs in order to score cheap partisan political points.

The real people with real lives who work at O'Hare and Midway and at ports, airports, and border crossings, the real people with mortgages, car notes, and tuition bills who provide the security our democracy depends on do not deserve the way they are treated by this Congress. Lurching from funding crisis to shutdown showdown to last-minute votes is no way to run the greatest democracy the world has ever known.

We know there is a sensible, bipartisan majority that is willing to compromise and do what has to be done to keep the basic functions of government operating. That group voted yesterday, and the leadership should find a way to let that sensible majority govern, despite those who take every opportunity to make governing next to impossible in this body.

Secondly, it should never have come to this because the premise on which this funding and shutdown crisis rested was never logical or necessary.

Those who opposed the President exercising powers granted to him by the Congress have filed a lawsuit in Federal court. They picked a sympathetic judge and have won a temporary injunction on the implementation of the executive actions the President announced last November.

If they really believe in the strength of their case, this threat of a partial government shutdown was unnecessary. Clearly, they agree with me that their case is weak and that the courts will eventually overturn the temporary injunction.

But the logic was always sideways. The very Presidential actions that some in the Republican Party object to are not even funded by the appropriations made by Congress. The criminal background checks and the adjudication of each person's application is paid for in full by fees of $465 for each immigrant, so this was never a logical funding matter.

With or without funding for the Department of Homeland Security, the premise that Congress could force the President to deport low-priority deportees who grew up in the United States or who are the parents of U.S. citizens never held water.

Even if people cannot come forward to apply and pass a criminal background check and get to the back of the deportation line, the basic way the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security prioritized deporting criminals, drug dealers, and drunk drivers over moms, dads, and DREAMers, that would not change.

Think about it. It is as if the Republicans were saying they are so upset about their obsession with border security and their conviction that the President is not doing enough about border security that they were willing to defund border security in order to make their point. Jon Stewart can't write stuff that good, and he doesn't have to.

Here is the biggest reason why it didn't have to come to a shutdown showdown. Republicans in the House

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could have taken action last year to fix our broken immigration system so that we don't have to continue this fiction about deporting 11 million undocumented workers.

They could have had a vote to reform our immigration system so that people can apply for visas and come legally in the first place rather than being forced into the black market where there are smugglers. They could have allowed a vote that put E-Verify in place, put serious sanctions and jail time for employers in place, and targeted our enforcement resources on felons, not families.

I stood here nearly every week last year and said: If the Republicans failed to act, the President would be forced to act within the limits of current law to rescue American families and target our enforcement resources on criminals. I was right, and for the record, I told you so, using a countdown right here on the House floor.

The coalition to pass reform, which is made up of almost all of the Democrats and about a third or more of the Republicans—the same coalition that enacted the bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security in yesterday's vote—existed then, and it exists today, if our leaders are willing to work together to address immigration reform.

It is not too late, and I predict that the Republican Party will continue boxing itself into a corner until it addresses this important American priority.

HOUSE HUNGER CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, later this morning, I will be joined by my Republican colleague Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS of Kansas at D.C. Central Kitchen to officially relaunch the House Hunger Caucus.

I couldn't be happier that we are continuing this important bipartisan caucus in the 114th Congress. I am thrilled to have her partnership in this caucus, and I look forward to working with her.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago, my good friend and former Republican colleague from Missouri Jo Ann Emerson and I founded the House Hunger Caucus as a forum for Members to discuss, advance, engage, and work on issues related to domestic and international hunger and food insecurity.

Over the years, the House Hunger Caucus has hosted a number of briefings on topics ranging from introductions to the major domestic and international hunger programs, to food deserts in rural and urban America, to global agriculture and farmer-to-farmer initiatives, to international school feeding and child nutrition programs, just to name a few.

The caucus doesn't just look at existing programs. It also gets involved in emergency responses as they are unfolding. In 2011, during one of the worst droughts in recent memory, the House Hunger Caucus held timely briefings on the U.S. response to the famine in the Horn of Africa. Members and staff were able to hear directly from those on the ground providing assistance to deal with this unprecedented crisis.

One of the most important objectives of the House Hunger Caucus is to foster better communication among antihunger advocates by bringing together stakeholders from Federal agencies, State and local governments, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, academia, and business to discuss long-term strategies for ending hunger. The caucus also serves as a vehicle for antihunger organizations to communicate directly to Congress about hunger and food insecurity issues.

One of my top priorities for the House Hunger Caucus this year is to make sure we hear directly from those who have experienced hunger and poverty firsthand. We need to make sure that their voices are heard in the discussions here in Washington.

One of the greatest assets of the House Hunger Caucus is that it is bipartisan—Republicans and Democrats. It is a way for Members to come together to work to end hunger.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a congressional district in the United States of America that is hunger-free, not a single one. According to the USDA, more than 17.5 million American households were food insecure in 2013, meaning that their access to adequate food was limited by a lack of money or other resources; 5.6 percent of households were considered to have very low food security. In other words, those households were hungry.

Hunger disproportionately affects the most vulnerable among us: children, seniors, and the disabled. Last year, 16 million children, or one in five, experienced hunger, and increasingly, veterans and military families are experiencing hunger.

On the international side, about 805 million people in the world, or one in nine, suffer from hunger, according to the most recent U.N. reports. This is a decrease of 100 million over the past decade and 209 million since the early 1990s.

The U.S. can be proud of its leadership in reducing global hunger and addressing the root causes of food insecurity. Through partnerships with other nations, international organizations, our own farmers, NGOs, and private sector communities, we are advancing agricultural development; increasing child nutrition; reducing malnutrition among infants and children; empowering small farmers around the globe, especially women; and providing nutritious meals in school settings. While the journey is long, we now have a proven and coordinated set of programs that effectively address global hunger.

Mr. Speaker, as we reestablish the House Hunger Caucus, I can't think of a better location to launch it at than D.C. Central Kitchen, a unique antihunger organization that prepares 5,000 meals a day for more than 80 local nonprofit partners, helping those going through tough times.

One of D.C. Central Kitchen's greatest strengths is its culinary jobs training program, where men and women who have faced the most difficult of situations—homelessness, addiction, or incarceration—participate in a rigorous job training program to prepare for culinary careers.

As part of our kickoff this week, the House Hunger Caucus will host a briefing for House staff entitled ''Domestic Hunger 101'' tomorrow at 1 p.m. The briefing will be given by CRS experts and is intended to present a broad overview of the major domestic Federal antihunger programs.

I look forward to continuing this important work of the House Hunger Caucus with the gentlewoman from Kansas, Congresswoman JENKINS. I encourage my House colleagues to join the House Hunger Caucus.

As Members, we don't have to agree on everything to agree on something, and ending hunger should be something we all can agree on.

DODD-FRANK AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES BILLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to discuss the negative consequences of the Dodd-Frank law, as well as reforms to the law that would represent much-needed solutions for middle class families in Kentucky and across the country.

When this act was signed into law nearly 5 years ago, its supporters made many promises. President Obama claimed it would ''lift the economy'' and that it would help protect Main Street, not Wall Street. In both of these instances, the opposite has proven true.

While the President is claiming victory on the economy, many Kentucky families and families across America are still hurting. Last year, the U.S. economy grew at an anemic 2.4 percent, the ninth year in a row of growth below the postwar average of about 3 percent.

President Reagan also inherited a very difficult economic situation; however, if this recovery had progressed at the same rate as the Reagan recovery of the 1980s, the economy would be about $2 trillion larger, which works out to be about $1,500 more per family per year.

This is hardly the boom that the President talks about. Growth this low for this long is simply not fast enough to lift incomes for most Americans.

A primary cause of the weakness of this recovery is the avalanche of red tape coming out of the Obama administration, including the nearly 400 new

rules and regulations arising from Dodd-Frank that are crushing small communities around the country.

Dodd-Frank imposes costly and burdensome restrictions on community banks and credit unions that limit their ability to loan money to their customers, which is hindering economic growth and hurting low- and middle-income Americans the hardest.

A community banker in my district told me that before Dodd-Frank, lending decisions were often made based on a business judgment about the character and the creditworthiness of their customers.

People in small towns across America, they know each other, and local banks and credit unions are in the business of helping their neighbors. These institutions assume the consequences of their decisions at no risk to the financial system or to taxpayers who have been on the hook for bailouts.

□ 1015

So they are willing to take a risk, both in terms of how to best help their customers achieve his or her dreams and how to provide a reasonable return for the shareholders of the bank or members of the credit union.

But that same banker told me that, after Dodd-Frank, the government is making the decisions instead of the shareholders or the bank board, imposing a one-size-fits-all, top-down mandate on local financial institutions.

Rather than working with people, this community banker now deals with mountains of paperwork and Federal regulators. The result has been a disaster.

The number of community banks has declined by 9.5 percent. There have been far fewer new community bank charters, and less services and products are now offered to customers and consumers.

The law created new, unaccountable bureaucracies on top of an overly complex financial regulatory system. New, unaccountable bureaucracies like the well-sounding but mislabeled Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Financial Stability Oversight Council operate largely out of public view and are subject to almost none of the checks and balances imposed on other government agencies.

For example, the Bureau deemed Bath County, Kentucky, with a population of about 10,000 people, as nonrural, making it even more difficult for its people to secure loans from community banks and credit unions.

Think about this: the ridiculous scenario of Washington, D.C., bureaucrats labeling one of the most rural parts of America as nonrural and hurting the people as a result.

Shockingly, this unaccountable agency provided no valid justification for how they came to this conclusion, nor any means to challenge this arbitrary determination.

After I introduced legislation, along with members of both parties, to address this issue, the agency, after more than a year of delay, finally relented and expanded its definition of rural to include Bath County.

While this is a positive development for this Kentucky county, the process remains opaque, arbitrary, and not subject to appeal, and our rural communities continue to struggle with one-size-fits-all regulatory approaches for which they lack the resources to comply.

This week, I will reintroduce the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act, which would give individuals an appeals process by which to contest this designation.

Dodd-Frank includes several other rules which are holding our economy back. Thanks to the Bureau's qualified mortgage rule, it is now harder for creditworthy low- and moderate-income Americans to buy a home.

The Volcker rule has made U.S. capital markets less competitive internationally, creating unnecessary obstacles for U.S. companies to raise the funds they need to grow their businesses and create jobs.

Despite the stated intentions of this law, community banks and credit unions have been left to comply with onerous new regulations intended to prevent a repeat of the financial crisis they did not cause.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, let's join together, cut red tape and unnecessary regulations that are holding our communities back. We can create real opportunity and encourage private sector growth by repealing this law and starting over.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to heed the gavel.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MINNIE MINOSO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great baseball player and a baseball player who befriended me and was a great human being who passed away on Sunday, Saturnino Orestes Arrieta Armas, Minnie Minoso, the Cuban Comet, Mr. White Sox.

Minnie Minoso was born in 1925 on November 29 in Cuba. He played baseball in Cuba, had the opportunity to come to America and play in the Negro Leagues for, being a Black Cuban, he wasn't allowed to play in the Major Leagues.

He played 3 years with the New York Cubans, and then, Bill Veeck, who was one of the leaders, I guess, the American League's Branch Rickey, gave him an opportunity to play baseball in the Major Leagues. After playing in the Minors in San Diego, he came up with the Cleveland Indians, but was quickly traded to the Chicago White Sox, where he started his career in 1951, and became known as Mr. White Sox.

He was a great White Sox baseball player, one of the greatest players of the 1950s, and a great emissary of Latin American baseballers. He was the first Black Latin American baseball player, he was the first Black White Sox player, and the second African American in the American League after Larry Doby.

Minnie Minoso had a great career. He did everything in baseball. He hit for average, he hit for power, he had speed, he was a great fielder, a great competitor, and he was a great human being.

In 1955, I was recovering from polio and I lived in Memphis, Tennessee. I went to an exhibition baseball game at Russwood Park, where the White Sox were playing the Cardinals. I had a White Sox cap, kind of like this one—this is a Minnie Minoso cap—and a White Sox T-shirt, and I was on crutches, getting autographs.

A player came and gave me a baseball, and I thanked him and I went to my dad and told my dad about it. We went down to thank the player. He was White, a pitcher named Tom Poholsky. He said: Don't thank me. Thank that player over there.

That was number 9 for the White Sox, Minnie Minoso. In the entire baseball field of 50 players or more, one cared about a young boy with polio who was a White Sox fan and wanted to do something for him.

But in segregated Memphis, a Black player didn't feel comfortable doing that, and he did it through a White player. It taught me, at a very early age, about the horrors of discrimination and prejudice and racism.

Minnie became my friend. I visited him in Chicago and went into the White Sox locker room. He gave me his bat. When he came to Memphis, I visited him at the Lorraine Motel, which is where the Black players stayed, while the White players were at the Peabody.

The Lorraine is where Dr. King was killed and now is a great civil rights museum in Memphis. This was another lesson in discrimination for me that taught me well and has taught me, to this day, to be vigilant against all forms of racism and discrimination.

I followed Minnie my whole life. He was like part of my family. When we moved to Los Angeles, we went and visited him at Chavez Ravine. He came up to my dad and he said: Doc, how is the kid's leg? How is he doing?

He always was concerned. He was a great human being and a great baseball player.

He was denied one of his life's goals of being voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. I tried to help him with that.

Baseball made a mistake. They should have put Minnie in the Hall of Fame for being a great emissary of baseball and the first Latin American Black player, the first Latin American player, really, in the Big Leagues.

He died Sunday. Visitation is Friday at Holy Family Church in Chicago. The funeral is Saturday.

I will miss Minnie Minoso. He is a lesson in why sport are bigger than runs, hits, and errors. It is about human beings and humanity and young kids.

Thank you, Minnie.

REST IN PEACE, FATHER TED HESBURGH AND PROFESSOR CHARLES RICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Notre Dame family lost two larger-than-life figures.

One, a Holy Cross priest, Father Ted Hesburgh, served as Notre Dame's president for 35 years and oversaw remarkable growth of the university named for Our Lady. Father Hesburgh was known and recognized around the world.

The other was a layman, Charles Rice, who taught at Notre Dame Law School for 40 years and was a retired Marine, a devoted husband to his wife, Mary, without whom he could never have accomplished his work, a devoted father, and an academic who dove deep into the philosophical underpinnings of the law. It is estimated that he taught half of the living alumni of the Notre Dame Law School.

While much has been written and said these last few days about Father Hesburgh, given the international stage on which he walked, comparatively less has been said of Professor Rice, except for the recognition that countless law students, colleagues, and pro-life and religious liberty advocates have given in the days since he passed away.

To my left is one of those iconic figures from the 1960s. In it, we see Dr. Martin Luther King and Father Hesburgh, standing together for racial equality in Chicago.

What allowed these two remarkable men to come together, in spite of different backgrounds and traditions, was a common understanding of justice that was grounded in our Western and Judeo-Christian philosophy of law.

It was this same philosophy that was at the heart of what Professor Charles Rice taught at Notre Dame.

In Martin Luther King's ''Letter from Birmingham Jail,'' written 2 years prior to the famous Selma March that will be commemorated this weekend, Dr. King addressed his fellow clergymen, many of whom were criticizing his tactics in confronting unjust Jim Crow laws.

One may well ask, Dr. King wrote: ''How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?''

The answer lies in the fact that there are two types of laws, just and unjust.

I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to obey unjust laws. I, Dr. King said, would agree with St. Augustine that ''an unjust law is no law at all.''

Dr. King then asked, Now what is the difference between the two? How does one determine whether a law is just or unjust?

King answered that a just law is a manmade code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas, Dr. King continued, an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal law and natural law.

These words would be very familiar to any of Charlie Rice's jurisprudence students. Indeed, a significant amount of Professor Rice's work dealt with the concept of natural law.

Natural law principles were recognized in our Declaration of Independence, with Jefferson referencing the ''Laws of Nature and Nature's God'' and the recognition that individuals are endowed by a Creator with certain inalienable rights, including a right to life.

Charlie Rice was a fierce defender of the right to life. He believed that every human being, whether an elderly grandmother who could no longer care for herself, a young adult who was incapacitated through an accident or a degenerative disease, an unborn child capable of feeling pain, or a 3-week-old unborn child whose heart had just begun to beat, had an inalienable right to life. And for Charlie, those lives, and all human lives, are sacred because they are a gift of God.

In the years since Roe v. Wade, Professor Rice never wavered from his core conviction on the right to life. He became increasingly concerned for the religious freedom and conscience rights of individuals when he saw government coercing them into practices that violated those rights.

Professor Rice told his students: ''Never be afraid to speak the truth.'' He certainly never was.

For him, the truth was clear. The right to life and freedom of religion, both of which are specifically mentioned in our Nation's founding documents, are under attack.

But Professor Rice never gave up. He believed that one day those rights would be protected again, and he continued to defend those rights to the day he died.

His work in defending life and religious freedom will continue. It will live on in his wife, Mary, his children, and grandchildren, as well as the countless lives he touched.

May Professor Rice and Father Hesburgh rest in peace.

PRIME MINISTER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU'S RECENT ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, 23 hours ago, in this Chamber, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was given a large megaphone to undercut American diplomatic attempts at restraining Iran's nuclear ambitions. One has to go back to the days of Gen. Douglas MacArthur being fired by President Truman, who was then invited to Congress by the Republican leadership to a rapturous audience.

Yet history has shown that General MacArthur and the Republican leadership were wrong, Truman was right, and is, deemed one of our best Presidents for the hard, difficult decisions he made to much political criticism. And history has not been so kind to the career and personality of General MacArthur and the message he delivered to that Congress.

I suspect that history will not be kind to yesterday's speech and the decision to stage it.

The Prime Minister delivered no alternative vision other than an impossible set of demands that would ensure negotiations by America, our allies, and the Russians fail. He seemed to doom Americans and Iranians to be permanent enemies, even though the Iranian people, distinct from the ayatollahs and their minions, by all accounts, are the only country in the region, other than Israel, that has a positive view towards America. Think about that.

But the flaws in Netanyahu's speech were more fundamental. He had no alternative vision, no outline of a plan that would do anything other than lead to war.

□ 1030

His remarks continued a series of dire predictions that I have heard from him since I first came to Congress in 1995. He had the same certitude when he testified before Congress about what a positive, transformational event it would be for the United States to go to war with Iraq.

It was good politics at the time, probably even for most American politicians, and I am sure it was good politics in Israel. But he demonstrated spectacularly bad political judgment, cheerleading the United States into the worst foreign policy disaster in our history, costing us trillions of dollars with no end in sight, costing hundreds of thousands of lives, and casting the Middle East in turmoil.

Indeed, Iran's ayatollahs were the only winners in the wake of that tragic war urged on by Netanyahu. It allowed Iran to have an outsized influence in the very countries that Netanyahu mentioned. The Middle East is in crisis, on the defensive with ISIS forces that are only slightly larger than the authorized strength of the California National Guard.

Mr. Netanyahu produced a vision that is bound to fail, and at what cost to the American-Israeli leadership? Making Israel a partisan issue harms Israel, according to a good friend of

mine who worked for AIPAC for years. More troubling, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister did not offer one word about his failure to produce a peaceful, two-state solution. Now, I would have welcomed even a word about the pending humanitarian crisis in Gaza. I am not talking about war with the militants. I am talking about 1.7 million people in a land where 95 percent of the water is already unfit to drink, and by next year it will be the case with all domestic water. If no action is taken, by 2020, that damage will be irreversible.

But I was encouraged by the AIPAC conference. While I don't necessarily agree with all of their policy prescriptions dealing with Iran, I was heartened to see that they had two well-attended panel discussions featuring Gidon Bromberg, an Israeli expert, that highlighted why it was in both the interest of Israel and Gaza to solve the pending water and sanitation crisis and that solution is easily within the power of Israel, the United States, and other donor nations.

I saw that as a bright spot in a troubling day. If we concentrate on simple, commonsense steps where we can work together to save lives and improve the future, I think there is a lot more on the horizon that we can accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with Israel. That is why I chose not to undercut our diplomats in the midst of negotiating by attending that joint session. Netanyahu offers one perspective—certainly not mine. But challenging his ideas is not anti-Israeli any more than challenging the ideas of President Obama is anti-American.

I will welcome a feasible alternative to a bad deal, but I have yet to hear one, especially from the Prime Minister. Until then, I will stand with Israel by empowering our negotiators and not undercutting them.

SELMA AND THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. TAKAI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the 50th anniversary of the Selma voting rights movement and of the Selma to Montgomery marches that led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act. Nothing so far has moved me more as a freshman Member of this august body than to sit down and talk with our colleague, JOHN LEWIS, who years ago was the chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

I have had many occasions since the beginning of this Congress to speak with Congressman JOHN LEWIS about the events of 50 years ago. He is the only living ''Big Six'' leader of the American civil rights movement still with us. It will forever be my honor to have sat next to Mr. LEWIS when President Obama gave his State of the Union Address earlier this year. It was not lost on me that I was sitting and listening to President Obama while sitting next to a man whose actions 50 years ago helped pave the way for Barack Obama, a Black kid from Hawaii, to become President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the freedom marches mark a significant turning point in America's history. As an ethnic minority myself, I am thankful for those that paved the way for the freedoms and the liberties that all of us as Americans enjoy. They suffered insults and physical harm, yet their spirit remained unbroken.

The right of our citizens to vote is one that runs through the foundation of our country. To prevent or inhibit the vote of a citizen is an action that I feel contradicts the very principles on which this country was established. Even in our current society, there are efforts being undertaken to limit citizens of our country from casting their vote. This is a despicable practice and highlights to me the importance of the Voting Rights Act and the need to remain vigilant against those who seek to reverse the great strides made by this country towards equal rights for all.

The brave actions taken by the civil rights marchers 50 years ago still resonate with our society today. That is why I am proud to join the 50th anniversary of the freedom march.

Looking through the photos of the original Selma protest, I was struck by photos of Dr. Martin Luther King, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, and others leading the 54-mile third march, arms linked together in solidarity, wearing what looked like white double carnation Hawaiian lei. Looking into the matter further, I learned, in fact, that they were wearing lei. Why were they wearing lei? I found an answer that drove home for me the importance of standing together for civil rights for all.

Mr. Speaker, many of you may not know this, but Dr. Martin Luther King actually came to speak at the University of Hawaii in 1964. He came for a civil rights symposium being held at the university. It was during this time in Hawaii that he began a deep friendship with the Reverend Abraham Kahikina Akaka, former pastor of Kawaiahao Church in Oahu and the first chairman of the Hawaii Advisory Committee of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. In the spirit of aloha, which means compassion, peace, and love, the reverend sent to Selma lei for the leaders of the protests to wear.

I will be marching this weekend, Mr. Speaker; and to honor the tradition and the bond established many years ago between Hawaii and the Alabama civil rights leaders, Senator MAZIE HIRONO and I will be presenting lei to Congressman JOHN LEWIS and all of our congressional colleagues. These lei are a tribute to the Selma marchers 50 years ago and the knowledge that their efforts reverberated through our Nation and to Hawaii, a State that was only 6 years old.

As we travel across the 54-mile historic trail and cross the famous Edmund Pettus Bridge on Saturday, we will remember those whose lives were lost fighting for our civil rights, remember those who paved the way, celebrate the hard fought victories, and remind ourselves that the fight is not yet over.

I look forward to participating in this historic weekend, and I thank the Faith & Politics Institute for coordinating our congressional pilgrimage to Alabama.

WHY PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD IS IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, this is the fifth time this year that I have addressed this Chamber about Puerto Rico's political destiny. I recently introduced a bill that would provide for Puerto Rico's admission as a State once a majority of Puerto Rico's electorate affirms their desire for statehood in a federally sponsored vote. The bill already has 70 cosponsors—56 Democrats and 14 Republicans.

In contrast to Puerto Rico's current territory status, statehood would deliver to my constituents what all free people deserve: full voting rights, full self-government, and full equality under the law. And unlike separate nationhood, which is the only other non-territory option available to Puerto Rico, statehood would help rebuild the island's shattered economy and improve its quality of life. Indeed, the fact that statehood would be in the best interest of Puerto Rico is beyond reasonable dispute. There will always be politicians in Puerto Rico who claim otherwise for ideological reasons, but their arguments are detached from reality.

Today I want to outline why statehood would also be in the national interest of the United States as a whole. There are three main reasons—one moral, one economic, and one political. First, the moral reason.

In 2012, my constituents held a free and fair vote in which they rejected territory status and expressed a preference for statehood. At a subsequent Senate committee hearing, then-chairman RON WYDEN said that the current relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico ''undermines the United States' moral standing in the world.'' Senator WYDEN posed this question:

''For a nation founded on the principles of democracy and the consent of the governed, how much longer can America allow a condition to persist in which nearly 4 million U.S. citizens do not have a vote in the government that makes the national laws which affect their daily lives?''

If Puerto Rico desires statehood, I cannot identify any moral basis upon which Congress could decline that petition, especially in light of the enormous contribution that island residents have made in our Armed Forces over generations. How could the U.S. Government, a champion of democracy and self-determination around the world, disregard those principles with respect to its own citizens without losing credibility at home and abroad?

The second reason that statehood is in the national interest is economic. Last year, the GAO published a report about the fiscal impact of statehood on the Federal Government. The report confirms that statehood will enhance quality of life in Puerto Rico, but it also alleviates any concern that statehood would have an adverse impact on the U.S. Treasury. As the GAO explains, new Federal outlays to Puerto Rico would be significantly counterbalanced by new Federal revenues generated from the island.

The truth is this: this Nation will benefit when Puerto Rico's economic economy is strong, when its residents do not need to move to the States to achieve their dreams or vote for their national leaders, when individuals in businesses on the island flourish, and when the corporate and individual tax base expands. The U.S. stands to gain from the state of Puerto Rico's success, just as it currently pays a severe price for the territory's shortcomings.

Finally, let me turn to the political dimensions of this debate. The evidence indicates that either national party could be competitive on the island. I am a proud Democrat, but the pro-statehood party I lead includes hundreds of thousands of equally proud Republicans. Voters in Puerto Rico have elected two Republican Governors and numerous Republican senators, representatives, and mayors at the local level. I can say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that they should not view the prospective State of Puerto Rico as either a blessing or a curse for their party's fortunes but, rather, as an opportunity.

Statehood is not only in Puerto Rico's interests; it is also in the national interests. Statehood will make Puerto Rico stronger, and it will make the United States a more perfect Union.

God bless Puerto Rico, the next State of the United States of America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Lord, You have promised to be with all people wherever they are, whatever their need. We reach out in prayer for the homeless, the poor, those anxious about the future, those who are ill, or those to whom freedom has been denied.

Bless the Members of this people's House. Inspire them, as representatives of the American people, to labor for justice and righteousness in our Nation and our world, mindful of Your concern for those most in need.

For all the riches of our human experience, O Lord, we give You thanks. Make us aware of our responsibilities, as stewards of Your divine gifts, and empower us with Your grace to faithfully and earnestly use our talents in ways that bring understanding to our communities and to our Nation, and peace to every soul.

May all we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

A GREAT IDEA: 529 PLANS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I believe in an opportunity economy, where hard work, education, innovation, and risk are rewarded, and we empower individuals, not government.

Imagine what determination and a degree can do for today's young people, provided they have a variety of choices to meet their needs and good information about the investment they are making.

Paying for college is hard work, and it is getting more difficult as tuition and fees continue to increase at rapid rates. Luckily, American families have an investment tool known as a 529 plan to help them save for their child's college education.

Last week, the House approved bipartisan legislation to expand, strengthen, and improve 529 plans, which nearly 12 million families have utilized to help plan for their child's education.

With student loan debt surpassing credit card debt, we need to do everything we can to encourage American families to save for college and invest in their child's future.

MANUFACTURED POLITICAL CRISES

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Democrats in the House stood united to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security was funded for the remainder of the year.

After bringing our Nation's security and public safety to the brink of shutdown twice in the last 2 weeks, the Speaker finally relented and allowed the will of the majority of the House of Representatives to be heard on the floor. All Democrats and a good number of responsible Members on the other side joined together to make sure that Homeland Security was funded for the remainder of the year.

It is completely unacceptable that we have seen, since this Congress has convened, manufactured political crises that divert us away from the real issues that the American people want us to take up.

Americans at home are worried about making ends meet. They work harder and harder and can't seem to get ahead. They can't seem to save for retirement. They can't guarantee that their young kids are going to have the opportunity to attend college. That is what they want us to take up.

We cannot continue manufactured political crises intended to pander to the most extreme voices in this body.

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it was an honor to have Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu speak to a joint session of Congress yesterday. Israel is one of our country's closest allies, an essential partner in restraining Iran's nuclear threat and combating

the growing threat of terrorist groups like ISIL Daesh.

Hearing Prime Minister Netanyahu speak out against radical Islam and warn the world about the threat of a nuclear Iran, I was reminded of another great leader who addressed Congress nearly 75 years ago. Winston Churchill and Binyamin Netanyahu are the only two foreign leaders to address a joint session of Congress three times.

Like many, I believe Prime Minister Netanyahu is the Churchill of our time. Both men had to fight against global threats of unmatched and barbaric proportions but also stood firm to other world leaders advancing a strategy of appeasement over strength. I only hope that we heed Netanyahu's words now before it is too late to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. And may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

JUDGE EUGENE FAHEY, NEW YORK STATE COURT OF APPEALS

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on February 9, the nomination of Judge Eugene Fahey of Buffalo to a seat on the New York State Court of Appeals was confirmed.

I have known Gene for many years, starting when we were colleagues on the Buffalo Common Council. Gene went on to judicial service, first as a city court judge and later as a trial and appellate justice of the New York State Supreme Court. Gene's decisions include a landmark ruling affirming the validity of New York's marriage equality statute.

As colleagues on the council, Gene and I had many conversations about public service, though rarely about where our respective careers might take us. It is with tremendous pride that we now see Gene taking a seat as an associate justice on the most celebrated, top-level State court in the United States. His service will be a great credit to those whom he is sworn to serve.

Mr. Speaker, in Justice Eugene Fahey, the New York Court of Appeals gains a towering intellect, a booming voice, a compassionate heart, and an accomplished lead guitarist.

My best wishes go to Gene; his wife, Colleen; and their daughter, Ann.

DHS FUNDING AND THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House voted with bipartisan support to pass H.R. 240, legislation to fund the Department of Homeland Security through September 30, 2015.

It is our constitutional duty to ensure that our country remains safe, and playing politics with Homeland Security funding, when the world is as dangerous as it is today, is simply unacceptable. Make no doubt about it, it is critically important to stop the President's actions on immigration. But at a time like this, it would be gravely irresponsible to allow the Department of Homeland Security to shut down, or even to have the appearance of that.

When the executive and legislative branches of our government are in disagreement, the judicial branch must play referee, and that is exactly what took place when a Federal judge sided with a complaint filed by 26 States in opposition to the President's move toward amnesty.

Now that our Federal courts have halted President Obama's executive actions, further rulings will closely examine how the President has overreached his constitutional authorities.

Mr. Speaker, considering all of the facts, voting ''yes'' on Homeland Security funding yesterday was the right decision. However, this does not compromise my position of standing strong against the President's executive actions.

FUNDING DHS

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise with some relief to note that yesterday, we did come together to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security. A number of us came together and ignored the extremist shutdown crowd and did the responsible thing and funded this Department.

I regret that the Department had to spend millions of dollars to prepare for a shutdown that it anticipated having to go through. Nevertheless, this is a Department that protects our Nation at a time when ISIL is executing journalists and aid workers and Christians and Muslims, when al Shabaab is threatening our Nation's biggest shopping mall. We need the Department of Homeland Security. And I say, Bully.

Let us continue to do the responsible thing and fund our departments, including the Department of Homeland Security.

IRAN

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that we cannot trust the tyrannical regime in Iran. For many years, our own State Department has determined that Iran is one of the world's leading state sponsors of terrorism.

As Prime Minister Netanyahu reminded us yesterday, the Iranian Government has consistently called for the destruction of Israel and has referred to the United States as the ''Great Satan.'' Does this sound like a negotiating partner that we can trust?

If anyone is unwilling to acknowledge their support for terror groups like Hezbollah or their hateful words toward America and Israel, then consider how this regime acts toward its own people. They stifle dissent by restricting the most basic political freedoms within their borders—the freedoms of speech, assembly, and press. They often jail opposition leaders and journalists and hold them without cause.

If Iran wants to be considered a legitimate power, they should stop arming and aiding terror groups and open up their political system to prove to the world that they are committed to freedom and peace. They can start by releasing all political prisoners, including Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian, who has been unjustly imprisoned for over 200 days. These steps should be taken before the U.S. continues to negotiate any nuclear deal.

PLAYING PARTY POLITICS

(Mr. AGUILAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, last week we were pushed to the brink of shutting down the Department of Homeland Security, the agency tasked with safeguarding our homeland from threats here and abroad, all because Congress couldn't do its job. Only weeks after horrific attacks in Paris and with news of ISIS every day, the House majority risked the national security of our country to play party politics.

We cannot continue to govern in crisis mode, threatening the safety of American lives, jobs, and our homeland, so my colleagues can score political points. Enough is enough.

Threatening to shut down DHS was reckless, unnecessary, and completely avoidable. The House majority's games have forced Congress away from its most critical priority, working for middle class families to create jobs, improve transportation and infrastructure, invest in education, and protect programs for our seniors. It is time to stop playing political games and get back to what the people elected us to do.

HONORING MAJOR TRENT COLESTOCK, UNITED STATES ARMY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Army congressional liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives Major Trent Colestock. The Army has recognized his patriotism, abilities, and his demonstrated potential for increased responsibility, and

it promoted him to the rank of major on February 1.

Born in my hometown of Miami, Florida, and raised in Mineral Wells, Texas, Trent graduated from Texas Christian University, where he earned a degree in business administration and an Army commission. During his congressional assignment, he earned a master's degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army's Field Artillery Branch, Trent has served at Fort Drum, Fort Hood, and in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout his career in our proud military, Trent has earned many accolades, including the Combat Action Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal.

It is my distinct pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to join with Major Colestock's family, friends, and peers as they honor his promotion and the many accomplishments of his outstanding service to our Nation.

□ 1215

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL RADIO AND REINTRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL RADIO FREEDOM ACT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the significant benefits and services that our local radio stations provide to our communities.

I cannot say enough about the benefits local radio provides constituents in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas. Local radio provides AMBER Alerts, local news, weather, and critical emergency alerts, which we all know too well along the gulf coast we need. In addition to the public service, radio provides entertainment and music free to the public.

For nearly 90 years, Congress has recognized this fact and has not imposed performance fees on local radio stations. That is why I am pleased to reintroduce, along with my fellow Texan, Congressman MIKE CONAWAY, the Local Radio Freedom Act, H. Con. Res. 17.

Our simple resolution simply states that Congress should not impose any performance taxes or fees for playing over-the-air music and keep local radio free. Last week's introduction with 93 cosponsors, over 20 percent of the full House, shows the strong commitment Congress has to protect local radio and all the benefits it provides our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the original cosponsors of this resolution and thank local radio for serving our communities.

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, President Truman had a plaque on his desk that said, ''The buck stops here.'' Many veterans are probably wondering why this old poker expression doesn't apply to the VA. However, on Monday the House passed H.R. 280, which gives the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to make sure the bucks do stop on back bonuses given to management of the VA, which is very, very backlogged.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad the House has acted, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate and the President to join this effort. It is clear that it is time to send a message to the VA that the days of rewarding subpar work and service for hidden and lost files or long waiting periods are over.

We need to continue to fight for commonsense reforms that will provide this type of system that our veterans deserve. At many regional offices of the VA around the country, including my own of Oakland, veterans have waited far too long to have their benefit claims processed and are struggling to access the care they need and deserve. There are countless examples of dysfunction, and the VA is falling short of its mission.

Does anyone actually think the VA deserves bonuses for failing our veterans when we have these long lists of people waiting for medical care, having their claims serviced? No, I think not. Mr. Speaker, the VA bonus bucks stop here.

REMEMBERING REVEREND THEODORE M. HESBURGH, CSC

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today is the funeral for one of the most influential figures in higher education, the Catholic Church, and domestic and international affairs: Father Theodore Hesburgh. He served as president of the University of Notre Dame for 35 years, in that time taking a small Catholic college and transforming it into a world renowned institution.

During his career he was granted 150 honorary degrees, more than any other person. This Congress awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal in the year 2000, becoming the first figure from higher education to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. He was also appointed by both Democratic and Republican Presidents to 16 Presidential commissions, ranging from atomic weapons policy to immigration, to civil rights.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be a graduate of the Hesburgh Program in Public Service and hope to be able to live up to that awesome example he set.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of four high-tech fields that are dominating the digital age. The fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, commonly referred to as STEM, are driving our Nation's innovation and competition, generating new ideas, industries, and companies.

Just last week, I had the opportunity to tour the University of New Hampshire's InterOperability Laboratory to see just how important the STEM field is to the Granite State. The InterOperability Lab is the only full-service, nonprofit test lab in the world that provides both industry expertise and real-world training for our Nation's future STEM workers.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that Congress continues to advocate on behalf of the STEM fields because the demand for individuals with these backgrounds and education only continue to grow. In fact, the Office of Science and Technology Policy estimates that STEM jobs will grow almost two times faster than non-STEM jobs from 2008 to 2018. We must ensure R&D continues in these fields.

FUNDING DHS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express relief that Congress has funded the Department of Homeland Security. We averted an unnecessary and harmful crisis. We should not have reached a point where the Department was on the brink of a shutdown.

The Department of Homeland Security was created after the devastating September 11 terrorist attacks and performs vital functions to protect Americans against ongoing terrorist threats. We are talking about FEMA, which responds to emergencies and disasters; TSA, which makes flying safer; the Secret Service; Customs and Border Protection; and other important services.

The Coast Guard, which patrols our waters and helps protect communities like mine near the Port of Los Angeles, is also a part of the Department of Homeland Security. We must do even more to improve port security, and shutting down the Department would have been a step backwards.

We must stop the crisis-to-crisis governing around here. The American people deserve better than this sort of political brinksmanship.

CONGRATULATING MIDLAND MARKETING COOPERATIVE

(Mr. HUELSKAMP asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Midland Marketing Cooperative, located in Hays, Kansas, which celebrates their 100th anniversary in business on March 5 of this year.

Midland started with 81 farmers, who put up a total of $10,000 to begin capitalizing their new cooperative. Since that time, the co-op has grown to nearly 1,000 members and has over $122 million in annual sales. They now operate 11 elevator locations, 2 full-service gas stations, 5 automated fueling stations, 2 feed mills, and 10 agronomy locations. In their five-county service area, Midland employs 62 full-time employees. When you add part-time and seasonal workers, that increases to 120 people. Midland Marketing Cooperative has returned over $62 million in patronage to their members.

Thank you to Midland Marketing Cooperative and all the co-ops in my district who are keeping Kansas agriculture and our rural communities strong.

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SELMA VOTING RIGHTS MARCH WITH THE ISSUANCE OF A POSTAL STAMP

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bipartisan resolution that would honor the Selma to Montgomery marches with a commemorative stamp.

I thank the 102 bipartisan House Members who cosponsored this resolution, and the original sponsors: Congressman BYRNE, Congressman HURD, and Congresswoman SEWELL.

The Selma voting rights march was a pivotal moment in our history that brought together Americans to march from Selma to Montgomery County 50 years ago. This stamp celebrates the march and reminds us to protect voting rights.

For 125 years the United States Postal Services has been issuing stamps to celebrate cultural milestones in the unique history of our Nation. Surely the protection of voting rights is a landmark development in our Nation's development. It is my hope that, as we remember the struggles, discrimination, and inequalities, we will lift our hearts and unite to find bridges to equality and justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members unite with me and ask the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for a hearing on this stamp.

HONORING JOHN FORKENBROCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERALLY IMPACTED SCHOOLS

(Mr. TAKAI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the career of a man who was instrumental in education policy, Mr. John Forkenbrock. I have had the pleasure of working with John for the past 20 years, and he visited my home State of Hawaii twice during his time with the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, or NAFIS.

From 1988 to the present, John has served as executive director of NAFIS, an association representing over 1,400 public school districts. In that position, John oversaw major changes in the Impact Aid Program that were included in the 1994 ESEA Improving America's Schools Act, and again in 2000 and 2001 with the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Mr. Speaker, we are all indebted to John's leadership. Millions of children in school districts across this Nation have benefited from his hard work.

Though he will be sorely missed at NAFIS, I wish John and Patty Forkenbrock the best in their retirement.

MARIJUANA LAWS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, there is a bit of a dustup over D.C.'s new marijuana reform law. D.C. has never defied the Congress, although it has been tempting, especially several times when the Federal Government shut down, shutting down the District with it, although the District, of course, is no part of these disputes.

The majority language in the appropriation bill said that the District couldn't enact marijuana laws. The law was enacted before that language was passed. When approved by the voters, there was nothing further to be done. Small amounts of marijuana became legal in the District, smoked in private. On Thursday, D.C. has taken no further official action, and is in compliance with the law as passed by Congress.

The most important impetus for passage by residents was two independent studies that showed that virtually all of those who now carry marijuana arrests are young African Americans. That was the last straw for a substance that is de facto legal for most Americans.

D.C. passage is neutral on its face. It doesn't recommend the substance. We ought to have the same liberty other Americans already enjoy on this substance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR FALLEN HERO, CAPTAIN DWIGHT BAZILE

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Houston has lost a firefighter in the line of duty, the State of Texas has lost a first responder, but America has lost a hero.

Mr. Speaker, today I pause to honor a hero. Captain Dwight Bazile, 57 years of age, firefighter for 37 years, promoted to captain in 2008, father to Dwight Bazile II, son of Charlotte Fielder, husband to Pamela Bazile, died in the line of duty February 21, 2015.

I ask that we have a moment of silence for a hero who died in the line of duty.

RECOGNIZING THE DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my Delta Sigma Theta sisters.

Delta Sigma Theta sorority was founded in January 1913 at Howard University by 22 brave young women. They sought to promote academic excellence, to provide scholarships, to support the underserved, to educate and stimulate participation in the formation of positive public policy, and to highlight issues with recommended solutions for problems in our communities.

Since its founding, it has distinguished itself as a public service organization that boldly confronts the challenges of African American women and all Americans. The women of Delta Sigma Theta continue to push for many of these same issues. In fact, they were at the confirmation hearing of Loretta Lynch, also a member of Delta Sigma Theta.

They will be in Selma, along with many Members of Congress and the administration, for the annual pilgrimage. This journey allows us to visit not only the sites of the civil rights movement, but to hear firsthand the stories of hope that emerged from the civil rights movement.

Mr. Speaker, this month 102 years ago, the women of Delta Sigma Theta marched in the historic suffragette march as the first public act. This weekend I will join my sorors again, my congressional colleagues, as we cross the bridge to show how we must continue to work, and we still have work to do.

□ 1230

ENSURE BORINQUENEERS RECEIVE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

(Mr. GRAYSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, last year, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, an all-volunteer Puerto

Rican unit known as the Borinqueneers. Today, I rise to urge the President to expedite the designing and the delivery of this medal before more of these brave Borinqueneers pass away.

More than 100,000 Borinqueneers served in World War I, World War II, and the Korean war. Puerto Ricans have fought for the United States as far back as the American Revolution, and they continue to do so honorably to this day. Thousands have given their lives defending our country, despite enduring decades of prejudice against them.

The Borinqueneers have been recognized with Distinguished Service Crosses, Silver Stars, Bronze Stars, and Purple Hearts. However, it was not until last year that the first member of the Borinqueneers, Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, following a congressionally ordered review of cases involving potential prejudice.

Today, hundreds of Borinqueneers have made my home of central Florida their home. It is my goal and my honor as their Representative to ensure that they receive this long overdue recognition.

Puerto Rican veterans should not have to wait any longer to receive the equal treatment they deserve. Today, I ask the President to ensure that the Borinqueneers receive their Congressional Gold Medal as soon as possible.

BUILD TRUST

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee and one who was in a security briefing this morning, I cannot celebrate more to the brave men and women of the Department of Homeland Security that many of us stood up collectively together as Americans and provided for full funding. Let me thank them for their service.

Let me move on. Yesterday, another very provocative and important action was done. The Department of Justice report came out regarding the city of Ferguson, where it found that Blacks account for 85 percent of traffic stops, 90 percent of tickets issued, and 93 percent of arrests.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about Ferguson, though many are trying to heal—and we offer sympathy again to Michael Brown's family—but it is about America. I call upon my Republican friends and Democratic friends. We act on facts. These are facts that are probably implicated across America.

I have introduced the Build TRUST bill. I hope we can come together to find a way, both in terms of our law enforcement and making sure that they go home to their families, but also have a just and fair pattern, if you will, of treating the citizens of every hamlet and town and city and State in this Nation. We owe that to our beliefs in the Constitution, Mr. Speaker.

I encourage a bipartisan effort to look at how we can address these questions across America. We deserve that as Americans.

PASSENGER RAIL REFORM AND INVESTMENT ACT

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act, and I appreciate the bipartisan work of our committee leaders.

Florida is the third largest State in the Nation with a growing population, booming tourism, and expanding trade opportunities. That means more trains and more cars transporting more people and cargo over our 458 rail crossings in south Florida.

That is why stakeholders in south Florida are pleased that this rail bill authorizes $150 million per year for 4 years for State and local governments in our region to upgrade the safety features at grade crossings and improve traffic coordination to prevent accidents and ease congestion.

Transportation moves our economy. The rail bill facilitates it to be done safely and efficiently. I urge its approval.

PASSENGER RAIL REFORM AND INVESTMENT ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 749.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 134 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 749.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1235

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 749) to reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, and for other purposes, with Mr. HARRIS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by thanking Chairman DENHAM and Ranking Members DEFAZIO and CAPUANO, who have all worked well on this bill together. I also would like to thank Ms. BROWN who, in the last Congress, when this bill started on its path, to thank her for her great work. Ms. BROWN is from the State of Florida.

Since I became chairman of the Railroad Subcommittee in the 112th Congress and since I have become chairman of the full committee, this has been one of my top priorities: to pass a bipartisan passenger rail bill that reforms Amtrak. I am so happy to be here on the floor today with the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015.

The previous passenger rail bill passed in 2008 and resulted in some real improvements to Amtrak, which we are seeing today. Ridership is up 14 percent; revenue is up 37 percent; and, in the Northeast corridor, the profits are up an amazing 250 percent.

The last bill created the Northeast Corridor Commission, which has helped the States, Amtrak, and DOT finally work together on planning the future of the corridor; however, more work needs to be done to help Amtrak maximize its strengths and tackle some of its longstanding challenges.

That is why we introduced the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015. I know some of my colleagues are skeptical about Amtrak and passenger rail in general. Because of its current structure, Amtrak's finances have not been transparent to either Congress or to consumers.

The profits on the Northeast corridor have subsidized money-losing routes, masking the true cost of these services. This bill makes significant reforms to eliminate those issues.

In particular, we focus on the Northeast corridor in this bill, which truly is a nationally significant transportation corridor. With 18 percent of our population and 20 percent of our GDP produced in the Northeast corridor on 3 percent of our land mass, it is the most densely populated area of the United States and one of the most densely populated in the world, so passenger rail is needed.

By separating Amtrak into business lines, the Northeast corridor profits stay in the corridor, allowing for more investment there. Setting the other business lines apart allows the corporation to make better-informed business decisions about those lines' operations. This will help make Amtrak's operations much more transparent for both the States and the Congress.

By focusing our resources on the Northeast corridor and existing corridors where passenger rail makes sense, we will help to improve passenger rail without breaking the bank.

Finally, we also provide environmental review streamlining reforms for rail projects, something that is important to not only passenger rail, but it also will include freight rail in these environmental reviews, which will help them to be able to expand their rail network to help America move its freight more effectively and efficiently.

It is something we are already doing in highway and transit and water infrastructure projects. This will help make our limited Federal dollars go further because we all know time is money when dealing with infrastructure projects.

I know on both sides of the aisle—my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to do more and have more money invested, which I understand, and there needs to be more investment. My colleagues on my side of the aisle think we may be spending too much money.

These reforms are going to move Amtrak in a positive direction. It is not going to solve all of our problems today, but I think it substantially moves the ball down the field to get to a point where someday maybe Amtrak can stand on its own two feet.

This debate has been raging in this assembly for the last 40 or so years. My colleagues on the other side point out that no passenger rail operates without subsidies. They are correct.

Also, there is only one freight rail system in the world that doesn't get subsidies, and that is in the United States of America, our freight rail system. I think we can move Amtrak in that direction.

My colleagues on my side of the aisle argue, Amtrak has been a failure, let's get rid of it. I don't think that is the answer either because, as I mentioned earlier, there are places in this country that desperately need to have an expanded passenger rail service.

When the United States is moving towards 400 million people, we are going to need that passenger rail service in various parts of this country. We need to make sure that we are building today a better Amtrak to serve the future of the American people and of a people that is growing.

This is a bipartisan bill, so neither side got everything that it wants, but it is a good strong reform bill that I firmly believe will significantly improve Amtrak.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I look forward to working with the Senate to take it to the President's desk.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the chairman, Chairman SHUSTER, from Pennsylvania; subcommittee chairman Mr. DENHAM; and the ranking member serving on our side, MIKE CAPUANO, for a bill that is an okay bill.

This is in the tradition, the greatest tradition, of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which we have differences, as the chairman pointed out, over the future of rail and the funding levels that are needed, but there is consensus that this is important to the country, and we can continue that debate as we continue to improve the operations of Amtrak.

An awful lot of the focus is on the Northeast corridor. That is essentially the ''cash cow.'' In the Northeast corridor now in the rail-air market, 78 percent of the D.C.-New York travelers are now using the train. That is a success story. There is a lot of focus on that, but Amtrak is bigger than that. We are a large nation.

I remember after 9/11, when I had a Federal official here from my region, head of the Bonneville Power Administration, and he needed to get back for some important meetings in the West, he took the train. There was no plane option.

Maintaining a national network, I believe, is essential. We need to keep that perspective in mind as we look at Amtrak as a whole, not just a corridor in one of the most populated parts of the country.

In the West, we have two long-distance trains: the Coast Starlight from Seattle through Portland, Eugene, down to Los Angeles; and the Empire Builder, which starts in Seattle and Portland, converges in Spokane—kind of a unique route—and continues on to Chicago.

We also have a State-supported route in Oregon, which is an international route. It goes from Eugene, Oregon, to Vancouver, British Columbia. Ridership last year was almost up to 1 million on that route, as Interstate 5 becomes more and more problematic and congested, particularly over the line in Washington State. These are essential assets to give people an alternative.

I would also say that we need to be planning for a better future. Last year, Oregon did get about a $20 million grant through the Intercity Passenger Rail grant program to finish planning and preliminary engineering work for the possibility of a higher-speed route—not high speed. Unfortunately, that is not in the cards in the near future.

We have a wonderful train set, an Acela train set, which can travel a lot faster than it can now because of the current routing and congestion. We are planning on doing that, working cooperatively with the freight railroads and also looking at some alternative routes for at least part of that train.

I would also point out that this bill, the railroads themselves, the freight railroads, which the chairman mentioned, are investing a phenomenal amount of money in upgrading their track, their systems, and their power; but there are still a lot of projects that are undone and don't have potential revenue sources, particularly for the short lines.

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I am really pleased that this bill streamlines the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program, RRIF. It sounds like something my dog would say. In any case, this is sort of a very infinitely bureaucratic and lengthy process. The bill requires that the loans be done within 45 days of getting a complete application, and it also contains strong Buy America provisions. It will be all American steel, iron, and manufactured goods. I think that is an improvement on two levels, and that is a needed change.

Finally, as the chairman said, there are some of us on this side of the aisle who believe we should be making more investment so that Amtrak can have a program to acquire more power, so it can make improvements on some of the very aged and decrepit parts of the Neck here and in other places where they have critical infrastructure needs around the country. That was not to be in this bill, but this bill does leave us that option in the future. I strongly—and I believe most on this side of the aisle will strongly—support this legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY).

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to support this bill.

I believe it will bring efficiency, savings, and greater transparency to Amtrak. Instead of increasing government interference, this bill will actually create development opportunities for the private sector and encourage non-Federal participation by unlocking new revenue streams. This bill is common sense and straightforward. It reduces red tape by streamlining environmental issues.

As a former small business owner, it makes perfect sense to me that we direct Amtrak to target investments where there is the best potential for success and conduct a thorough cost-benefit analysis for long distance routes.

Finally, I am excited to further empower States to have a greater role in managing their routes. States must be equal partners with a greater say in ensuring that the residents—Amtrak passengers—get the best benefit. That is why, Mr. Chairman, I stand in support of this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015. This bill authorizes $7 billion for passenger rail, including $5.8 billion for Amtrak, over the next 4 years.

This bill is not perfect, but I appreciate the committee leadership's efforts to develop a bill in a bipartisan manner.

This bill significantly reforms the way Amtrak funding is authorized.

Rather than authorizing separate appropriations for debt service, capital, and operating expenses, the bill creates two new accounts—a Northeast corridor account and a national network account. The bill also creates a new program to provide grants to the States, funded at $300 million annually, of which $150 million is dedicated to the Northeast corridor.

The Northeast corridor region contains 4 of the 10 largest metropolitan areas in the country. It is home to more than 51 million people, and our regional economy is the fifth-largest in the world between France and Germany. If the Northeast corridor were to unexpectedly shut down for just one day, the potential impact on the U.S. economy could be $100 million in transportation-related impacts and productivity losses.

There is no question that it is absolutely in our national interest to do everything we can to maintain and develop the Northeast corridor, but New Yorkers also understand the importance of maintaining a national network, so I am pleased that the bill grants Amtrak the flexibility to transfer funds, if needed, to keep the national rail system operational. The bill also requires a more detailed plan for implementing specific improvements to the Northeast corridor that is free of poison pill, antilabor provisions, and it applies Buy America to the RRIF loan program.

All of this is good, but we cannot lose sight of the bigger picture, which is that we are still woefully underfunding Amtrak. We spend more than $50 billion per year on highways and transit and over $15 billion on aviation, while Amtrak is just $1.4 billion, or less than 2 percent, of Federal transportation spending. This is despite the fact that the rail system needs at least $52 billion, or $2.6 billion per year, for 20 years just to meet ridership demands and bring the system into a state of good repair.

The President's FY16 budget request, on the other hand, includes $5 billion for rail. Half of that is intended to bring public rail assets throughout the country to a state of good repair, including $550 million for the Northeast corridor; $2 billion is for high-speed rail and commuter rail; and $204 million is for the FRA rail safety measures, proven to be so necessary by the accidents on Metro North in New York and Connecticut.

Unfortunately, this bill before us today simply authorizes current funding levels, but given the budget constraints imposed by the majority, it is probably the best bill we can hope for right now if we want to move a bipartisan bill.

I would like to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their efforts to advance an Amtrak reauthorization bill that moves the process forward. I look forward to working with them and the rest of my colleagues to make sure passenger rail receives the attention and resources it deserves. For now, this is a good bill, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO), the newest member of the T&I Committee.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this bipartisan solution to enhance passenger rail networks and strengthen this country's transportation infrastructure.

Amtrak's Northeast and Keystone rail lines are a critical thread in the transportation fabric of my district in southeastern Pennsylvania. For me, Amtrak equals SEPTA, in many respects, as 90 percent of the 2,000 daily train rides along the Northeast corridor are regional commuter lines like SEPTA.

This important legislation does something very significant, Mr. Chairman. It keeps revenues generated on the Northeast corridor for reinvestment along the Northeast corridor. It compels Amtrak, the Federal Railroad Administration, and States to work together to develop and implement a 5-year Northeast corridor capital investment plan. For my district, it offers more promise for the Schuylkill Metro project, for the concept of utilizing existing rail beds known as the Green Line along route 29 in Montgomery and Chester Counties. And of course, it makes available more Federal funding for new train stations to replace aging train stations such as Paoli and Downingtown.

I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Chairman DENHAM for their smart, reasoned approach and for their leadership in strengthening the passenger rail network. This is a great bill. It is great for southeastern Pennsylvania, and it is great for this country.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank Ranking Member CAPUANO for yielding me this time.

I want to thank the capable chairman of the committee, Mr. SHUSTER, and the chairman and the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. DEFAZIO, for bringing this important Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act before us.

Mr. Chairman, as the Representative of the busiest Amtrak station in Ohio at Toledo and the Amtrak stations in Sandusky and Elyria-Lorain, I rise to urge the passage of this important bill to continue and advance passenger rail service across our Nation.

When I was born, the population of the United States was 146 million people. Today, it surpasses 320 million. By 2020, our Nation's population is projected to reach over half a billion people—over 500 million. As time moves forward, the necessity for passenger rail will become clearer with each passing day.

Many of our major urban centers are clogged with traffic jams daily, and the railroads across my region of our continent have severe freight rail and passenger rail conflicts because they are forced to use the same tracks. Imagine that we are living in the 21st century, and we are still tethered to 19th century rail pathways.

Passenger rail travel in Ohio is booming despite these constraints—up from 108,000 passengers in 2007 to 160,000 passengers in 2013. A trend in my district has grown as well, with Toledo passengers on the northwest Ohio corridor increasing from 53,000 to 77,000 over the same time. Imagine the traffic jams if all of these individuals traveled by car instead of rail.

It is not just the northeastern part of our Nation that needs added attention to passenger rail service, as important as that is. It should also include the Great Lakes Region. The corridor that stretches the length of my district and connects our industrial heartland corridor from Pittsburgh to Cleveland to Sandusky to Toledo to Gary to Chicago needs special attention, too.

During an extended stretch last year, between July and September, the Capitol Limited, which runs from Washington, D.C., to Chicago and includes my northern Ohio stretch, completed only 2.7 percent of its trips on time—2.7 percent out of 100 percent on time. The dramatic increase of freight rail consistently bumps passenger service. We need both, but what we have are these lengthy delays to passenger service across our vast region.

I have two articles I would like to insert into the RECORD detailing these troubles.

[From the Blade]

AMTRAK TRAINS OFTEN TRICKLE INTO TOLEDO AFTER RASH OF DELAYS

(By David Patch)

Christine Smith boarded Amtrak's Lake Shore Limited in Chicago on Tuesday night to visit a friend in Toledo.

The train left Chicago two hours late and made it only about 15 miles to Indiana's northwest corner, where it sat for about three hours, Ms. Smith recalled. By the time it got to Toledo, it was six hours behind schedule.

It was only the latest of a series of late Amtrak trains the Melbourne, Australia, resident said she had encountered since arriving in Los Angeles last month and riding from there to San Francisco, Portland, Ore., Spokane, and Chicago.

Late trains are nothing new for Amtrak, particularly for the overnight, long-distance trains such as those that serve Toledo—the Lake Shore Limited and Capitol Limited. Trains running more than three hours late have become the norm recently, and they have often lost that much or more just on the Chicago-Toledo portion of trips. The Capitol Limited was 12 hours behind schedule on Sunday.

While there have been exceptions, by far the biggest obstacle to Amtrak's time-keeping across northern Indiana and northern Ohio has been tracks blocked by freight trains belonging to Norfolk Southern, which owns and operates the line Amtrak uses between Chicago and Cleveland.

''It's absolutely unbelievable what they're doing to the American people. It's a fraud,'' Ms. Smith said. ''Every train I've been on

has been late leaving and late arriving, and freight trains are given as the reason.''

During the 12 months that ended in August, Capitol Limited trains arrived at their end stations in Chicago or Washington within 30 minutes of schedule only 22.5 percent of the time, while the Lake Shore reached Chicago or New York on time 30.8 percent of the time, according to Amtrak.

But August itself was significantly worse, and September data, when available, is unlikely to show improvement. In August, the best performer was the eastbound Lake Shore, which reached New York within 30 minutes of schedule 6.5 percent of the time—two trips. The westbound was late into Chicago every day of the month, and the Capitol Limiteds arrived on time once in each direction.

Late westbound arrivals in Chicago also translate to late eastbound departures, because Amtrak lacks spare equipment in Chicago to make up replacement trains when equipment arrives late, and it also does not have enough engineers and conductors to always have an extra train crew ready to replace one that has worked the maximum 12-hour shift set by federal regulation.

Marc Magliari, an Amtrak spokesman in Chicago, laid even the late departures from Chicago at Norfolk Southern's feet.

''If the train is late getting to Chicago, it's most likely going to be late eastbound while we're servicing equipment and getting proper rest for our crews,'' Mr. Magliari said. ''The result is to drive up our costs, dissatisfy our passengers, and create 'never again' riders.''

While its ridership pales in comparison to major stations like New York and Chicago, Toledo historically has been Amtrak's busiest Ohio stop, and its ridership has declined of late.

After peaking at more than 90,000 riders in 2010 and 2011, Toledo's Amtrak ridership dropped to 87,073 in 2012 and 86,252 last year, according to statistics provided to the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, which owns the Toledo station.

During the first seven months of 2014, Amtrak's Toledo ridership has fallen by another 7 percent, those statistics show.

David Pidgeon, a Norfolk Southern spokesman, said the freight-train backlog is a product of ''more trains and capacity challenges in the corridor between Chicago and Cleveland'' because the freight traffic exceeds what the company handled before the 2008 recession.

''We generally have a cooperative relationship with Amtrak because we are each other's landlords,'' Mr. Pidgeon said. ''We run on their network and they run on ours, so there's plenty of business and personal incentive to keep the cooperation going.

''We want to keep freight and passenger trains moving, period.''

One of the busiest pieces of railroad in the entire United States, Norfolk Southern's double-track main has become, to varying degrees, an obstacle course of stopped and slow-moving freight trains.

A particular growth area has been oil shipments from the Bakken oilfields of North Dakota to terminals on the East Coast, rail traffic that simply didn't exist before 2009 but now accounts for dozens of trains through Toledo each week.

RAIL EXPANSION

Norfolk Southern is building a third main track between Chesterton and Gary, Ind., a 30-mile section that is the busiest stretch of the region's busiest freight railroad. It includes several major junctions and runs through the heart of one of America's most heavily industrialized areas, the steel mills and a major oil refinery along Lake Michigan's southern shore. Until that third track is ready for use, its construction is impairing train traffic.

When only one track is open for trains, traffic only goes one way while opposing trains wait. The spot where Ms. Smith's train stopped is near the west end of the Chesterton-Gary construction zone. LaPorte, Ind.—where the Chicago-bound Amtrak trains from Toledo have often sat for hours in recent weeks—is near the east end.

And not only have passenger trains to and from Toledo been affected by that problem, so too have Amtrak's five daily round-trip trains between Chicago and Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Port Huron, Mich., which use the same rails west of Chesterton.

The third track in northwest Indiana is one of several capacity-improvement projects under way on Norfolk Southern in the region.

Most prominent among the others is a $160 million expansion of the Bellevue, Ohio, yard, which will double in size when the project is done later this year, easing congestion at other yards, Mr. Pidgeon said.

That ''will ease the demand for space in Elkhart and hopefully significantly reduce transit times for our freight trains, keeping us moving and the network fluid,'' he said.

Norfolk Southern has 50 new locomotives soon to be delivered and also has bought several hundred used ones in the past year or two to address shortages.

It also is hiring close to 100 new train conductors in the Toledo area and has transferred 120 more from other parts of its system to the Cleveland-Chicago corridor to alleviate crew shortages, Mr. Pidgeon said.

The Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers, an advocacy group, cites another factor in the freight-train delays: An automated dispatching system Norfolk Southern has been introducing on portions of its rail network during the past two years.

The system, called the Auto-Router, is designed to mimic a job human train dispatchers have done for years—deciding which trains run on which tracks at what time. The automated system could supplement that work, allowing the human dispatchers to work larger territories, or eventually it could replace them.

Train dispatching is a job with a lot of variables because freight trains don't all travel at the same speed. Some are long, heavy, and slow; others are short and, ideally, fast.

Hills, track repairs, and certain trains' need to stop at yards along the way to pick up or drop off cars also can factor into how trains are dispatched.

Critics of the system including OARP—also known as All Aboard Ohio—and Norfolk Southern sources who spoke on condition of anonymity because they're not authorized to talk to reporters said the Auto-Router system's flaws are contributing to the railroad's congestion.

PASSENGER COMPLAINTS

While Amtrak riders interviewed by The Blade said they understand how the passenger trains are at the freight railroads' mercy, some said the passenger-train operator could handle the situation better, too.

Jean McGraw of Port Clinton, who boarded the Boston-bound Lake Shore in Sandusky in late September to visit a sister in New Hampshire, said she and her travel companion got two emails ''in the middle of the night'' about train delays but got no updates after that.

And when the bus Ms. McGraw and other Boston-bound passengers rode from Albany got to Boston at 4 a.m. the next day, the station there was locked. The passengers cajoled the bus driver into letting them take shelter in a neighboring bus garage, she said.

''That was it—it was ridiculous,'' Ms. McGraw said.

As compensation, Amtrak offered vouchers good toward future train travel. Ms. McGraw said she hopes to use hers once the current problems are resolved, but her companion swore off train travel because of the experience.

Untested is whether Norfolk Southern's handling of Amtrak violates a 1973 federal law directing the freight railroads to give the passenger trains preferential handling.

A more recent federal law, passed in 2008, directed the Federal Railroad Administration and Amtrak to develop performance standards for Amtrak trains.

However, a later appellate court ruling stalled this. According to the rail passengers association, Amtrak's overall on-time performance has plummeted since that 2013 ruling, which is the subject of a pending Supreme Court appeal.

Dan McMackin, a United Parcel Service spokesman, said his company has recently changed the train routes it uses to move packages in response to train delays, though he did not confirm that the company specifically removed its cargo from the Norfolk Southern route.

''We have seen some recent lower reliability in several lanes and are adjusting accordingly, with guidance from our rail service partners as to appropriate network corrections,'' Mr. McMackin said. ''While there have been lanes affected over the last several months, we expect long-term reliability to return and most of our adjustments are seen as temporary.''

But while UPS may be ready to send packages back to the Cleveland-Toledo-Chicago corridor once Norfolk Southern's problems are resolved, Amtrak could have a harder time winning back Tanya Miller, of Taylor, Mich., one of the riders who boarded the New York-bound train in Toledo on Wednesday morning.

''This is my first time and my very last time taking Amtrak,'' she said. ''I'm not recommending Amtrak to anyone.''

[From The Plain Dealer]

SOLUTIONS SOUGHT FOR CHRONIC AMTRAK, FREIGHT TRAIN DELAYS IN NORTHERN OHIO

(By Alison Grant)

CLEVELAND, OH.—Passengers sitting on the tracks one recent morning near an idled Lake Shore Limited train in Cleveland had a lot of time to kill.

Their eastbound train was late getting out of Chicago Union Station and pulled into Cleveland about 3½ hours after its scheduled arrival of 5:35 a.m.

Then a switch problem or a downed power line on the CSX tracks between downtown Cleveland and Collinwood—reports varied—meant another delay of five hours before the Amtrak train pulled out of town.

Ed and Rosemary Sobala, heading home to Buffalo after a train trip to the canyon-lands of Arizona, Utah and Nevada, weren't too surprised.

Not one of the Amtraks on their two-week journey was on time, they said. In fact, not one was less than 5½ hours late. When the Lake Shore Limited was stalled in Cleveland, they were headed home to Buffalo—four hours away by car.

''A number of us riders jokingly referred to an Amtrak schedule as a wish list more than a schedule,'' Ed Sobala said.

Delays like this—and they're chronic nationwide, including along northern Ohio's east-west corridor, for both Amtrak passenger trains and freight trains—have prompted three of this region's metropolitan planning organizations to set up a rail alliance to work on improving what is the fastest-growing U.S. transportation mode in the 21st century.

''Passenger rail ridership has increased dramatically, but specifically on that corridor,'' said Grace Gallucci, executive director of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, which joined with the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments and the Erie County Regional Planning Commission to form the Northern Ohio Rail Alliance.

''And the freight railroads are aggressively pursuing increasing their capacity.''

Gallucci attributes the increase in passenger rail traffic to economics and demographics—high gas prices, expensive air fares, Millennials more interested in public transportation than their parents.

Four daily passenger trains carry enough passengers to fill a dozen Boeing 737s each day along the tracks in northern Ohio, according to the advocacy group All Aboard Ohio, and 70 daily freight trains carry about 20,000 truckload equivalents of cargo.

Amtrak's Lake Shore Limited service, from Chicago through Ohio to New York City and Boston, averages 1,100 passengers a day.

One of the rail alliance's first goals is to persuade the Ohio Department of Transportation to release $938,000 that Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur secured in 2010 for rail planning.

The money was earmarked for ODOT to study high-speed rail, but that project was scrubbed by Gov. John Kasich when he took office. Kasich said high-speed rail was a ''money pit'' because it would cost the state about $17 million a year to maintain and operate, with no guarantee enough tickets could be sold to cover the expenses.

The train money has been sitting in ODOT's accounts since.

''The study area has changed many times,'' agency spokesman Steve Faulkner explained.

''Most recently, folks in northern Ohio changed (it) to include a review of the Cleveland to Toledo route. That's new. For that reason, all interested parties...must again meet in person to discuss and agree on details of the study plan.''

ODOT last week set up a meeting for Oct. 28 to discuss the funding, Gallucci said.

The Northern Ohio Rail Alliance and All Aboard Ohio say redesigning the Amtrak stations in northern Ohio would do a lot to improve rail service. Trains stopping at Cleveland, Elyria and Sandusky can process passengers from only one track of the two-track railway.

That requires trains to ''slalom'' between tracks, and during the crossover, both tracks at the station are occupied. Opposing rail traffic must stop. The result: At least 80 minutes of delay to the four passenger trains that arrive nightly at each station, and as much or more delay to freight traffic.

The station in Toledo can process passengers from both tracks but only at ground-level walkways not platforms.

Gallucci said rail projects should qualify for money overseen by ODOT's Transportation Review Advisory Council—which typically deals with projects that add capacity to Ohio roads. She said rail station work also should be eligible for money the state is raising for ODOT projects by letting the Ohio Turnpike issue bonds that will be paid off with toll increases.

''We have to get away from this idea that every transportation mode competes against the others,'' Gallucci said.

Record high oil shipments from the Bakken Fields in the Dakotas to East Coast refineries have added to freight delays, including in Cleveland.

Of the 60 to 90 freight trains that rumble daily through Northeast Ohio on the tracks owned and operated by Norfolk Southern, nine are oil trains. And that's due to grow by another 18 trains in coming months, said Ken Prendergast, All Aboard Ohio executive director.

In September, officials representing agricultural, auto and chemical industries told a Senate committee that widespread delays in freight shipments were affecting an array of industries and forcing some out of business. The Associated Press reported that lawmakers displayed a photo of a giant mound of wheat languishing in North Dakota because farmers couldn't get a railroad company to ship it.

Jonathan Fields and Jacquie Mon, traveling on the Empire Builder from Portland, Oregon to Albany, New York, were delayed five hours in Minot, North Dakota, when their train was put on a siding track while oil trains moved past.

''We thought Amtrak trains had priority to the freight-owned rails if they were within a certain window of time,'' Mon wrote in an email. ''I spent some time Googling the subject and learned about the oil trains, the judge who ruled that it wasn't legal to require the freight trains to give Amtrak priority and that his decision was being appealed.''

Then came the hang-up in Cleveland, a stone's throw from FirstEnergy Stadium.

''If there had been a game, we would have had enough time for a leisurely tailgate party, time to settle into our seats and watch the teams warmup, enjoy—more or less—the game, and time for drinks and play-call second guessing after the game,'' Fields said.

Sobala said he concluded that Amtrak isn't reliable for travelers on firm schedules.

''One couple departed the sleeper car with their luggage during the delay in Cleveland,'' he said. ''They decided to fly to New York because they had an appointment they couldn't miss. I last saw them get in a cab headed for the Cleveland airport.''

Ms. KAPTUR. Customers are understandably frustrated. Our region needs customer-convenient hours and passenger-friendly arrivals and departures. Our Great Lakes Region needs a capital investment plan, too, for passenger service. We need evaluation for State-supported routes. Our region needs expedited attention, methodology development, and service planning to remedy growing congestion inefficiencies that benefit no one, not the freight lines, not the passenger service, and surely not the communities they are supposed to serve—nor connectivity to inner city passenger rail service.

I appreciate the efforts of Chairman SHUSTER and of Ranking Member DEFAZIO, as well as of Subcommittee Chair DENHAM and Ranking Member CAPUANO, in working together to produce this bill.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CAPUANO. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. KAPTUR. I ask that our vast Midwest industrial heartland region not be excluded for alternative passenger rail service pilot programs, opportunities for rail investment, station improvements, and historic preservation, nor for public-private partnerships that can advance modern passenger rail in this vital corridor of our country.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Ranking Member, and I urge the adoption of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM). He is one of the principal authors of this piece of legislation, the gentleman who did yeoman's work on this bill and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Chairman, there is a lot of talk about bipartisanship in this body. Oftentimes, a bill will come to the floor, and you may hope that one party or the other might throw some votes your way or that you might get some last-minute votes. True bipartisanship is what has happened on this committee.

I, Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and Ranking Member CAPUANO have worked together to not only form a bipartisan bill but to actually educate every one of our Members. We want to talk to Members of both parties and now of even both Houses to make sure that we are actually reforming something that is going to create not only a more efficient system but create American jobs.

I want to thank each of those individuals for their willingness not only to work together but to work hard. It takes a lot of time to set up separate meetings with every single one of your colleagues in order to explain all of the intricacies on such a large bill. In this case, we have done that. We saw bipartisan and unanimous support first out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee last year and now, this year, again, unanimous support out of the Rules Committee on a bill for which we get real structural reform.

After 35 years, this splits off the Northeast corridor. So, if you are riding the train on the Northeast corridor, your profits—the money that each rider is spending—will actually go back to fixing your rail. We make sure that you are upgrading the infrastructure, that you are creating jobs, and that you are creating a more efficient Amtrak. That is something the riders on the Northeast corridor should be proud of, and it should be a lesson for every other corridor across the country—that you get to keep your profits and improve your infrastructure and actually have greater ridership numbers in the process.

Amtrak has made some great strides. In this bill, we are cutting our authorizations by 40 percent. I think it is a great opportunity to actually highlight some of the successes that they have had but to also demand more.

This also defunds high-speed rail. We want to make sure that what is happening in California does not happen in the rest of the country. Where you have great rail projects going with higher speed—with high-speed moving into New York and Florida—we want to make sure that we don't have the same challenges that are plaguing California's high-speed rail, which has tripled in price.

We also have other conservative issues in here that will get rid of waste. That includes the food and beverage losses that we see year after year. We want to make sure that Amtrak is moving in the right direction to eliminate those losses.

□ 1300

This builds American infrastructure and creates jobs to fix century-old infrastructure problems. It unlocks the RRIF program, a program which has billions of dollars in it, yet every year when you are going to upgrade your infrastructure when you have a new project, this is one of the least areas that you want to work in because RRIF is so much of a challenge.

There are long timelines, long approval processes. If you are going to invest in something, you want to know: Am I going to win out this loan application, or is it something that is going to actually hinder or slow down our project?

We want to streamline that. We want to have those who need the access to capital that are going to improve our infrastructure to actually have the benefits of that program.

This introduces competition and leverages the private sector to reduce the Amtrak subsidies and actually use the stations to be more profitable. Amtrak has stations in many key cities that can be utilized to increase profits from everything from the restaurants and shopping that they have, but to also be able to advertise in those stations. And advertise on the right-of-way, the right of way that Amtrak has to be able to use billboards, set up cell sites. There is so much more profitability that we can have by having Amtrak as a partner.

I just want to touch on a couple of final issues.

One of the challenges that freight rails have is the red tape they have to go through on the environmental process and on the historical review process. In this reform bill, we are not saying that you don't have to go through that process; we are just saying that we are going to streamline it so you can go through it quickly. There ought to be timelines. You ought to be able to meet timelines so you can plan your infrastructure and you can plan those jobs so you can actually move America forward and move our rail forward at the same time.

This also empowers States. We have taken this reform bill to the next level. We reformed the State routes last PRIIA bill. We are doing it again this time to empower States to have more control over their routes. If a train is going to come through their district or their State, they ought to have some input on not only whether or not it is going to stop, but also increasing ridership in that process. They ought to have some skin in the game, and this allows them to do that.

One area that I want to mention that I think has created more bipartisanship than anything else in this bill, and somebody else that should receive some recognition is actually my dog, Lilly, who will now be able to ride on the train.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DENHAM. If you are on the Northeast corridor and you have never ridden the rail before because you have a pet that you either have to leave at home or a pet that you are going to drive because of, you will now have the opportunity to ride on Amtrak—not only in the Northeast corridor, but all across the country. This is something that we have had pet owners reach out to us on from every different State asking that they actually be able to do this.

I can take my dog back and forth to California on the airplane. I pay an additional fee to do that, but it is something that provides me the ability to be able to travel with my pet. Why wouldn't we do that same thing on Amtrak?

If Amtrak is looking for more riders, if they are looking for greater revenue, why wouldn't they be able to compete in this one more area with our airlines? I mean, this is a commonsense opportunity for those who want to take rail to actually be able to travel with their pet. I would like to say that it has been something that has not only helped us build a path, but brought on greater bipartisanship.

This bill has taken a lot of work. I appreciate the chairman's work and the ranking member's work on this. It has been a great bipartisan effort. I am looking forward to its passage today.

Mr. CAPUANO. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, the Amtrak reauthorization before us today speaks volumes for the chairman and ranking member of our committee. It is the first Amtrak bill on the floor since 2008. It is a bipartisan bill. But, it also speaks volumes that Amtrak has performed so well without additional revenue.

This bill leaves Amtrak at about level funding, just a tiny bit more. When we call Amtrak ''America's railroad,'' that is not a metaphor, Mr. Chairman. All of its stock is owned by the Department of Transportation. The reason for that is that the private sector in the 1970s found running a railroad to be a money-losing proposition and asked the Federal Government to take over Amtrak.

Amtrak, of course, is a fiction. It is structured as a private company. But like every railroad in the world, it is either subsidized by the government or the public cannot afford to ride. The bill has almost no new funding, but even without new funding, Amtrak has already scored great points.

Amtrak has essentially overseen the revival of train travel in the United States of America, and it has done so in a way that the government can take almost no credit for. For example, ticket revenue was $1.5 billion in 2005; then we go 5 years later to 2010, it is $1.8 billion; and today, it is $2.1 billion. Yet the average ticket has increased only $5 every 5 years over that period of time. Amtrak knows what the market is about, and it has grown based on volume, not revenue. The railroad has seen phenomenal growth in passengers, reaching records as high as its highest record in 1988, when the equipment was much newer.

An important measure of efficiency is simply the number of seats filled. More Amtrak seats are filled today than at any time. Its on-time performance is above 80 percent, and that is amazing when you consider that Amtrak does not own most of the tracks it runs over. They are owned by the freight companies. The first cause of delay, frequent freight traffic. The second cause of delay, reduced speed needed for maintenance.

Amtrak has shown it knows how to run a railroad, and to run a railroad on time, but Amtrak needs to be able to run a 21st century railroad.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CAPUANO. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. NORTON. Until the Federal Government owns up to investing more in the railroad that we own, Amtrak will be running a 20th century railroad—or is it a 19th century railroad, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I really appreciate Chairman DENHAM coming up and talking about some of the important reforms in this bill. I want to add to that.

One of the key things we do in this bill is we are empowering the States. There are 19 States and 21 State-supported lines. I just look to Pennsylvania. I think they are a prime example of what happens when States work together with Amtrak.

Again, this bill, for my colleagues, especially on my side of the aisle who I hope are listening to this debate, we are going to empower those States to have equal say with Amtrak when you are investing dollars in these various lines around the country. An example is the Keystone line in Pennsylvania from Harrisburg to Philadelphia.

Several years ago, the State of Pennsylvania and Amtrak each invested $100 million into that line. They decreased the travel time by about 20 minutes from Philadelphia to Harrisburg and Harrisburg to Philadelphia. They increased their reliability, and the ridership over the last several years has gone up almost 80 percent. This year, this first quarter, they are projecting they are going to make a profit on that line. That is exactly the kind of example that we in Congress need to look to.

My friends on both sides of the aisle, we can have a better Amtrak if we do

things more businesslike. The reforms that are in this bill are significant.

To name just a few of the lines that are State-supported:

The Heartland Flyer in Texas. And Texas right now is investing private dollars into rail. These lines that are State sponsored, it is going to help them develop these lines. Environmental reviews, streamlining the review process, that is going to help Texas when those dollars are invested.

If you look at to the Sacramento to San Francisco corridor, another State-sponsored line, when Amtrak and California get together, they can make improvements on that line to help the movement of people in that corridor.

Going to Virginia and Washington—Lynchburg, Newport News, Norfolk, and Richmond, Virginia, the State of Virginia and Amtrak can come together and make those investments. That is one of the fastest growing corridors in America. I know the folks who represent Norfolk and southern Virginia and Washington, D.C., a growing area, passenger rail is essential.

Another corridor is Raleigh, North Carolina, the technology corridor there in Raleigh connecting to the largest city in the Carolinas, Charlotte. Again, it is a State-sponsored line. It is going to give North Carolina the ability to work with Amtrak, to have power when they make those investments to upgrade those lines.

Again, there are 21 corridors in 19 States. This is really important. Some of our fast-growing Southern States, look at this bill. This bill empowers the States. It has the reforms. I believe that all Members should be able to support this as real reform and improving Amtrak.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time remains.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). The gentleman from Massachusetts has 15 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, before I begin, let me thank Chairman SHUSTER and the ranking member for their leadership and hard work in bringing this bipartisan bill to the floor.

I know that both sides had other provisions that they wanted included in the bill. I personally wanted to include much more funding for Amtrak, but in the tradition of our committee, we compromised and developed a bill that ensures that our Nation's passenger rail system has an opportunity to thrive.

This legislation maintains long-distance routes, protects hardworking Amtrak employees, invests in the Northeast corridor, promotes minority opportunities in rail, improves access to the RRIF loan program, and takes another step forward in restoring passenger rail service to the Gulf States.

As more and more Americans turn to rail as their preferred mode of transportation, Amtrak is building the infrastructure and organization to meet this demand. Amtrak carried a record number of 31.6 million passengers in 2013. Their ridership has been growing across the system for over a decade, with last year's ridership numbers being the largest in history. Currently, they serve more than 500 destinations in 46 States and provide the only public transportation option for millions of rural Americans.

Let me repeat that. Currently, they serve more than 500 destinations in 46 States, and provide the only public transportation options for millions of rural Americans.

Amtrak has increased revenue, reduced debt, implemented new passenger service, improved their infrastructure, and purchased train sets that are being built in America with 100 percent American-made parts.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CAPUANO. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Amtrak reduces congestion, improves our energy independence, and it plays a vital role in emergency preparedness and recovery, as it did in the 9/11 bombings and Hurricane Katrina.

There is no perfect bill, but this is a perfect start, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation. Let's keep Amtrak moving forward.

As I close, I just want to be clear: I support this bill. I ask all of my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on Amtrak and move it forward.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I appreciate the hard work that went into this important legislation to ensure passenger rail service remains a viable option for travelers across the country. In particular, as a pet lover, I am very happy to see the language based on Chairman DENHAM's Pets on Trains legislation, which I am cosponsor of. But I do have concerns that the bill we are going to pass today doesn't set us on a course for building out services to parts of the country that do not now have access to passenger rail.

I represent Las Vegas, which welcomes more than 42 million people from around the world to our world-class resorts, casinos, restaurants, shopping, shows, et cetera. More and more of these visitors are coming from Asia and Europe, where rail services are accessible and efficient.

□ 1315

Unfortunately, the last Amtrak train to service Las Vegas departed from the station on Glitter Gulch behind the Union Plaza in May of 1977.

Over the past 18 years, Las Vegas has continued its transformation into the premier international tourist destination. Since the trains stopped running, nearly a million more residents now call southern Nevada home and 10 million more people come to Las Vegas for work and play every year. This growth has put an enormous strain on our highways and airports.

While I will be supporting this legislation, I do hope, as the body advances further policies regarding passenger rail, we recognize the need to build out rail services to communities like Las Vegas, not just maintain the current system.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I understand the gentleman doesn't have any additional speakers, so I am prepared to close if he is ready to close.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I echo everything that has been said. This bill is pretty good, and it deserves our support. I am looking forward to voting ''yes'' on this bill, and I am looking forward to getting it passed through the Senate.

I actually say, considering what is going on in Congress here now, this bill is my idea of a perfect situation. We didn't get everything we wanted; they didn't get everything some of their Members wanted, yet we are moving forward.

I congratulate the chairman and my ranking member, Mr. DEFAZIO, for being, in my opinion, the perfect type of Member of Congress: someone who knows what they want but also knows how to compromise to move a bill forward.

I am honored to be here today. I am honored to be working with such fine people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. How much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. SHUSTER. I don't think I will use it all. I am sure any of my colleagues watching on TV are hoping I don't use it all also.

I want to close by just emphasizing again that this is truly a reform bill that was crafted in a bipartisan basis. There is significant reforms in here. It is going to make Amtrak more transparent. They are going to force these metrics to measure like businesses do. They haven't done that for the 40 years or so they have been in existence.

We have significant environmental streamlining, which not only benefits Amtrak projects, but it is going to benefit the freight rails, as they spend 18 percent of their revenues—almost $30 billion—that they will invest across the class I railroads to go into their infrastructure, which is incredibly important to movement of freight in this country and having an efficient economy.

The bill also breaks out Amtrak into business lines, leaving the profits on the Northeast corridor—and the other profits on other corridors—but that is the biggest corridor, that is the one

that makes money, leaving it there to invest in that corridor.

By the way, as they reinvest those dollars, we can learn from what is happening on the Northeast corridor because there are corridors around this country that need to be developed because of the growing population. That is why we empower the States on those 21 State-sponsored lines.

On those 21 lines, States are going to have more power, more say—equal say, I will say—with Amtrak. As Texas develops their corridors down there, they are going to work with Amtrak—the North Carolina lines; the Virginia lines that run to Washington, D.C., and other places in Virginia; and California. Those State-sponsored lines are going to have the ability to make those investments with Amtrak to improve those lines.

I just want to talk again about the Keystone line because I think that is really a prime example of what can happen on a corridor when the State and Amtrak work together. Ridership is up almost 80 percent over the past several years. They are going to be projecting a profit in the first quarter this year, which is the first time in history.

When you do those kind of reforms, when you have transparency, when you give States power, when you streamline the environmental review process, those are the kind of good things that can happen.

Again, this is not perfect. Amtrak is not perfect, but we are moving the ball in the right direction. We are moving the ball so that we can see a better Amtrak and improved passenger rail.

I truly believe that you need passenger rail in this country, especially in some of these corridors—10, 11 corridors around this Nation where populations are growing. The population of the United States is growing, and we see the prime example of the Northeast corridor, 18 percent of the population on 3 percent of the land mass. They have to have passenger rail.

There are about 11 million riders, almost 12 million riders on Amtrak, but there are 250 million people that connect to Amtrak through the transit systems in the Northeast corridor. It is an incredible link that needs to be maintained, needs to be improved; and this bill, I believe, does that.

I would encourage all my Members to come to the floor today and vote in favor of this truly reform bill that will make Amtrak better and drive down what the Federal Government puts into that system. I think this bill does that. Again, I encourage the support of H.R. 749.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Chair, nearly two centuries ago we began to utilize rail for moving freight and people around our great nation. This technological leap helped to greatly expand our economy and bring together our vast continental nation.

Today, passenger rail still plays a key role in connecting population centers and moving people to their places of work. It is vital that we continue to find new ways to improve and modernize our infrastructure to meet the demands of the modern world.

As a member of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee I am proud to support this important legislation because it will help to accomplish this important goal.

The Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act will assist in advancing large infrastructure projects through new partnerships with the private sector and states including giving states a greater role in managing routes.

It will more quickly advance those projects through streamlining the environmental processes, and it increases transparency for Amtrak which will require it to operate in a more businesslike manner

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation to give our nation a stronger and more vital passenger rail system.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act. This is good, bipartisan legislation that will strengthen our nation's passenger rail system and create American jobs. My district in New Jersey sits along the Northeast Corridor, the busiest corridor in the Nation. In 2014, the Northeast Corridor saw a ridership of 11.6 million; its highest ridership year on record.

As ridership continues to grow, the necessity to invest in rail infrastructure becomes more vital. I am pleased that this bill will provide 1.9 billion dollars for capital improvements along the Northeast Corridor. This money will assist states with the opportunity to grow their passenger rail services, which in turn will help provide more affordable transportation options.

I am a strong supporter of the Buy America provisions that will ensure that American rail is built with American iron and steel. In addition to providing the capital and resources needed to bring the American rail system into the 21st Century, this legislation will help meet the growing demand for more cost-efficient and environmentally friendly means of transportation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–9. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 749

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

Sec. 101. Authorization for Amtrak.
Sec. 102. Authorization for Amtrak Office of the Inspector General.
Sec. 103. National infrastructure investments.
Sec. 104. Northeast Corridor.

TITLE II—AMTRAK REFORM

Sec. 201. Amtrak planning and grant process.
Sec. 202. 5-Year capital and operating plan.
Sec. 203. State-supported routes.
Sec. 204. Route and service planning decisions.
Sec. 205. Competition.
Sec. 206. Food and beverage reform.
Sec. 207. Right of way leveraging.
Sec. 208. Station development.
Sec. 209. Amtrak debt.
Sec. 210. Amtrak pilot program for passengers transporting domesticated cats and dogs.
Sec. 211. Amtrak boarding procedures.

TITLE III—INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL POLICY

Sec. 301. Federal-State partnership for Northeast Corridor development and improvement.
Sec. 302. RRIF improvements.
Sec. 303. NEC fast forward.
Sec. 304. Large capital project requirements.
Sec. 305. Small business participation study.
Sec. 306. Gulf Coast rail service working group.
Sec. 307. Miscellaneous.

TITLE IV—PROJECT DELIVERY

Sec. 401. Project delivery rulemaking.
Sec. 402. Historic preservation of railroads.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 501. Definition.
Sec. 502. Title 49 definitions.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION FOR AMTRAK.

(a) NORTHEAST CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT FUND.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the use of Amtrak for deposit into the Northeast Corridor Improvement Fund account established under section 24319(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code (as added by section 201 of this Act), the following amounts:

(1) For fiscal year 2016, $439,000,000.
(2) For fiscal year 2017, $464,000,000.
(3) For fiscal year 2018, $480,000,000.
(4) For fiscal year 2019, $498,000,000.

(b) NATIONAL NETWORK.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the use of Amtrak for deposit into the National Network account established under section 24319(a)(2) of title 49, United States Code (as added by section 201 of this Act), the following amounts:

(1) For fiscal year 2016, $973,000,000.
(2) For fiscal year 2017, $974,000,000.
(3) For fiscal year 2018, $985,000,000.
(4) For fiscal year 2019, $997,000,000.

(c) PROJECT MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary may withhold up to $2,000,000 of the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection (a), and up to $2,000,000 of the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection (b), for the costs of management oversight of Amtrak.

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZATION FOR AMTRAK OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the Office of the Inspector General of Amtrak the following amounts:

(1) For fiscal year 2016, $23,000,000.
(2) For fiscal year 2017, $24,000,000.
(3) For fiscal year 2018, $24,000,000.
(4) For fiscal year 2019, $25,000,000.

SEC. 103. NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for capital grants

under chapter 244 of title 49, United States Code, and section 20154 of title 49, United States Code, the following amounts:

(1) For fiscal year 2016, $300,000,000.

(2) For fiscal year 2017, $300,000,000.

(3) For fiscal year 2018, $300,000,000.

(4) For fiscal year 2019, $300,000,000.

(b) FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP FOR NORTHEAST CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), 50 percent for each fiscal year shall be available for carrying out section 24407 of title 49, United States Code, as added by section 301 of this Act.

(c) PROJECT MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary may withhold up to ½ of 1 percent of amounts appropriated pursuant to chapter 244 of title 49, United States Code, for the costs of project management oversight of capital projects carried out pursuant to such chapter.

SEC. 104. NORTHEAST CORRIDOR.

For purposes of this title, the term ''Northeast Corridor'' means the Northeast Corridor main line between Boston, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia, and facilities and services used to operate and maintain that line.

TITLE II—AMTRAK REFORM

SEC. 201. AMTRAK PLANNING AND GRANT PROCESS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 243 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

''§ 24317. Costs and revenues

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, Amtrak shall establish and maintain internal controls to ensure Amtrak's costs and revenues are allocated to either the Northeast Corridor or the National Network, including proportional shares of common and fixed costs.

''(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this chapter, the term 'Northeast Corridor' means the Northeast Corridor main line between Boston, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia, and facilities and services used to operate and maintain that line.

''§ 24318. Grant process

''(a) PROCEDURES FOR GRANT REQUESTS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, the Secretary of Transportation shall establish and transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate substantive and procedural requirements, including schedules, for grant requests under this section.

''(b) GRANT REQUESTS.—Amtrak shall transmit grant requests for Federal funds to be appropriated to the Secretary for the use of Amtrak to—

''(1) the Secretary; and

''(2) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

''(c) CONTENTS.—A grant request under subsection (b) shall—

''(1) provide a detailed financial analysis for the upcoming fiscal year for the Northeast Corridor, State-supported routes, and long-distance routes, including projections for the items listed in 24320(c)(1), as applicable, in comparison to prior fiscal year projections;

''(2) include a description of the work to be funded, along with cost estimates and an estimated timetable for completion of the projects covered by the request;

''(3) include an assessment of the continuing financial stability of Amtrak;

''(4) be displayed on Amtrak's website within a reasonable timeframe following its submission to the entities described in subsection (b); and

''(5) be in similar format and substance to those submitted by executive agencies of the Federal Government.

''(d) REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

''(1) 30-DAY APPROVAL PROCESS.—The Secretary shall complete the review of a grant request and approve or disapprove the request not later than 30 days after the date on which Amtrak submits the grant request. If the Secretary disapproves the request or determines that the request is incomplete or deficient, the Secretary shall include the reason for disapproval or the incomplete items or deficiencies in a notice to Amtrak.

''(2) 15-DAY MODIFICATION PERIOD.—Not later than 15 days after receiving notification from the Secretary under paragraph (1), Amtrak shall submit a modified request for the Secretary's review.

''(3) REVISED REQUESTS.—Not later than 15 days after receiving a modified request from Amtrak, the Secretary shall either approve the modified request, or, if the Secretary finds that the request is still incomplete or deficient, the Secretary shall identify in writing to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate the remaining deficiencies and recommend a process for resolving the outstanding portions of the request.

''(e) PAYMENT TO AMTRAK.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), in each fiscal year for which amounts are authorized to be appropriated, amounts appropriated shall be paid to Amtrak as follows:

''(A) 50 percent on October 1.

''(B) 25 percent on January 1.

''(C) 25 percent on April 1.

''(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may make a payment to Amtrak of appropriated funds more frequently than once every 90 days if Amtrak, for good cause, requests more frequent payment before a 90-day period ends.

''(f) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS AND EARLY APPROPRIATIONS.—Amounts appropriated to the Secretary for the use of Amtrak shall remain available until expended. Amounts for capital acquisitions and improvements may be appropriated for a fiscal year before the fiscal year in which the amounts will be obligated.

''(g) LIMITATIONS ON USE.—Amounts appropriated to the Secretary for the use of Amtrak may not be used to subsidize operating losses of commuter rail passenger or rail freight transportation.

''§ 24319. Accounts

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCOUNTS.—Amtrak shall establish—

''(1) a Northeast Corridor Improvement Fund account; and

''(2) a National Network account.

''(b) NORTHEAST CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT FUND ACCOUNT.—

''(1) DEPOSITS.—Amtrak shall deposit in the Northeast Corridor Improvement Fund account established under subsection (a)(1)—

''(A) grant funds appropriated for the Northeast Corridor Improvement Fund pursuant to section 101(a) of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 or any subsequent Act;

''(B) compensation received from commuter rail passenger transportation on the Northeast Corridor provided to Amtrak pursuant to section 24905(c); and

''(C) any operating surplus of the Northeast Corridor, as allocated pursuant to section 24317.

''(2) USE OF NORTHEAST CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT FUND ACCOUNT.—Except as provided in subsection (d), amounts deposited in the Northeast Corridor Improvement Fund account shall be made available for the use of Amtrak for—

''(A) capital projects described in section 24401(2) (A) or (B) to bring the Northeast Corridor to a state-of-good-repair, including projects described in section 24911(a)(2)(E)(i)(I);

''(B) capital projects intended to increase corridor capacity, improve service reliability, and reduce travel time for rail users on the Northeast Corridor, including projects described in subclauses (II) and (III) of section 24911(a)(2)(E)(i), consistent with the planning process established under section 24911; and

''(C) retirement of principal and payment of interest on loans for capital equipment, or capital leases, attributable to the Northeast Corridor.

''(c) NATIONAL NETWORK ACCOUNT.—

''(1) DEPOSITS.—Amtrak shall deposit in the account established under subsection (a)(2)—

''(A) grant funds appropriated for the National Network pursuant to section 101(b) of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, or any subsequent Act;

''(B) compensation received from States provided to Amtrak pursuant to section 209 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 24101 note); and

''(C) any operating surplus from the National Network, as allocated pursuant to section 24317.

''(2) USE OF NATIONAL NETWORK ACCOUNT.—Except as provided in subsection (d), amounts deposited in the National Network account shall be made available for the use of Amtrak for capital expenses and operating costs of the National Network and retirement of principal and payment of interest on loans for capital equipment, or capital leases, attributable to the National Network.

''(d) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—Amtrak may transfer any funds appropriated pursuant to the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 or any other Act, or any surplus generated by operations, between the Northeast Corridor Improvement Fund and National Network accounts upon the expiration of 60 days after Amtrak has notified the Amtrak Board of Directors of such transfer.

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the Amtrak Board of Directors receives notification from Amtrak under paragraph (1), the Board shall transmit a report to the Secretary, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, that includes—

''(A) the amount of the transfer; and

''(B) a detailed explanation of the reason for the transfer, including effects on Amtrak services if no transfer were made.

''(e) LETTERS OF INTENT.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall issue a letter of intent to Amtrak announcing an intention to obligate, for a major capital project described in subclauses (II) and (III) of section 24911(a)(2)(E)(i), an amount from future available budget authority specified in law that is not more than the amount stipulated as the financial participation of the Secretary in the project.

''(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—At least 30 days before issuing a letter under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify in writing the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, of the proposed letter. The Secretary shall include with the notification a copy of the proposed letter, the criteria used for selecting the project for a grant award, and a description of how the project meets criteria of this section.

''(3) CONTINGENT NATURE OF OBLIGATION OR COMMITMENT.—An obligation or administrative commitment may be made only when amounts are appropriated. The letter of intent shall state

that the contingent commitment is not an obligation of the Federal Government, and is subject to the availability of appropriations under Federal law and to Federal laws in force or enacted after the date of the contingent commitment.

''(f) ROLLING STOCK PURCHASES.—Prior to entering into contracts in excess of $100,000,000 for rolling stock procurements, Amtrak shall submit a business case analysis to the Secretary, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, on the utility of such purchase. This analysis shall—

''(1) include a cost and benefit comparison that describes the total lifecycle costs and the anticipated benefits related to revenue, operational efficiency, reliability, and other factors;

''(2) set forth the total payments by fiscal year;

''(3) identify the specific source and amounts of funding for each payment, including Federal funds, State funds, Amtrak profits, Federal, State, or private loans or loan guarantees, and other funding;

''(4) include whether any payment under the contract will increase Amtrak's grant request, as required under section 24318, in that particular fiscal year; and

''(5) describe how Amtrak will adjust the procurement if future funding is not available.''.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 243 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new items:

''24317. Costs and revenues.

''24318. Grant process.

''24319. Accounts.''.

(b) NORTHEAST CORRIDOR PLANNING.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 249 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 24911. Northeast Corridor planning

''(a) NORTHEAST CORRIDOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, and annually thereafter, the Northeast Corridor Infrastructure and Operations Advisory Commission established under section 24905 (referred to in this section as the 'Commission') shall develop a capital investment plan for the Northeast Corridor main line between Boston, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia, and the Northeast Corridor branch lines connecting to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Springfield, Massachusetts, and Spuyten Duyvil, New York, and facilities and services used to operate and maintain those lines.

''(2) CONTENTS.—Each such plan shall—

''(A) be developed to establish a coordinated approach to capital spending on the Northeast Corridor;

''(B) cover a period of 5 fiscal years, beginning with the first fiscal year after the date of the plan;

''(C) notwithstanding section 24902(b), prioritize projects and investments along the Northeast Corridor based on—

''(i) the anticipated benefits and costs of projects;

''(ii) the anticipated Federal and non-Federal funding available; and

''(iii) the information contained in the Northeast Corridor asset management plans required under subsection (b), once available;

''(D) ensure coordination and optimization across the entire Northeast Corridor and among the various owners and users;

''(E) include a financial plan for the investment period that—

''(i) categorizes each capital project as being primarily associated with—

''(I) normalized capital replacement;

''(II) replacement, rehabilitation, or repair of Northeast Corridor infrastructure assets, including tunnels, bridges, stations, and other assets; or

''(III) improvement of train performance on the Northeast Corridor, including reduced trip times, increased train frequencies, higher operating speeds, and other improvements;

''(ii) identifies the anticipated funding source and financing method for each capital project described in subclauses (II) and (III) of clause (i);

''(iii) describes the anticipated outcomes of each project, including—

''(I) an assessment of the potential effect on passenger accessibility, operations, safety, reliability, and resiliency, and on the ability of infrastructure owners and operators to meet regulatory requirements should the project not be funded; and

''(II) an assessment of the benefits and costs;

''(iv) identifies the extent to which the capital assets are or will be jointly used by intercity passenger rail service and other users, and the proportionate share of that joint usage; and

''(v) for projects that are expected to be fully or partially funded through Federal financial assistance, identifies the most appropriate public agency or entity to receive those funds and implement each capital project.

''(3) ADDITIONAL CONTENTS.—Any plan developed under paragraph (1) after the publication by the Secretary of Transportation of the Northeast Corridor service development plan shall also—

''(A) be developed to identify, prioritize, and phase the implementation of projects necessary to achieve the goals and findings contained in such Northeast Corridor service development plan;

''(B) allow for flexibility to change prioritization and programs based upon the availability of Federal and non-Federal funding;

''(C) inform the Secretary in developing recommendations for Congress on Federal funding needs for the Northeast Corridor and any corresponding Federal investments in the respective capital programs for Northeast Corridor infrastructure owners and users; and

''(D) capture the network-level anticipated outcomes associated with plan implementation, including the anticipated effect on passenger accessibility, operations, safety, reliability, and resiliency.

''(b) NORTHEAST CORRIDOR ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANS.—

''(1) CONTENTS.—Amtrak, and States and public transportation entities that own infrastructure that supports or provides for intercity rail passenger transportation on the Northeast Corridor, shall develop and update as necessary Northeast Corridor asset management plans for the Northeast Corridor main line between Boston, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia, and the Northeast Corridor branch lines connecting to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Springfield, Massachusetts, and Spuyten Duyvil, New York, and facilities and services used to operate and maintain those lines, that—

''(A) are consistent with the Federal Transit Administration process, as authorized under section 5326, when implemented; and

''(B) include, at a minimum—

''(i) an inventory of all capital assets owned by the developer of the plan;

''(ii) an assessment of the condition of each of those assets;

''(iii) a description of how the condition of each asset has changed since the previous iteration of the plan; and

''(iv) a description of the necessary resources and processes for bringing or maintaining those assets in a state-of-good repair, including decision support tools and investment prioritization methodologies.

''(2) TRANSMITTAL TO COMMISSION.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, each entity described in paragraph (1) shall transmit to the Commission a plan developed under paragraph (1). Any updates to such plan shall also be transmitted to the Commission.

''(c) NORTHEAST CORRIDOR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATES.—The Commission shall, at least once every 10 years, update the Northeast Corridor service development plan.''.

(2) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 249 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''24911. Northeast Corridor planning.''.

(c) REPEALS.—The following provisions are repealed:

(1) Sections 206 and 211 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008, and the items relating thereto in the table of contents of such Act.

(2) Section 24104 of title 49, United States Code, and the item relating thereto in the table of sections for chapter 241 of such title.

SEC. 202. 5-YEAR CAPITAL AND OPERATING PLAN.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 243 of title 49, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 24320. 5-Year capital and operating plan

''(a) PLAN.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of an Act appropriating funds pursuant to section 101 of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, or any subsequent authorization of appropriations for the same purposes, the Amtrak Board of Directors shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a 5-year capital and operating plan for the Northeast Corridor and National Network.

''(b) CONSULTATION.—Each such plan shall be prepared in consultation with—

''(1) the Federal Railroad Administration;

''(2) the Northeast Corridor Infrastructure and Operations Advisory Commission, with respect to the Northeast Corridor; and

''(3) the requisite States, with respect to the National Network.

''(c) CONTENTS.—A plan prepared under this section shall—

''(1) for each of the Northeast Corridor and the National Network, include—

''(A) projected revenues and expenditures for the Northeast Corridor, State-supported routes, long-distance routes, and corporate development, including Federal and non-Federal funding sources;

''(B) projected ridership levels for the Northeast Corridor, State-supported routes, and long-distance routes;

''(C) projected capital and operational funding requirements necessary to maintain passenger service in order to accommodate predicted ridership levels and predicted sources of Federal and non-Federal funding;

''(D) projected capital and operating requirements, ridership, revenue, and expenditures for new passenger service operations or service expansions;

''(E) an assessment of the continuing financial stability of Amtrak, as indicated by factors including anticipated Federal funding of capital and operating costs, Amtrak's ability to efficiently recruit, retain, and manage its workforce, and Amtrak's ability to effectively provide passenger rail service;

''(F) estimates of long-term and short-term debt and associated principal and interest payments (both current and anticipated);

''(G) annual cash flow forecasts;

''(H) a statement describing methods of estimation and significant assumptions;

''(I) specific measures that demonstrate measurable improvement year over year in the financial results of Amtrak's operations;

''(J) prior fiscal year and projected—

''(i) operating ratio, cash operating loss, and cash operating loss per passenger on a route, business line, and corporate basis;

''(ii) specific costs and savings estimates resulting from reform initiatives;

''(iii) productivity statistics on a route, business line, and corporate basis; and

''(iv) equipment reliability statistics;

''(K) capital and operating expenditures for anticipated security needs; and

''(L) a prioritization of capital expenditures by business line; and

''(2) reflect the Northeast Corridor planning, as applicable, and grant processes established under sections 24911 and 24318.

''(d) CONFORMANCE TO AUTHORIZED FUNDING LEVELS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), any financial projection for a fiscal year that is included in a plan prepared under this section shall be based on the amount of dedicated funding for such fiscal year.

''(2) ABSENCE OF APPROPRIATION.—In the absence of an appropriation of funds for such fiscal year, the projection shall be based on the amount of funds authorized by law to be appropriated for that fiscal year, plus other dedicated funding.

''(3) DEDICATED FUNDING DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'dedicated funding' means any amounts appropriated for a fiscal year and any other funding sources, including revenues and other ancillary funding streams, for the Northeast Corridor or the National Network.

''(e) STANDARDS TO PROMOTE FINANCIAL STABILITY.—In preparing a plan under this section, the Board shall apply sound budgetary practices, including reducing costs and other expenditures, improving productivity, increasing revenues, or combinations of such practices.

''(f) UPDATES.—Amtrak shall provide monthly reports for the current fiscal year in electronic format to the Secretary and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate regarding the items described in subsection (c)(1), which shall include a description of the work completed to date, any differences from projections, and the reasons for such differences.''.

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such chapter 243 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''24320. 5-Year capital and operating plan.''.

(c) REPEAL.—Section 204 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (49 U.S.C. 24101 note), and the item relating thereto in the table of contents of such Act, are repealed.

SEC. 203. STATE-SUPPORTED ROUTES.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 247 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 24712. State-supported routes

''(a) STATE-SUPPORTED ROUTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, the Secretary of Transportation shall establish a State-Supported Route Advisory Committee to promote mutual cooperation and planning pertaining to the rail operations and related activities of trains operated on State-supported routes and to further implement section 209 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (49 U.S.C. 24101 note).

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall consist of representatives of—

''(A) Amtrak;

''(B) the Department of Transportation, including the Federal Railroad Administration; and

''(C) 7 States that sponsor State-supported routes, selected by the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration on the basis of appropriate expertise and geographic balance, and in a manner that ensures that all appropriate States are represented periodically on the Committee.

''(3) DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERSHIP.—The membership belonging to any of the groups described in each individual subparagraph of paragraph (2) shall not constitute a majority of the Committee's memberships.

''(4) MEETINGS; RULES AND PROCEDURES.—The Committee shall establish a schedule and location for convening meetings, but shall meet no less than 2 times every fiscal year. The Committee shall develop rules and procedures to govern the Committee's proceedings.

''(b) COST, SERVICE, AND RIDERSHIP FORECASTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 31, 2016, and annually thereafter, Amtrak shall transmit to each State that sponsors a State-supported route, and to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate—

''(A) a final statement of costs, revenues, ridership, and other information determined appropriate by the Committee established under subsection (a), pertaining to each such route for the prior fiscal year; and

''(B) a cost, service, and ridership forecast for each such route for the upcoming fiscal year, developed pursuant to the methodology established under section 209 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (49 U.S.C. 24101 note).

''(2) EXCEPTION.—The Committee may establish a different deadline than is required under paragraph (1) for submission of final financial statements and cost, service, and ridership forecasts.

''(3) QUARTERLY UPDATES.—Beginning in 2016, and each year thereafter, Amtrak shall transmit to each State that sponsors a State-supported route quarterly updates of the cost, service, and ridership forecast described in paragraph (1)(B) to enable States to pace costs against State budgets, plan effectively, and address unexpected changes in costs in a timely manner, on the following dates:

''(A) April 30, for the period encompassing January through March of such year.

''(B) July 31, for the period encompassing April through June of such year.

''(C) October 31, for the period encompassing July through September of such year.

''(c) INVOICES.—Not later than February 15, 2016, and monthly thereafter, Amtrak shall provide to each State that sponsors a State-supported route a monthly invoice of the cost of operating such route, including fixed costs and third-party costs.

''(d) DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—

''(1) REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED RESOLUTION.—If a dispute arises with respect to a forecast developed under subsection (b), an invoice developed under subsection (c), or the terms of a contract for operation of a State-supported route negotiated between Amtrak and a State that sponsors the route, either Amtrak or the State may request that the Surface Transportation Board conduct expedited dispute resolution under this subsection.

''(2) PROCEDURES.—The Surface Transportation Board shall establish procedures for expedited resolution of disputes brought before it under this subsection.

''(3) BINDING EFFECT.—The decision of the Surface Transportation Board under this subsection shall be binding on the parties to the dispute.

''(e) FRA ASSISTANCE.—The Federal Railroad Administration may provide assistance to the parties in the course of negotiations for a contract for operation of a State-supported route.

''(f) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—In negotiating a contract for operation of a State-supported route, Amtrak and the State or States that sponsor the route shall consider including provisions that provide penalties and incentives for performance based on metrics that take into account only those factors within the control of Amtrak or the State or States.

''(g) DEFINITION OF STATE.—In this section, the term 'State' means each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.''.

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such chapter 247 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''24712. State-supported routes.''.

SEC. 204. ROUTE AND SERVICE PLANNING DECISIONS.

Section 208 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (49 U.S.C. 24101 note) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 208. METHODOLOGIES FOR AMTRAK ROUTE AND SERVICE PLANNING DECISIONS.

''(a) METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, as a condition of receiving a grant under section 101 of such Act, Amtrak shall obtain the services of an independent entity to develop and recommend objective methodologies for Amtrak to use in determining what intercity rail passenger transportation routes and services it should provide, including the establishment of new routes, the elimination of existing routes, and the contraction or expansion of services or frequencies over such routes.

''(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—Amtrak shall require the entity, in developing the methodologies described in subsection (a), to consider—

''(1) the current and expected performance and service quality of intercity rail passenger transportation operations, including cost recovery, on-time performance, ridership, on-board services, stations, facilities, equipment, and other services;

''(2) connectivity of a route with other routes;

''(3) the transportation needs of communities and populations that are not well served by intercity rail passenger transportation service or by other forms of intercity transportation;

''(4) the methodologies of Amtrak and major intercity rail passenger transportation service providers in other countries for determining intercity passenger rail routes and services;

''(5) the views of States, rail carriers that own infrastructure over which Amtrak operates, Amtrak employee representatives, and other interested parties; and

''(6) the funding levels that will be available under authorization levels that have been enacted into law.

''(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, Amtrak shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the recommendations developed by the entity pursuant to subsection (a).

''(d) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after transmitting the recommendations pursuant to subsection (c), the Amtrak Board of Directors shall consider the adoption of the recommendations and transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing an explanation of any reasons for adopting or not adopting the recommendations.''.

SEC. 205. COMPETITION.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 24711 of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 24711. Alternate passenger rail service pilot program

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, the Federal

Railroad Administration shall complete a rulemaking proceeding to develop a pilot program that—

''(1) permits a rail carrier or rail carriers that own infrastructure over which Amtrak operates a passenger rail service route described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of section 24102(7) or in section 24702(a) to petition the Federal Railroad Administration to be considered as a passenger rail service provider over that route in lieu of Amtrak for an operations period of 5 years;

''(2) requires the Federal Railroad Administration to notify Amtrak within 30 days after receiving a petition under paragraph (1) and establish a deadline by which both the petitioner and Amtrak would be required to submit a bid to provide passenger rail service over the route to which the petition relates;

''(3) requires that each bid describe how the bidder would operate the route, what Amtrak passenger equipment would be needed, if any, and what sources of non-Federal funding the bidder would use, including any State subsidy, among other things;

''(4) requires the Federal Railroad Administration to execute a contract within a specified, limited time after the deadline established under paragraph (2) and award to the winning bidder—

''(A) the right and obligation to provide passenger rail service over that route subject to such performance standards as the Federal Railroad Administration may require; and

''(B) an operating subsidy—

''(i) for the first year at a level not in excess of 90 percent of the level in effect for that specific route during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which the petition was received, adjusted for inflation; and

''(ii) for any subsequent years at the level calculated under clause (i), adjusted for inflation; and

''(5) requires that each bid contain a staffing plan describing the number of employees needed to operate the service, the job assignments and requirements, and the terms of work for prospective and current employees of the bidder for the service outlined in the bid, and that such staffing plan be made available by the winning bidder to the public after the bid award.

''(b) ROUTE LIMITATIONS.—The Federal Railroad Administration may not make the program available with respect to more than 2 Amtrak intercity passenger rail routes.

''(c) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS; ACCESS TO FACILITIES; EMPLOYEES.—If the Federal Railroad Administration awards the right and obligation to provide passenger rail service over a route under this section to a rail carrier or rail carriers—

''(1) it shall execute a contract with the rail carrier or rail carriers for rail passenger operations on that route that conditions the operating and subsidy rights on—

''(A) the service provider continuing to provide passenger rail service on the route that is no less frequent, nor over a shorter distance, than Amtrak provided on that route before the award; and

''(B) the service provider's compliance with the standards established under subsection (a)(4)(A), and such additional performance standards as the Administration may establish;

''(2) it shall, if the award is made to a rail carrier other than Amtrak, require Amtrak to provide access to its reservation system, stations, and facilities directly related to operations to any rail carrier or rail carriers awarded a contract under this section, in accordance with subsection (d), necessary to carry out the purposes of this section;

''(3) an employee of any person used by such rail carrier or rail carriers in the operation of a route under this section shall be considered an employee of that carrier or carriers and subject to the applicable Federal laws and regulations governing similar crafts or classes of employees of Amtrak, including provisions under section 121 of the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997 (49 U.S.C. 4312 note) relating to employees that provide food and beverage service; and

''(4) the winning bidder shall provide hiring preference to qualified Amtrak employees displaced by the award of the bid, consistent with the staffing plan submitted by the bidder, and shall be subject to the grant conditions under section 24405 of this title.

''(d) DISPUTES.—If Amtrak and the rail carrier or rail carriers awarded a route under this section cannot agree upon terms to carry out subsection (c)(2), and the Surface Transportation Board finds that access to Amtrak's facilities or equipment, or the provision of services by Amtrak, is necessary to carry out subsection (c)(2) and that the operation of Amtrak's other services will not be impaired thereby, the Surface Transportation Board shall, within 120 days after submission of the dispute, issue an order that the facilities and equipment be made available, and that services be provided, by Amtrak, and shall determine reasonable compensation, liability, and other terms for use of the facilities and equipment and provision of the services.

''(e) CESSATION OF SERVICE.—If a rail carrier or rail carriers awarded a route under this section cease to operate the service or fail to fulfill their obligations under the contract required under subsection (c), the Federal Railroad Administration, in collaboration with the Surface Transportation Board, shall take any necessary action consistent with this title to enforce the contract and ensure the continued provision of service, including the installment of an interim service provider and rebidding the contract to operate the service. The entity providing service shall either be Amtrak or a rail carrier defined in subsection (a)(1).

''(f) ADEQUATE RESOURCES.—Before taking any action allowed under this section, the Secretary shall certify that the Federal Railroad Administration has sufficient resources appropriated under section 101(b) of Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, or any subsequent appropriation, for that purpose that are adequate to undertake the program established under this section.

''(g) BUDGET AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Transportation may provide to a winning bidder selected under this section appropriations authorized under sections 101(b) of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, or any subsequent appropriation for the same purposes, necessary to cover the operating subsidy described in subsection (a)(4)(B).''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the conclusion of the pilot program established under the amendment made by subsection (a), the Federal Railroad Administration shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results on the pilot program established under section 24711 of title 49 United States Code, and any recommendations for further action.

SEC. 206. FOOD AND BEVERAGE REFORM.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 243 of title 49, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 24321. Food and beverage reform

''(a) PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, Amtrak shall develop and begin implementing a plan to eliminate, within 5 years of such date of enactment, the operating loss associated with providing food and beverage service on board Amtrak trains.

''(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing and implementing the plan, Amtrak shall consider a combination of cost management and revenue generation initiatives, including—

''(1) scheduling optimization;

''(2) on-board logistics;

''(3) product development and supply chain efficiency;

''(4) training, awards, and accountability;

''(5) technology enhancements and process improvements; and

''(6) ticket revenue allocation.

''(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Amtrak shall ensure that no Amtrak employee holding a position as of the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 is involuntarily separated because of—

''(1) the development and implementation of the plan required under subsection (a); or

''(2) any other action taken by Amtrak to implement this section.

''(d) NO FEDERAL FUNDING FOR OPERATING LOSSES.—Beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, no Federal funds may be used to cover any operating loss associated with providing food and beverage service on a route operated by Amtrak or an alternative passenger rail service provider that operates a route in lieu of Amtrak pursuant to section 24711.

''(e) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, and annually thereafter for 5 years, Amtrak shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) and a description of progress in the implementation of the plan.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 243 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''24321. Food and beverage reform.''.

SEC. 207. RIGHT OF WAY LEVERAGING.

(a) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, Amtrak shall issue a Request for Proposals seeking private sector persons or entities to utilize Amtrak-owned right-of-way for telecommunications systems, energy distribution systems, and other activities considered appropriate by Amtrak. The Request for Proposals shall provide sufficient information on Amtrak's right-of-way real estate assets to enable respondents to propose an arrangement that will monetize such assets through revenue sharing agreements with Amtrak.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Amtrak Board of Directors shall review and consider each proposal submitted pursuant to subsection (a). Amtrak may enter into such agreements as are necessary to implement any such proposal or proposals.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, Amtrak shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the Request for Proposals required by this section, including summary information of any proposals submitted to Amtrak and any proposals accepted by the Amtrak Board of Directors.

SEC. 208. STATION DEVELOPMENT.

(a) REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, Amtrak shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on options to enhance development around Amtrak stations, including—

(1) strengthening multimodal connections, including intercity buses;

(2) options for capturing development-related revenue streams; and

(3) other opportunities to better leverage station assets.

(b) PROPOSALS.—

(1) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, Amtrak shall issue a Request for Proposals seeking persons or entities, where appropriate, to carry out the options identified under subsection (a).

(2) CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Amtrak Board of Directors shall review and consider each proposal submitted pursuant to paragraph (1). Amtrak may enter into such agreements as are necessary to implement any such proposal or proposals.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 months after the date of enactment of this Act, Amtrak shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the Request for Proposals required by this section, including summary information of any proposals submitted to Amtrak and any proposals accepted by the Amtrak Board of Directors.

SEC. 209. AMTRAK DEBT.

Section 205 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (49 U.S.C. 24101 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting '', to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts'' after ''Amtrak's indebtedness'';

(2) by striking ''as of the date of enactment of this Act'' each place it appears;

(3) in subsection (a), by striking the second sentence;

(4) in subsection (b), by striking ''The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation'' and inserting ''To the extent amounts are provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation'';

(5) in subsection (d), by inserting '', to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts'' after ''as appropriate'';

(6) in subsection (e)(1), by striking ''by section 102 of this division''; and

(7) in subsection (e)(2), by striking ''by section 102'' and inserting ''for Amtrak''.

SEC. 210. AMTRAK PILOT PROGRAM FOR PASSENGERS TRANSPORTING DOMESTICATED CATS AND DOGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, Amtrak shall develop a pilot program that allows passengers to transport domesticated cats or dogs on certain trains operated by Amtrak.

(b) PET POLICY.—In developing the pilot program required under subsection (a), Amtrak shall—

(1) in the case of a passenger train that is comprised of more than 1 car, designate, where feasible, at least 1 car in which a ticketed passenger may transport a domesticated cat or dog in the same manner as carry-on baggage if—

(A) the cat or dog is contained in a pet kennel;

(B) the pet kennel is stowed in accordance with Amtrak size requirements for carriage of carry-on baggage;

(C) the passenger is traveling on a train operating on a route described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (D) of section 24102(7) of title 49, United States Code; and

(D) the passenger pays a fee described in paragraph (3);

(2) allow a ticketed passenger to transport a domesticated cat or dog on a train in the same manner as cargo if—

(A) the cat or dog is contained in a pet kennel;

(B) the pet kennel is stowed in accordance with Amtrak requirements for cargo stowage;

(C) the passenger is traveling on a train operating on a route described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (D) of section 24102(7) of title 49, United States Code;

(D) the cargo area is temperature controlled in a manner protective of cat and dog safety and health; and

(E) the passenger pays a fee described in paragraph (3); and

(3) collect fees for each cat or dog transported by a ticketed passenger in an amount that, in the aggregate and at a minimum, covers the full costs of the pilot program.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the pilot program required under subsection (a) is first implemented, Amtrak shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing an evaluation of the pilot program.

(d) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) SERVICE ANIMALS.—The pilot program required under subsection (a) shall be separate from and in addition to the policy governing Amtrak passengers traveling with service animals. Nothing in this section may be interpreted to limit or waive the rights of passengers to transport service animals.

(2) ADDITIONAL TRAIN CARS.—Nothing in this section may be interpreted to require Amtrak to add additional train cars or modify existing train cars.

(3) FEDERAL FUNDS.—No Federal funds may be used to implement the pilot program required under this section.

SEC. 211. AMTRAK BOARDING PROCEDURES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Amtrak Office of Inspector General shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(1) evaluates Amtrak's boarding procedures at its 10 stations through which the most people pass;

(2) compares Amtrak's boarding procedures to—

(A) commuter railroad boarding procedures at stations shared with Amtrak;

(B) international intercity passenger rail boarding procedures; and

(C) fixed guideway transit boarding procedures; and

(3) makes recommendations, as appropriate, to improve Amtrak's boarding procedures, including recommendations regarding the queuing of passengers and free-flow of all station-users.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after the release of the report required under subsection (a), the Amtrak Board of Directors shall consider each recommendation provided under subsection (a)(3) for implementation across the Amtrak system.

TITLE III—INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL POLICY

SEC. 301. FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP FOR NORTHEAST CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 244 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 24407. Federal-State partnership for Northeast Corridor rehabilitation and improvement

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall develop and implement a program for issuing grants to applicants, on a competitive basis, for the purpose of financing the capital projects included in the Northeast Corridor Priority Project List developed under subsection (c).

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) APPLICANT.—The term 'applicant' means a State (including the District of Columbia), a group of States, an Interstate Compact, or a public agency established by one or more States and having responsibility for providing intercity passenger or commuter rail service.

''(2) MAJOR STATE-OF-GOOD-REPAIR PROJECT.—The term 'major state-of-good-repair project' means a capital project primarily intended to replace, rehabilitate or repair major Northeast Corridor infrastructure assets utilized for providing intercity rail passenger transportation, including tunnels, bridges, stations, and other assets as determined by the Secretary.

''(3) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.—The term 'improvement project' means a capital project primarily intended to improve intercity passenger rail performance on the Northeast Corridor, including reduced trip times, increased train frequencies, higher operating speeds, and other improvements as determined by the Secretary.

''(c) NORTHEAST CORRIDOR PRIORITY PROJECT LIST.—The Northeast Corridor Infrastructure and Operations Advisory Commission, established under section 24905, shall develop and approve a Northeast Corridor Priority Project List that shall include—

''(1) a list of prioritized individual major state-of-good-repair projects and improvement projects along the Northeast Corridor that—

''(A) can be completed based on—

''(i) the funding authorized under section 103(b) of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015;

''(ii) any subsequent applicable authorization in effect;

''(iii) in the absence of such an authorization, a 5-year funding amount based on the most recent appropriation; or

''(iv) the requirements of subsection (d); and

''(B) are consistent with the Northeast Corridor capital investment plan required under section 24911(a);

''(2) an identification of the applicant for each individual project;

''(3) an identification of the sources of non-Federal matching funds for each project; and

''(4) a description of the benefits each project will bring to intercity rail passenger services.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—The Federal grants authorized under this section shall be for no more than 50 percent of the net project cost of the project involved.

''(e) APPLICABILITY OF CAPITAL GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—Except as specifically provided in this section, the use of any amounts appropriated for grants under this section shall be subject to the requirements of this chapter.

''(f) MATCH REQUIREMENTS.—No grants may be obligated to an applicant under this section unless the applicant has transmitted to the Secretary of Transportation a binding written commitment to provide all amounts necessary for the purpose of matching Federal contributions as required by this section.

''(g) UPDATES TO LIST.—The Northeast Corridor Infrastructure and Operations Advisory Commission shall revise the NEC Priority Project List as necessary to reflect—

''(1) any differences in the availability of Federal funding from the levels assumed for purposes of subsection (c)(1)(A) (i) and (ii);

''(2) any elimination or addition of projects; and

''(3) any reduction or increase in benefits to be derived from a project.

''(h) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated for carrying out this section shall remain available until expended.

''(i) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall supplant the requirement of applicants to compensate Amtrak for the use of Amtrak facilities or services pursuant to section 24905(c).

''(j) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term 'Northeast Corridor' means the Northeast Corridor main line between Boston, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia, and the Northeast Corridor branch lines connecting to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Springfield, Massachusetts, and Spuyten Duyvil, New York, and facilities and services used to operate and maintain those lines.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 244 of title 49, United States

Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''24407. Federal-State partnership for Northeast Corridor rehabilitation and improvement.''.

SEC. 302. RRIF IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue regulations implementing the amendments made by this section.

(b) COLLATERAL.—Section 502(h)(2) of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 822(h)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(2) The Secretary'' and inserting ''(2)(A) The Secretary'';

(2) by inserting ''The Secretary may subordinate rights of the Secretary under any provision of title 49 or title 23 of the United States Code, to the rights of the Secretary under this section and section 503.'' after ''from another source.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) The Secretary shall, for purposes of making a finding under subsection (g)(4), accept the net present value on a future stream of State or local subsidy income or dedicated revenue as collateral offered to secure the loan.''.

(c) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET REVIEW.—Section 502(i) of such Act (45 U.S.C. 822(i)) is amended by inserting ''In order to enable compliance with such time limit, the Office of Management and Budget shall take any actions required with respect to the application within such 90-day period.'' after ''disapprove the application.''.

(d) RRIF APPLICATION.—Section 502(i) of such Act (45 U.S.C. 822(i)) is further amended—

(1) by striking ''DISAPPROVAL.—Not later than 90 days after receiving'' and inserting ''DISAPPROVAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after an application is determined pursuant to paragraph (2) to be''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(2) COMPLETION OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall establish procedures for making a determination, not later than 45 days after submission of an application under this section, whether the application is complete. Such procedures shall—

''(A) provide for a checklist of the required components of a complete application;

''(B) require the Secretary to provide to the applicant a description of the specific components of the application that remain incomplete if an application is determined to be incomplete; and

''(C) permit reapplication without prejudice for applications determined to be incomplete.

''(3) INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ANALYST.—The Secretary shall assign an independent financial analyst within 45 days of submittal of a complete application.''.

(e) POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL.—Section 502(c)(1) of such Act (45 U.S.C. 822(c)(1)) is amended by inserting '', including projects for the installation of a positive train control (as defined in section 20157(i) of title 49, United States Code) system'' after ''public safety''.

(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 502 of such Act (45 U.S.C. 822) is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(k) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report on the program under this section that provides information on loans approved and disapproved by the Secretary during the previous year. Such report shall not disclose the identity of direct loan or loan guarantee recipients. The report shall describe—

''(1) the number of pre-application meetings with potential applicants;

''(2) the number of applications received and determined complete under subsection (i)(2), including the requested loan amounts;

''(3) the dates of receipt of applications;

''(4) the dates applications were determined complete under subsection (i)(2);

''(5) the number of applications determined incomplete under subsection (i)(2);

''(6) the final decision dates for both approvals and disapprovals of applications;

''(7) the number of applications withdrawn from consideration; and

''(8) the annual loan portfolio asset quality.''.

SEC. 303. NEC FAST FORWARD.

(a) NORTHEAST CORRIDOR AUTHORITY.—Section 502(d) of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 822(d)) is amended by inserting ''40 percent shall be available solely for projects described in subsection (l)(1), and'' after ''Of this amount,''.

(b) NORTHEAST CORRIDOR FAST FORWARD PROGRAM.—Section 502 of such Act is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l) NORTHEAST CORRIDOR FAST FORWARD.—

''(1) PURPOSE.—The Secretary, as part of the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing program, shall provide direct loans and loan guarantees to eligible entities described in subsection (a) for capital projects to improve the Northeast Corridor (as used in section 24911 of title 49, United States Code).

''(2) COLLATERAL.—Loans made or guaranteed under this subsection shall require collateral equal to the loan amount requested.

''(3) INVESTMENT GRADE RATING.—A direct loan or loan guarantee shall be made under this subsection only if a rating agency has assigned an investment grade rating of BBB minus, Baa3, bbb minus, BBB (low), (or equivalent) or higher to the project obligation. For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'rating agency' means a credit rating agency registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (as that term is defined in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a))).

''(4) INCLUSION IN NEC PLANNING.—Loans and loan guarantees made under this subsection shall be for projects that are included in the most recent 5-year budget and business plan prepared pursuant to section 24911(a) of title 49, United States Code.

''(5) REFINANCING.—Loans made or guaranteed under this subsection shall not be used for the refinancing of outstanding debt incurred.

''(6) COHORT OF LOANS.—Subsection (f)(4) shall not apply to loans made or guaranteed under this subsection.''.

(c) REPORT ON LEVERAGING RRIF.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report identifying potential revenue sources, projects, and service improvements that could be achieved by the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b).

(d) CONDITIONS OF FUNDING.—

(1) GRANTS.—Section 24405 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''15 days'' and inserting ''30 days'' in subsection (a)(4)(B); and

(B) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(12) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report listing any waiver issued under this section during the preceding year.''.

(2) RRIF.—Section 502(h)(3) of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 822(h)(3)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) the requirements of section 24405(a) of title 49, United States Code.''.

SEC. 304. LARGE CAPITAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.

Section 24402 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following subsection:

''(m) LARGE CAPITAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For a grant awarded under this chapter for an amount in excess of $1,000,000,000, the following conditions shall apply:

''(A) The Secretary of Transportation shall not obligate any funding unless the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that it has committed and will be able to fulfill the non-Federal share required for the grant within the applicant's proposed project completion timetable.

''(B) The Secretary shall not obligate any funding for work activities that occur after the completion of final design unless—

''(i) the applicant transmits to the Secretary a financial plan that generally identifies the sources of the non-Federal funding required for any subsequent segments or phases of the corridor service development program covering the project for which the grant is made;

''(ii) the grant will result in a useable segment, a transportation facility, or equipment, that has operational independence; and

''(iii) the intercity passenger rail benefits anticipated to result from the grant, such as increased speed, improved on-time performance, reduced trip time, increased frequencies, new service, safety improvements, improved accessibility, or other significant enhancements are detailed by the grantee and approved by the Secretary.

''(C) The Secretary shall ensure that the project is maintained to the level of utility that is necessary to support the benefits approved under subparagraph (B)(iii) for a period of 20 years from the date the useable segment, transportation facility, or equipment described in subparagraph (B)(ii) is placed in service. If the project property is not maintained as required by this subparagraph for a period of time in excess of 12 months, then a pro-rata share of the Federal contribution, based upon the percentage remaining of the 20-year period that commenced when the project property was placed in service, shall be refunded.

''(2) EARLY WORK.—The Secretary may allow a grantee subject to this subsection to engage in at-risk work activities subsequent to the conclusion of final design where the Secretary determines that such work activities are reasonable and necessary.''.

SEC. 305. SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a nationwide disparity and availability study on the availability and use of small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in publically funded intercity rail passenger transportation (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code) projects administered by the Federal Railroad Administration.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''small business concern'' means a small business concern as the term is used in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''small business concern'' does not include any concern or group of concerns controlled by the same socially and economically disadvantaged individual or individuals that have average annual gross receipts during the preceding 3 fiscal years in excess of $22,410,000, as adjusted annually by the Secretary for inflation.

(2) SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''socially and economically disadvantaged individual'' has the meaning given the term in section 8(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)) and relevant subcontracting regulations issued pursuant to that Act, except that women shall be presumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged individuals for purposes of this section.

(d) FUNDING.—Of the total amount made available to the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Administration, for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017, $3,000,000 shall be used to implement the requirements of this section.

SEC. 306. GULF COAST RAIL SERVICE WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Railroad Administration shall convene a working group to evaluate the restoration of intercity rail passenger service in the Gulf Coast region between New Orleans, Louisiana, and Orlando, Florida.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group shall consist of representatives of—

(1) Amtrak;

(2) the States along the proposed route or routes;

(3) regional transportation planning organizations and metropolitan planning organizations, municipalities, and communities along the proposed route or routes, selected by the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration;

(4) the Southern Rail Commission;

(5) freight railroad carriers whose tracks may be used for such service; and

(6) other entities determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The working group shall—

(1) evaluate all options for restoring intercity rail passenger service in the Gulf Coast region, including options outlined in the report transmitted to Congress pursuant to section 226 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–432);

(2) select a preferred option for restoring such service;

(3) develop a prioritized inventory of capital projects and other actions required to restore such service and cost estimates for such projects or actions; and

(4) identify Federal and non-Federal funding sources required to restore such service, including options for entering into public-private partnerships to restore such service.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation in the Senate a report that includes—

(1) the preferred option selected under subsection (c)(2) and the reasons for selecting such option;

(2) the information described in subsection (c)(3);

(3) the funding sources identified under subsection (c)(4);

(4) the costs and benefits of restoring intercity rail passenger transportation in the region; and

(5) any other information the working group determines appropriate.

SEC. 307. MISCELLANEOUS.

(a) TITLE 49 AMENDMENTS.—Title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 22106(b), by striking ''interest thereof'' and inserting ''interest thereon'';

(2) in section 24101(b), by striking ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''subsection (c)''; and

(3) in section 24706—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''a discontinuance under section 24704 or or'';

(B) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''section 24704 or''; and

(C) in subsection (b), by striking ''section 24704 or''.

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The item relating to section 24316 in the table of sections for chapter 243 of such title is amended by striking ''Plan to assist'' and inserting ''Plans to address needs of''.

(c) PASSENGER RAIL INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENT ACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 305 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (49 U.S.C. 24101 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting after ''equipment manufacturers,'' the following: ''nonprofit organizations representing employees who perform overhaul and maintenance of passenger railroad equipment,'';

(2) in subsection (c), by striking '', and may establish a corporation, which may be owned or jointly-owned by Amtrak, participating States, or other entities, to perform these functions''; and

(3) in subsection (e), by striking ''and establishing a jointly-owned corporation to manage that equipment''.

TITLE IV—PROJECT DELIVERY

SEC. 401. PROJECT DELIVERY RULEMAKING.

(a) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall begin a rulemaking to govern the Federal review, permitting, and approval or disapproval of—

(1) freight railroad and intercity rail passenger transportation infrastructure projects, including those that are carried out or planned to be carried out with the use of Federal funds administered by the Department of Transportation through a grant, contract, loan, or other financing instrument; and

(2) commuter rail passenger transportation (as defined in section 24102(3) of title 49, United States Code) infrastructure projects that are funded in whole or in part through a direct loan or loan guarantee under title V of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (45 U.S.C. 801 et seq.).

(b) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall complete the rulemaking required under subsection (a) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS.—The rulemaking under subsection (a) shall include procedures that—

(1) reduce the aggregate time for review and permitting of infrastructure projects described under subsection (a) while preserving existing statutory requirements for public comment or assessing the impact of a proposed project;

(2) institutionalize or expand best practices or process improvements that agencies are already implementing to improve the efficiency of reviews;

(3) identify high-performance attributes of infrastructure projects described under subsection (a) that demonstrate how projects seek to advance existing statutory and policy objectives, thereby facilitating a more efficient review and permitting process;

(4) create a process to invite Federal agencies and State, local, and tribal governments to participate in the review process, expand coordination with such agencies and governments, and require the identification as early as practicable in the process of any—

(A) Federal agency or State, local, or tribal government with jurisdiction over the project or required by law to conduct or issue a review or make a determination with regard to the project; and

(B) review, analysis, opinion, and permit, license, or approval required for the project;

(5) create process efficiencies, including—

(A) designating Federal agencies and State, local, and tribal governments as cooperating and participating agencies;

(B) conducting concurrent and integrated reviews, analyses, opinions, and permits, licenses, or approvals to the maximum extent practicable;

(C) establishing timelines, in coordination with affected Federal agencies, for completion of those reviews, analyses, opinions, and permits, licenses, or approvals;

(D) developing a coordination plan and schedule, in coordination with affected Federal agencies, for participation in the review by Federal agencies, State, local, and tribal governments, and the public; and

(E) implementing a process to effectively identify and resolve issues that may affect completion of reviews in a timely manner;

(6) effectively engage the public and interested stakeholders as early in the review process as possible;

(7) include opportunities to use existing share-in-cost authorities and other nonappropriated funding sources to support early coordination and project review;

(8) expand the use of information technology tools and identify priority areas for information technology investment to replace paperwork processes, enhance effective project siting decisions, enhance interagency collaboration, and improve the monitoring of project impacts and mitigation commitments;

(9) ensure that documents developed under the procedures are adopted and used by other Federal agencies, and State, local, and tribal governments, to the maximum extent practicable, to eliminate redundancy and duplicative reviews;

(10) include improvements to mitigation policies to provide added predictability, facilitate landscape-scale mitigation based on conservation plans and regional environmental assessments, facilitate interagency mitigation plans where appropriate, ensure accountability and long-term effectiveness of mitigation activities, and utilize innovative mechanisms where appropriate; and

(11) develop a process for periodically considering expansion of categorical exclusions for infrastructure projects described under subsection (a) that conform to those of other modal administrations.

SEC. 402. HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF RAILROADS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, including the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and nongovernmental stakeholders representing the railroad industry and historic preservation concerns, shall—

(1) administratively pursue program alternatives (as that term is used in 36 C.F.R. 800.14) to promote a consistent approach in the treatment of railroad and rail-related properties for historic preservation review under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f); and

(2) develop mechanisms for streamlining compliance with the requirements of section 303 of title 49, United States Code, for railroad and rail-related properties.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) consider, among other options, the development of—

(A) programmatic agreements, program comments, exempted categories of undertakings, and guidance for historic reviews under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as those terms are used in 36 C.F.R. 800.14); and

(B) programmatic evaluations, de minimis impact determinations, and regulatory guidance

for reviews under section 303 of title 49, United States Code (as those terms are used in 23 C.F.R. 774); and

(2) take into account, at a minimum—

(A) maintenance and repair of railroad and rail-related property;

(B) repair and replacement of bridges, structures, or facilities in a like-for-like manner, or when the bridge, structure, or facility is not a contributing element of a historic district;

(C) safety-related projects, including installation, maintenance, and repair of positive train control systems;

(D) management of railroad and rail-related properties that include both historic and non-historic components;

(E) integration of reviews under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, reviews under section 303 of title 49, United States Code, and environmental reviews; and

(F) consistency in treatment of railroads nationwide for historic preservation purposes.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 501. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this Act, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Transportation.

SEC. 502. TITLE 49 DEFINITIONS.

(a) TITLE 49 AMENDMENTS.—Section 24102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (9) as paragraphs (7) through (11), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraphs:

''(5) 'long-distance route' means a route described in subparagraph (C) of paragraph (7).

''(6) 'National Network' includes long-distance routes and State-supported routes.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(12) 'state-of-good-repair' means a condition in which physical assets, both individually and as a system, are—

''(A) performing at a level at least equal to that called for in their as-built or as-modified design specification during any period when the life cycle cost of maintaining the assets is lower than the cost of replacing them; and

''(B) sustained through regular maintenance and replacement programs.

''(13) 'State-supported route' means a route described in subparagraph (B) or (D) of paragraph (7), or in section 24702, that is operated by Amtrak, excluding those trains operated by Amtrak on the routes described in paragraph (7)(A).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 217 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (49 U.S.C. 24702 note) is amended by striking ''24102(5)(D)'' and inserting ''24102(7)(D)''.

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 114–36. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. MCNERNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 114–36.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I do have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 43, line 24, strike ''where appropriate'' and insert ''including small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals''.

Page 44, after line 16, insert the following:

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''small business concern'' and ''socially and economically disadvantaged individual'' have the meanings given such terms in section 305(c).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 134, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for their work on this. It has been a bipartisan effort.

It has been a long time since we have seen a rail bill, and it's about time. We need to do something to improve our rail system. This bill authorizes $7.2 billion for passenger rail over the next 4 fiscal years and will help improve Amtrak's service and long-term stability. It has a wide range of support from all the stakeholders.

I have two Amtrak stations in my region, and both of them are in communities that are devastated by the economic downturn, and unfortunately, our small businesses have been slower to recover from the recession because they have less access to capital and information.

Section 208 of this bill directs Amtrak to submit a report to Congress within 1 year on the options to enhance economic development around the Amtrak stations. This provision requires Amtrak to issue a request for proposals seeking persons or entities to carry out these proposals.

My amendment encourages the process to be inclusive of socially and economically disadvantaged businesses while keeping the intent to strengthen multimodal connections, capturing development-related streams, meaning multiple revenue sources and better leveraging station assets.

We need to encourage our socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses a chance to provide their input and feedback on station development proposals in and around Amtrak communities.

A disadvantaged business is one that is at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals or groups. According to the Minority Business Development Agency, only 2 percent of all minority-owned firms are considered high revenue, meaning businesses with annual receipts of over $1 million. These enterprises account for 68 percent of total receipts and 61 percent of all jobs produced by all minority enterprises.

As these businesses grow and innovate, so does the rest of our economy. Our society and economy is made stronger from diversity, and socially and economically disadvantaged businesses should have information to compete and to be included in all the business development with public and private entities.

The Department of Transportation has done very well in recognizing the role that disadvantaged small businesses play in the community. We must ensure that this also remains true of Amtrak.

We need to see that these disadvantaged areas develop in sync with the money that is being spent. We just want to make sure that the information is there so they can compete on a fair basis.

My bill and this amendment is a chance to invest in our intercity passenger rail service and spur innovation, growth, and investment in the surrounding communities. I encourage the adoption of my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HULTGREN). Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment does clarify that socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses can compete for contracts in the bills dealing with the redevelopment of stations.

A lot of these stations are in downtown areas that are very desirable for development, and so we want to encourage that. This amendment, I believe, strengthens the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Chairman, the good thing about the amendment, it doesn't cost anything, and I think it will really help some of our disadvantaged communities.

As the chairman said, these are in the downtown areas that need the most help, so I encourage my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. FITZPATRICK.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 114–36.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 63, line 6, insert after ''individuals'' the following: ''and veteran-owned small businesses''.

Page 64, after line 13, insert the following:

(3) VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''veteran-owned small business'' has the meaning given the

term ''small business concern owned and controlled by veterans'' in section 3(q)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)(3)).

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''veteran-owned small business'' does not include any concern or group of concerns controlled by the same veterans that have average annual gross receipts during the preceding 3 fiscal years in excess of $22,410,000 as adjusted annually by the Secretary for inflation.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 134, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I thank the Chair, and I commend and congratulate Mr. SHUSTER on his very thoughtful approach to this passenger rail reform bill, which is poised to pass, and I encourage its passage here today.

Mr. Chair, our Nation's veterans are the most highly skilled workforce in our Nation's history. They are the product of rigorous training and ironclad commitment to teamwork. They have a remarkable ability to succeed where others might fail.

It is no wonder, then, that nearly 2.5 million veterans own and operate their own businesses, creating and sustaining over 8 million jobs for hardworking Americans. However, the current pool of veteran-owned businesses is getting older, with recent census data showing that 75 percent of current veteran-owned businesses were age 55 and over.

As this older generation of veterans look toward retirement, America will begin to lose a key driver of economic growth. We need to be thinking now about how to encourage the next generation of veterans—the more than 250,000 servicemembers currently transitioning from military to civilian life—to take up the job-creating mantle of starting their own veteran-owned businesses.

The numbers are on our side, with one in four veterans saying they are considering starting or buying their own small business. We cannot miss this opportunity.

My amendment under consideration today works to ensure we, as a Congress, are doing everything possible to level the playing field for these veteran entrepreneurs when competing for Federal contracts. It is a simple premise that my constituents in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, Pennsylvania, know and understand as fairness to veterans.

The amendment is straightforward. It adds veteran-owned small businesses to the small business participation study required under section 305 of the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act. Section 305 directs the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a nationwide disparity and availability study on the availability and use of certain classes of small businesses.

While I am a supporter of having a completely level playing field throughout Federal contracting for every small business, the fact is, today, some get a preference when doing business with the Federal Government when veterans do not.

This amendment begins the process of addressing that discrepancy. Fairness to veterans is not about dramatically overhauling the current system, but it is about making sure that if anybody is going to get a preference, veterans should at least have an equal shot.

Adding them to the study included in the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act will give the Department of Transportation a better understanding of the availability of veteran-owned small businesses to help rebuild our crumbling rail infrastructure and hopefully help highlight the benefit of embracing veteran-owned businesses in all future Federal infrastructure projects.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in support of this commonsense amendment, which strengthens the underlying bill and ensures fairness to our veterans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1330

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, even though I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I congratulate the author, Mr. FITZPATRICK. It is a great amendment. I wish I had thought of it, to be perfectly honest. I look forward to supporting it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

His amendment would ensure that veteran-owned small businesses be considered when they are looking who has historically participated in Federal funds in all projects, so I strongly support the hiring of veterans.

I appreciate Mr. FITZPATRICK for offering this bill, and, once again, it will strengthen the bill, so I support it.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. CAPUANO and Chairman SHUSTER for their support of this amendment.

Like the previous amendment, there is no cost to including veteran-owned small businesses in the participation study, no cost to the Federal taxpayer, good for our Nation's veterans and their own businesses. I encourage my colleagues to support this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. MICA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 114–36.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 68, after line 9, insert the following new section:

SEC. 308. NORTHEAST CORRIDOR EXPRESS SERVICE.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Northeast Corridor Infrastructure and Operations Advisory Committee, in consultation with Amtrak, shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that analyzes the implementation of non-stop, high-speed express passenger rail service between Washington, District of Columbia, and New York, New York, and between New York, New York, and Boston, Massachusetts. The report shall consider—

(1) estimated trip time, ridership, revenue, total cost, capacity, and other metrics for each service;

(2) impacts on existing Amtrak and commuter rail services; and

(3) impacts on Northeast Corridor infrastructure.

(b) CONSIDERATION.—Not later than 90 days after the transmittal of the report required under subsection (a), the Amtrak Board of Directors shall consider implementing such services.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 134, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Chairman and my colleagues, first of all, I want to thank both sides of the aisle, particularly the leadership of Chairman SHUSTER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DENHAM and others for all working together in a bipartisan effort.

The last rail reauthorization I did with Mr. Oberstar was the first one we had done in about 10 years. That was the precedent to this bill, and we need to do that. We need to act responsibly.

We need to improve passenger rail service in the United States. We need to take Amtrak and this country from a Third World passenger rail service with a Soviet-style operation into the 21st century. I think we can begin to do that with the amendment that I have offered here today and that we have a bipartisan agreement on.

It is not everything I would like. I am going to try to strengthen it as it moves through the process. This amendment would potentially open the Northeast corridor to express service from Washington, D.C., to New York City and to Boston, and it is great to have Mr. CAPUANO here. Right now, the service from Boston to New York City runs 68 miles an hour on average. That is Third World kind of operations.

I believe that we could have express service for less than 2½ hours in that corridor, closer to 2 hours with this amendment. Right now, it goes 83

miles an hour. That is our high-speed service in the United States.

Now, we are about to put a significant amount of money into the Northeast corridor, and I have no problem with that. This bill authorizes that money, some with direct appropriations, about a half billion dollars a year for each of the next 4 years. Then it also allows the revenue coming into the Northeast corridor to stay in the Northeast corridor. I have no problem with that.

Again, what do the rest of us get in the country by putting this money in? I think we have subsidized Amtrak fairly well. Right now, every ticket is underwritten—last year, $44.98. This will also provide a subsidy. I have no problem.

But what do we get back? Seventy percent of all the air traffic delays in the country are out of the Northeast corridor, the chronically delayed flights. We will see that, too, today and tomorrow.

We can do a much better job improving service. Imagine getting from here to Penn Station in less than 2 hours and from Boston down to Penn Station in record time.

Finally, others have done this. Virgin Trains in England, one of the leaders in innovation, has increased traffic from 14 million in the corridor from London up to the north of England, from 14 million to 28 million passengers in less than half a dozen years, an incredible record that we could replicate here.

We only had 31 million passengers on all of Amtrak last year, a little less than that; and we could double the number of people employed, the number of people working.

I have always supported labor in this. We are not trying to do this at any substandard wages. We want to make certain that all of those commitments to our brothers and sisters in labor are honored.

This is the beginning of a proposal to open this up, the Northeast corridor, and the commission actually will report back to Congress with those proposals. It won't be buried. It is going to come back to us, and then we can move it forward.

It is time to take us into the next era of passenger rail service in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, even though I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Florida.

Again, he stands up tall to defend the idea of passenger rail. We totally agree on that concept. We totally agree on trying to make—especially the Northeast corridor—a more efficient rail.

I think this study, this commission might help us. I hope it does. I am pleased to stand up today and support this amendment and congratulate the gentleman for offering it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment. I believe, once again, this study can have positive impact on us.

I also commend the chairman, the former chairman of the committee, for his passion. He is absolutely right as far as getting these trains to run faster, to have less stops. We can create, I believe, in the long term, this express corridor.

He is right that while the Europeans are moving at speeds twice that rate, we can do better in the United States, and I believe this study will help us move in that direction in the future.

I thank the gentleman and support the amendment.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, in closing, in 2010, when we were in the minority, we had a little more time on our hands. I published this report in the Transportation Committee, ''The Federal Government Must Stop Sitting on its Assets,'' and listed in here is the Northeast corridor. It is one of the greatest assets we have, from here to Boston, and we need to utilize that asset.

We can put in better service, and I think we can do this through this particular amendment. We have got to stop sitting on a valuable asset. It is the only corridor that we own. The other 22,000 miles of rail service is all on freight private rail.

We can and we must adopt this amendment to get us on our way. Thank you, and I hope everybody is on board.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 114–36.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 503. STATE ACTION PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require—

(1) each State, other than those States identified pursuant to section 202 of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (49 U.S.C. 22501 note), to develop and implement, not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, a State grade crossing action plan; and

(2) each State that was identified pursuant to section 202 of such Act to update its plan and submit to the Secretary, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, a report describing what the State did to implement the plan.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each plan required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify specific solutions for improving safety at crossings, including highway-rail grade crossing closures or grade separations; and

(2) focus on crossings that have experienced recent grade crossing accidents or multiple accidents, or are at high risk for accidents.

(c) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide assistance to the States in developing and carrying out, as appropriate, the plan required under subsection (a).

(d) CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may condition the awarding of any grants under section 103 of this Act to a State on the development of such State's grade crossing action plan.

(e) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make each plan and report publicly available on an official Internet Web site.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 134, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a simple, commonsense amendment to the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015.

My amendment would require each State to develop a grade crossing action plan, identifying specific solutions for improving safety at rail-highway crossings; furthermore, my amendment would direct States to focus resources on crossings that have experienced recent grade crossing accidents, multiple accidents, or crossings that are at high risk for accidents.

Mr. Chairman, a week ago Tuesday, our Nation witnessed yet another tragic rail accident in my district when Metrolink Ventura County line 102 crashed into a truck along the train tracks in Oxnard.

While there are many unanswered questions about this accident, one issue is abundantly clear. As a nation, we must do more to address rail-highway crossing safety and address the increasing backlog of safety projects nationwide. Currently, California ranks second in the Nation in the number of crossing accidents.

Nationally, the Federal Railroad Administration estimates that there were over 2,000 accidents at railroad crossings in 2013, with 251 fatalities and 929 injuries.

As many residents of Ventura County know, this is not the first time an accident has occurred at the Rice Avenue intersection. This is a heavily-used corridor for both rail goods movement, passenger rail—both Amtrak and Metrolink—as well as automobiles and truck traffic.

Unfortunately, like many local communities across the Nation, Ventura County cannot, on its own, fund rail-highway crossing safety improvements.

As a member of this committee, I am pleased that this bill provides funds for

passenger rail infrastructure, and I strongly support the provision that permits funds to be used for crossing safety improvements because we all know these investments benefit not only safety, but also our regional and national economies.

In 2014, we invested $220 million in the Railway-Highway Crossings Program at the Federal level; yet, under title 49, only 10 States are required by Federal law to have action plans prioritizing rail-highway safety improvements.

It is critically important for Congress to ensure that Federal dollars for passenger rail infrastructure improvements are used wisely. We must also ensure that Federal funds are prioritized to address safety improvements at the most dangerous crossings first.

My amendment would get at the heart of this issue by requiring every State to have a specific plan in place that will ensure both the wise use of tax dollars and address rail-highway grade crossing safety in a systematic way.

I ask my colleagues to vote for my commonsense amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from California for offering this amendment.

While grade crossing incidents have dropped 40 percent since 2000, the tragic events in Ms. BROWNLEY's district last week remind us how important it is to be aware of grade crossings.

This amendment requiring States to develop and implement plans to improve safety at grade crossings within their borders, I think, adds strength to the bill. I would also note there are similar grade crossing reporting requirements in the Federal highway program, and we should work with the Senate during conference to reauthorize the surface transportation programs, ensuring that there is consistency among the requirements at those grade crossings.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. I thank the chairman for your extraordinary work on this bill—and a bipartisan bill as well—and I thank you for accepting the amendment.

Rail-highway crossing safety problems are not unique to my district. Sadly, my colleagues have also experienced recent tragedies. On Monday, a Long Island Rail Road train struck a car stopped on the tracks in East Rockaway. In February, a Metro-North train struck a sport utility vehicle, tragically killing the driver and five train passengers in Valhalla.

I strongly believe that Congress, along with State and local governments, must address this safety issue as a matter of urgency, and I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POSEY. I thank the gentlelady for yielding. I would like to speak in support of her amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentlewoman ask unanimous consent to reclaim her time?

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Yes.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman is recognized.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Yes, I yield.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I would like to support this amendment and urge my colleagues to do so.

They are putting in a high-speed rail in my State now, running over 100 miles through my district, something that will go 120-plus miles an hour through the middle of small towns and communities which are ill-prepared and ill-equipped to safely facilitate that high rate of traffic.

I wish I had thought ahead to bring some illustrations, photographs, or diagrams of some of the intersections that this train will go blazing through without much thought to the pedestrians, the vehicles, the men, women, and children in the community that will be put in danger by it.

I think this is a great amendment. If you are going to use Federal money—I see that the gentlelady said it is for projects that use Federal money, not an unfunded mandate—but if you are going to use the Federal money, you are going to use these RIF loans, some of which appear to be in the process of being granted in direct conflict of the requirements of granting the RIF loans, the very least we could do is insist that the money is used safely in our districts.

□ 1345

The very least we could do is insist that the money is used safely in our districts.

So I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I urge my colleagues to support this great amendment.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a joint resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S.J. Res. 8. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

PASSENGER RAIL REFORM AND INVESTMENT ACT OF 2015

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. PERLMUTTER

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HULTGREN). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 114–36.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 503. QUIET ZONE REPORT.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to Congress a report evaluating the rule issued by the Federal Railroad Administration on the use of locomotive horn at rail crossings. Such report shall—

(1) evaluate the effectiveness of the rule in reducing accidents and fatalities at rail crossings;

(2) evaluate the effectiveness of the rule in establishing quiet zones;

(3) identify any barriers to the establishment of quiet zones; and

(4) estimate the costs associated with their establishment.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 134, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, my amendment to H.R. 749 requires the Government Accountability Office, the GAO, to conduct a study and submit a report to Congress evaluating the effectiveness of the Federal Railroad Administration's 2005 rule on the use of locomotive horns at rail crossings. We were just talking about rail crossings.

After 10 years of being in effect, I believe it is fair we ask the FRA to update and modernize the train horn regulation, allowing flexibility for new technologies and innovations that may become available.

The basic premise behind the rule has not changed: to promote public safety by requiring train operators to sound horns at certain decibel levels while passing through railway crossings to alert motorists and pedestrians.

While the rule currently allows municipalities to apply for ''quiet zone'' status, I am concerned the current requirements for obtaining a quiet zone

waiver are far too rigid, cost prohibitive, and time consuming. Achieving quiet zone status can take years of work and cost millions of dollars.

By requiring the GAO to study the train horn rule, I am confident the FRA can craft an updated rule striking a balance between public safety and providing communities flexibility to establish quiet zones.

I hope the GAO study will provide insight on how the FRA can update train horn requirements when communities invest in certain safety enhancements and measures installed at crossings, including barriers, warning signals, and other features to keep the public safe.

Last year, I attended an event for the unveiling of a new quiet zone in one of the cities in my district, Commerce City, Colorado, which was established after significant investment from the city. I want to thank the FRA and State officials for working with Commerce City. But we need to review how long and how costly these quiet zone applications can be.

Just last week, another city in my district, Arvada, announced four planned railway crossing improvements to establish crossing zones. According to a story published in The Denver Post last week, the city has been in discussions with the FRA for more than 5 years on getting the quiet zones approved. I include the text of The Denver Post article for the RECORD.

RAILROAD QUIET ZONES WILL SILENCE TRAIN HORNS AT FOUR ARVADA CROSSINGS

Arvada residents living along the Union Pacific Railroad tracks could sleep a little easier next year with the establishment of ''quiet zones'' at four crossings.

City Council recently approved a $1.8 million agreement with Union Pacific that will see barriers and gates added where the tracks intersect at Lamar and Carr Streets, Olde Wadsworth Boulevard and West 66th Avenue.

Arvada communications manager Maria Vanderkolk said the city has been in discussions for more than five years with the Federal Railroad Administration, the Public Utilities Commission and Union Pacific on getting the quiet zones approved.

''It's expensive—we got a couple approved elsewhere about 10 years ago, then we had issues with these four and they're right in the heart of the city,'' Vanderkolk said. ''We told the neighborhood this would be done last year. . . various and sundry delays means this has literally taken years to get approved.''

Train horns are sounded in compliance with federal rules and regulations, which require a train to blast its horn for 15 to 20 seconds at any public crossing. Under terms of the agreement, the city will install four-quadrant gate systems—or gates with four arms, in addition to flashing lights and ringing bells, at the four crossings. These type of gates make it difficult for motorists to drive around.

Once they're built, the trains will no longer have to blast their horns and the Union Pacific train will run quietly through the entire length of Arvada.

''Without a quiet zone, people see a train coming and think they may be able to beat it and skirt around the gate,'' Vanderkolk said. 'With a quiet zone, you construct a barrier so the car physically can't get around it.''

Michael Smith has lived blocks from the railroad tracks in his home near 64th Avenue and Field Street for almost 35 years. He said over the years, the trains have become more frequent and the horns so prevalent that at times they have kept him and family members from getting a good night's sleep.

Things got so bad they considered moving, but decided to stay once it became clear the city was working to address the problem.

''We really appreciate the work city staff has done on getting this completed,'' Smith said. ''It's a lot of money, but it will be great for the community.''

The city is coordinating with the railroad on getting the crossings built by the end of 2015, said Chris Sveum, a city civil engineer.

She added: ''There's no guarantee the trains still won't have to sound their horns from time to time, but this should cut down the rate by 95 percent.''

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, it is time for Congress to analyze the effectiveness of the train horn rule and work with FRA to improve the ability of our communities all across the country to continue investing in railway crossing safety.

A more flexible rule could enable these communities to craft solutions reducing noise, promoting long-term economic growth, and, at the same time, ensuring the safety of residents.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I ask for an ''aye'' vote on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, although I support the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, the past couple of weeks have seen some startling accidents at grade crossings. Having an independent entity review the train horn rule would be a good start to helping ensure such accidents don't occur in the future.

The train horn and quiet zone rule was one that took the Federal Railroad Administration almost 10 years to complete. It was finalized 10 years ago in 2005. So this would be a good time to revisit the effectiveness.

Furthermore, with the rise in freight traffic on previously lower capacity routes, some communities are seeing more trains travel through their towns, which are used to lower traffic.

Looking at crossings, the creation of quiet zones, and their costs will be a helpful tool for small communities across the country. I recommend support for the gentleman from Colorado's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman of the Transportation Committee and all of the Members for working with me on this amendment. I would ask for an ''aye'' vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 114–36.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 3, through page 3, line 10, strike section 101.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 134, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, this amendment removes the taxpayer subsidies and requires Amtrak to operate as a business, as we were promised it would when it was established back in 1971.

Every year, as Amtrak's operating losses have mounted, Congress has dutifully shoveled more money at it to keep it afloat. Every year, its congressional supporters have promised reforms to bring these losses under control. And every year, these promises have fallen flat.

This year, we are told, well, look at all the new reforms that we are building into this. In 5 years, they will have their act together. Well, how many times have we heard this promise? Let me cite just a few.

Back in 1997, facing mounting criticism, the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act required Amtrak to operate without any Federal operating assistance after 2002.

When that didn't happen, in 2008, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) attempted to eliminate only its most expensive route from reauthorization. That year, the gentleman from Minnesota, Jim Oberstar, called any reduction in subsidies a ''preemptive strike'' and promised that the bill was chockfull of reforms that would soon solve Amtrak's problems.

Well, when that didn't happen, in 2014, the gentleman from Georgia, Paul Broun, proposed eliminating subsidies, just as my amendment does. At the time, the gentleman from Iowa, Tom Latham, said: ''I concede that Amtrak could be more efficient. However, it has made significant improvements in this area recently and is moving in the right direction.''

''Moving in the right direction.''

This year, taxpayers will subsidize Amtrak in the amount of about $1.4 billion. The bill before us authorizes $1.4 billion for next year. Put another way, we will shell out $45 every time a passenger steps aboard an Amtrak train. That is $45 per passenger, per trip, and direct losses billed to taxpayers. That is up from $32 of loss per passenger 6 years ago.

Despite endless promises, things are not getting better. Amtrak's apologists

claim this is a 40 percent reduction in authorized funding. In fact, Amtrak received $1.4 billion in 2015, the same as this bill authorizes in 2016.

Outside experts have reported that over the next 10 years, subsidizing Amtrak will cost taxpayers $49 billion. Let me put that in family-sized numbers. The average American family will have to cough up $392 from its taxes over the next 10 years just to cover Amtrak's losses.

What does that $392 out of a family's taxes pay for? Well, among other things, Amtrak's food and beverage employees, who are paid an average of $106,000 a year to provide a service that lost over $800 million over the past decade just selling snacks on Amtrak trains.

Are we at least seeing any improvements in service? Not hardly. Amtrak's monthly on-time performance has significantly declined.

Bigger losses, declining service—that is not moving in the right direction. That was a false promise then, just like all of the other false promises we have heard since 1971.

In last year's appropriations debate, Amtrak apologists warned that cutting off the subsidies would ''eliminate an entire transportation option.'' It does no such thing.

Amtrak claims that it is running a profit on a heavily traveled Northeast corridor. Nothing in my amendment would change this. Anything Amtrak makes on these profitable routes, Amtrak keeps.

With this amendment, Amtrak would be perfectly free to continue to operate and expand its Northeast corridor from its own profits and to subsidize its other money-losing operations to the extent that its profits would cover them.

However, this amendment would end the practice of forcing American taxpayers to underwrite another 5 years of broken promises.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BYRNE). The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, as I stand up here today, I know that if the gentleman from Minnesota, Jim Oberstar, was here, the transportation guru, he would be standing up for Amtrak. So I am going to stand up in place of Mr. Oberstar.

And let's start out with, this amendment would kill Amtrak. It would shut it down. It would strand millions of passengers, disrupt commuter operations, add to our already congested roads and airports, eliminate over 20,000 jobs nationwide, and jeopardize local economies and business that depend on Amtrak's service.

Amtrak provides the majority of all intercity passenger rail service in the United States, with more States and localities across America turning to passenger rail to meet the transportation needs of our citizens.

Amtrak reduces congestion and improves our energy independence. One full passenger train can take up to 250 to 350 cars off the road. Passenger rail also consumes less energy than both automobiles and commercial airlines.

With that, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the chairman of the committee.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

I certainly appreciate the gentleman's concern. He has been a true deficit hawk. One of the great challenges we face in America is reducing the deficit.

There has been a longstanding debate in this Congress about passenger rail in this country. I, for one, believe it is necessary. I think that what we have in this bill—and I have watched for the past 40 years also some of these broken promises.

I am committed to, and I think we committed in this bill to putting forth reforms, streamlining, empowering the States, which I think is a huge step in the right direction, giving States the ability to be at the table, to invest their dollars to force Amtrak to do things differently.

So, again, throughout the bill, there are these reforms. I feel confident that, in the way the country is going, with population growth and with these corridors expanding, we have to have passenger rail to move people around some of the most densely populated corridors.

So I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I would simply respond to the ridership claims that it has no impact on congestion because the ridership is infinitesimal. You have to compare Amtrak's 31 million trips to the 650 million airline trips per year. According to Cato, the average American logs about 15,000 miles per year by car, 1,800 miles by plane, and just 20 miles on Amtrak.

If Amtrak is making a profit, it can use those profits any way it wants—to continue its operations, to subsidize its losing routes. But it should not be tapping further into taxpayers' pockets.

□ 1400

Voters have elected the biggest Republican majority in the House since 1928, with a resounding mandate to stop wasting money. Today this government is spending and taxing record amounts of families' earnings, and well above the 40-year average as a percentage of our economy. If we can't bring ourselves to cut this, one of the most outrageous subsidies in the entire budget, voters will have every right to ask what good are we?

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. How much time do I have remaining, Mr. Chairman?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 2½ minutes remaining.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) to close.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, let's just back up for a minute. What the gentleman would do, he says, well, they could keep operating the Northeast corridor. Well, that is good, because three-quarters of the people going from Washington, D.C., to New York are choosing rail over air, and I don't know where we would fit that many more airplanes in the already congested skies. But that is actually, unfortunately, not true because of the other routes, particularly across-country and Western routes, the obligations under their contracts to their existing employees who would lose their jobs, other obligations they would have for abandoned lines and stations, and all that would total billions of dollars.

So even if they theoretically—and you would have to do further changes in the law rather than just taking away the money—could operate the Northeast corridor, they couldn't because of these other obligations. Any money would have to go there, and they would be immediately bankrupt because it would exceed their revenues.

So that is one, perhaps, unintended effect of the gentleman's amendment, because he does seem very sympathetic to the fact that three-quarters of the people going between Washington, D.C., and New York are choosing rail over air, and it is a growing percentage. He doesn't seem to be cognizant of the fact that ridership is up 14 percent—that is actually 4 million people in 1 year—that revenue is up, and the operating losses have been cut in half. They are down 48 percent.

Mr. Chairman, there is no passenger rail system that operates like Amtrak across a continent as large as ours without assistance from the government. Now, if you want to disconnect the country—as I recounted earlier, on 9/11, I had a Federal official who had to get back for meetings in the Northwest. He took the train. We have an aging society. I tell you, when I don't have to get on an airplane every week and I can take a little more time to get somewhere—and I think a lot of other people, as they are aging, would like to avoid the hassles of air travel. I believe ridership will continue to grow.

In the Northwest we are in a cooperative arrangement—and I pointed that out earlier—with Amtrak, where they operate our train, an Acela train which was purchased, and the ridership is up to about 1 million people a year. And it is growing quickly to avoid the already overly congested I–5 between Eugene and Seattle and avoid the hour and a half you are going to spend somewhere 60, 70 miles south of Seattle sitting in your car. So he would deprive Americans of all this for ideology—not for good reasons, but for ideology.

We should be going the other way. We should be investing more and building out a robust, 21st century rail system like every other industrial country in the world. Why do we have to be Third World?

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 114–36.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 48, line 14, after ''procedures'' insert ''for passengers, including passengers using or transporting nonmotorized transportation such as wheelchairs and bicycles''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 134, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, before I discuss my amendment, I would like to thank Chairman SHUSTER, Chairman DENHAM, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, Ranking Member CAPUANO, and former Subcommittee Ranking Member BROWN for all their hard work and for bringing this bipartisan legislation to the floor so early this year.

Mr. Chairman, this bill shows us what Congress can do when we work together to build consensus, and yes, compromise—compromise—to get things done to improve our Nation's transportation infrastructure.

This bill makes much-needed reforms to Amtrak's business model and the RRIF loan program, which I hope will unlock a potential financing source for the CREATE rail modernization program in northeastern Illinois and help commuter rail agencies make important improvements, such as installing positive train control.

I am pleased the bill contains provisions extending Buy America requirements to RRIF projects. I have been mentioning this need since 2009, and I am glad to see that we are codifying these requirements to ensure that this $35 billion loan program is investing our dollars in American materials and American jobs.

My amendment today is a small but important addition to this bill. It sharpens the directive in section 211 that requires Amtrak's inspector general to conduct a review of Amtrak's boarding procedures. Section 211 is a good step towards improving the experience of Amtrak riders and the efficiency of Amtrak's operations.

This amendment builds on this provision by clarifying that the Amtrak IG should consider the boarding needs of passengers that use mobility devices, including all forms of wheelchairs, as well as passengers with items such as bicycles. This will make sure that the IG's report considers the needs of all its riders, guarantees that Amtrak will focus on complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and harnesses a potential revenue stream from bicyclists and other users of nonmotorized transport.

Right now, Amtrak uses patchwork procedures that can make it difficult for an individual using a wheelchair or traveling with a bike to get on and off a train. The Amtrak inspector general issued a report in August of last year that found that only 10 percent of Amtrak stations are fully ADA compliant, which demonstrates the need to not only look at each station's infrastructure, but how each station gets passengers from station to platform to train. We need to make sure that Amtrak is serving all of its customers to the best of its abilities and in accordance with the law.

Mr. Chairman, similar difficulties exist for other forms of transportation, such as bicycles. Only 38 percent of Amtrak lines provide baggage service for bicycles, while only 18 percent of lines even allow for roll-on bicycle service that are complemented by ad hoc policies at many of the stations on these lines. Mobility is important to reducing congestion, and if we improve the boarding process, we improve quality of service and help encourage ridership.

This amendment is supported by Easter Seals, People for Bikes, the United Spinal Association, the League of American Bicyclists, AARP, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, the National Disabilities Rights Network, Transportation for America, and the Adventure Cycling Association.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment even though I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. This amendment simply clarifies that when the Amtrak inspector general looks at ways to improve Amtrak's boarding procedures at major stations that it consider passengers using wheelchairs and other nonmotorized transportation. I know this is near and dear to the hearts of Mr. LIPINSKI's constituents, so, again, I rise in support.

At this time, I would also like to take the opportunity, which I neglected to do, to thank the staff for their work over the past year. We rely on them to make a lot of this come together. Their hard work and dedication deserves recognition and appreciation.

Specifically, I would like to thank on the rail subcommittee Mike Friedberg, Fred Miller, David Connolly, and Kristin Alcalde; on the Democratic side, Jennifer Homendy and Rachel Carr for their hard work; our communications team Jim Billimoria, Justin Harclerode, Michael Marinaccio—I think I finally got it right, and he has left the committee—Keith Hall; from our front office Jennifer Hall, Beth Spivey, Collin McCune, Clare Doherty, Isabelle Beegle-Levin, Denny Wirtz, and Mary Mitchell Todd. To all of them, I thank them for their very, very hard work on helping to put this bill together.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this, and I would like to express my appreciation to the chair, ranking member, ranking members of the subcommittee and chair. This is, I think, an example of Congress doing what it should do. I appreciate it. As an alumni member of the T and I Committee, I am proud to see this move forward.

Rail corridors are absolutely critical in terms of being able to promote mobility. As the chair of the Bike Caucus, I am particularly interested in this amendment.

The committee ended last Congress on a high note with WRRDA, and being able to start this Congress on a high note with a really thoughtful approach to Amtrak, moving this forward, I think, is a signal that there is no other committee that has more potential to do more this Congress to help rebuild and renew the economy and get America moving. This is a tremendous signal about what is possible.

I lend my congratulations to the committee, Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, Ranking Member BROWN, and look forward to working with you on more excitement as we move forward.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank, again, Chairman SHUSTER for his work and Ranking

Member DEFAZIO. This is what we need to be doing is coming together and working these things out. There is so much that America needs done, especially when it comes to transportation infrastructure.

I want to thank the chairman for his great work in leading this committee. We have a lot of other issues to work on, other forms of transportation, but this is a good example of what we can do by working together.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to support my amendment and support the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

The amendment was agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on the amendment printed in House Report 114–36 on which further proceedings were postponed:

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. MCCLINTOCK of California.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. MCCLINTOCK

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 147, noes 272, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 110]

AYES—147

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Babin
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blum
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Burgess
Byrne
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Culberson
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Knight
Labrador
Lamborn
Latta
Loudermilk
Love
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Mooney (WV)
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pearce
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Roskam
Ross
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stutzman
Thornberry
Valadao
Walker
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Woodall
Yoder
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zinke

NOES—272

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gibbs
Gibson
Graham
Granger
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schock
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Stefanik
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson Coleman
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—13

Amodei
Black
Blackburn
Crawford
Fincher
Hinojosa
Long
Roe (TN)
Rush
Smith (WA)
Speier
Waters, Maxine
Yoho

□ 1440

Messrs. MCNERNEY, WALBERG, WITTMAN, TAKANO, GALLEGO, ZELDIN, FORTENBERRY, RICHMOND, and LYNCH changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. GUTHRIE, GOHMERT, RICE of South Carolina, Mrs. NOEM, Messrs. JOLLY, YOUNG of Indiana, MESSER, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEWART) having assumed the chair, Mr. BYRNE, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 749) to reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 134, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

□ 1445

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Yes, I am in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 749 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 503. AMTRAK SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for the use of the Amtrak Police Department $150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019 for acquisition of canines, explosive detection, surveillance and communication equipment, baggage screening, counter-terrorism and critical infrastructure protection, and other security needs determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(b) VETERANS PROTECT PASSENGERS HIRING INITIATIVE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, Amtrak shall implement a veterans hiring initiative in the Amtrak Police Department, which shall include veterans with experience working with military working dogs.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the motion in the interest of time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I offer this amendment today as the final amendment to the bill.

I am proud of the bipartisan work that the committee has done, and I want to commend the chairman, Mr. SHUSTER, also Messrs. DEFAZIO, DENHAM, and CAPUANO, and all the staff for the work that went into this legislation. This is a good bill, and it makes key investments in our rail infrastructure and in rail safety. I want to personally thank the chairman for all of his hard work on this bill and for, in particular, including the provisions that I authored on positive train control and grade crossings, the need for which has been so dramatically demonstrated by the terrible accidents in places like Valhalla and Spuyten Duyvil, New York, and recently in Oxnard, California.

However, we can make this bill better. My amendment will not kill the bill nor send it back to committee. If adopted, it would proceed immediately to final passage.

My amendment simply provides $150 million annually to Amtrak's police department to address critical security needs. Amtrak's security force is not large, but its task is monumental, protecting nearly 32 million passengers who use Amtrak every year. My amendment gives those security officials the resources they need to prevent and defend against terrorist attacks. From additional canine units to explosive detection equipment, we need to make sure that Amtrak's police officers, nationwide, have the capability to protect passengers.

The amendment also requires Amtrak to implement a veterans hiring initiative specifically designed to hire veterans with experience working with military dogs, canine units. Amtrak has a long history of providing career opportunities to veterans, as well as Active Duty military members, but under current law is not required to do so. It is not required to seek out veterans for open positions. With more than 200,000 Active Duty servicemembers transitioning to civilian life, we can, today, guarantee that Amtrak will seek out veterans for new hires.

In the last 10 years, more than 800 attacks have occurred worldwide against passenger and commuter rail systems, killing thousands. Many of us remember the terrifying images of the terrorist attacks in Madrid and London. In Mumbai, three separate attacks in the last 15 years have killed hundreds of people.

All of us here in both parties understand the real dangers our country is facing. I have no doubt that one of the greatest threats we face is to our U.S. rail system. Subways and commuter systems, in particular, remain a top threat. Information taken from Osama bin Laden's very compound in Pakistan indicated that al Qaeda was considering attacks on a number of U.S. rail systems.

Our intelligence and law enforcement officials have foiled several threats in just recent years. In 2009, an Afghan-born jihadist plotted to bomb New York subways with devices very similar to those used in the 2005 London attacks. And in 2011, two al Qaeda-supported terrorists were arrested after plotting to bomb and derail a train between Toronto and New York's Penn Station.

At a time with heightened security and growing threats like ISIL, we are asking Amtrak's police force to do more with less. Amtrak reports that security funding overall has decreased by more than 50 percent since 2011. We need to reverse this trend to protect the security of our national passenger rail system.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense amendment to provide the necessary funding to ensure the safety and security of Amtrak passengers and rail commuters.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, this amendment will do nothing more than kill the bill. H.R. 749 is a bipartisan bill with heavy, heavy reforms that will improve and advance passenger rail in this country, including security. We have taken that into consideration. I agree that security is important, but we cover the cost of security activities in this bill.

Both sides of the aisle have worked very hard over the past 2 years to craft a bill that I believe is exactly the kind of legislation that the American people want. It is a reform bill. It is commonsense reforms. There has never been an Amtrak bill with these kinds of reforms in it empowering the States.

This bill empowers the States, those 19 States that have 21 supported Amtrak lines. They will have a seat at the table to make investments to improve passenger rail in those 19 States. It is going to give the commission on the Northeast corridor more say, more teeth to be able to force Amtrak to do things. It is going to keep the profits of the Northeast corridor in the Northeast corridor for that heavily congested area of the country that needs to have passenger rail and, along the way, learn the lessons of when we make those investments, how we can go out to the other corridors around this country that are going to need passenger rail.

This bill is not perfect; Amtrak is not perfect. But I truly believe this bill sets Amtrak on the course to reform itself and to improve itself so in the future they can move towards going away from the subsidy by the Federal Government. That is my goal: to get an Amtrak that doesn't have any Federal subsidies.

So these reforms were put in place. They are strong reforms. As I said, we have never had an Amtrak bill like this before, and it was done on a bipartisan basis. I think we can be proud of it. The Congress can be proud of this bill, and the American people can be proud that we are doing something.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this motion.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 184, noes 232, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 111]

AYES—184

Adams	Boyle, Brendan F.	Carson (IN)
Aguilar	Brady (PA)	Cartwright
Ashford	Brown (FL)	Castor (FL)
Bass	Brownley (CA)	Castro (TX)
Beatty	Bustos	Chu, Judy
Becerra	Butterfield	Cicilline
Bera	Capps	Clark (MA)
Beyer	Capuano	Clarke (NY)
Bishop (GA)	Cárdenas	Clay
Blumenauer	Carney	Cleaver
Bonamici		Clyburn

Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—232

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Cramer
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—16

Amodei
Barton
Black
Blackburn
Costello (PA)
Crawford
Fincher
Guthrie
Hinojosa
Long
Roe (TN)
Rush
Smith (WA)
Speier
Waters, Maxine
Yoho

□ 1457

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 111, meeting with constituents in office on matters involving Ukraine. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 316, nays 101, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 112]

YEAS—316

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Graham
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guinta
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Nolan
Norcross
Nunes
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schock
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Westerman
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—101

Allen
Amash
Barr
Benishek
Bilirakis
Blum
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Burgess
Byrne
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Clawson (FL)
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Culberson
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gohmert
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)

Grothman	Love	Rohrabacher
Harris	Marchant	Rokita
Hartzler	Massie	Rooney (FL)
Heck (NV)	McCaul	Rothfus
Hensarling	McHenry	Royce
Herrera Beutler	McSally	Salmon
Hice, Jody B.	Messer	Sanford
Holding	Miller (FL)	Schweikert
Hudson	Mooney (WV)	Scott, Austin
Huelskamp	Mulvaney	Sensenbrenner
Huizenga (MI)	Neugebauer	Sessions
Hultgren	Noem	Smith (MO)
Hunter	Nugent	Smith (NE)
Hurd (TX)	Olson	Stewart
Jenkins (KS)	Palazzo	Stutzman
Johnson, Sam	Palmer	Walorski
Jones	Poe (TX)	Weber (TX)
Jordan	Pompeo	Wenstrup
King (IA)	Posey	Westmoreland
Knight	Price, Tom	Wilson (SC)
Labrador	Ratcliffe	Yoder
Latta	Rice (SC)	Young (IA)
Loudermilk	Rogers (AL)	

NOT VOTING—15

Amodei	Fincher	Roe (TN)
Barton	Guthrie	Rush
Black	Hinojosa	Smith (WA)
Blackburn	Lamborn	Speier
Crawford	Long	Yoho

□ 1505

Messrs. STEWART, SMITH of Nebraska, and RICE of South Carolina changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 110 for passage of McClintock Amendment No. 6, rollcall No. 111 for passage of the Democrat Motion to Recommit, and rollcall No. 112 for final passage of H.R. 749, which took place Wednesday, March 4, 2015, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall No. 110, the McClintock Amendment No. 6, and voted ''nay'' on rollcall Nos. 111 and 112, against the Motion to Recommit and final passage of H.R. 749.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1213) to make administrative and technical corrections to the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EMMER of Minnesota). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1213

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Office of Compliance Administrative and Technical Corrections Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. PROCEDURES FOR MEDIATION AND HEARINGS UNDER CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.

(a) REQUIRING MEDIATORS TO BE APPOINTED FROM MASTER LIST.—Section 403 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1403) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''after considering recommendations by organizations composed primarily of individuals experienced in adjudicating or arbitrating personnel matters'' and inserting ''from the master list developed and maintained under subsection (e)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) MASTER LIST OF MEDIATORS.—

''(1) DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF MASTER LIST.—The Executive Director shall develop and maintain a master list of individuals who are experienced in adjudicating, arbitrating, or mediating the kinds of personnel and other matters for which mediation may be held under this section. Such list may include, but not be limited to, members of the bar of a State or the District of Columbia and retired judges of the United States courts.

''(2) CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES.—In developing the master list under this subsection, the Executive Director shall consider candidates recommended by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service or the Administrative Conference of the United States.''.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF DEADLINE TO ELECT PROCEEDINGS AFTER END OF PERIOD OF MEDIATION.—Section 404 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1404) is amended by striking ''Not later than 90 days after a covered employee receives notice of the end of the period of mediation, but no sooner than 30 days after receipt of such notification, such covered employee'' and inserting ''Not later than 90 days, but not sooner than 30 days, after the end of the period of mediation, a covered employee''.

(c) NOTIFICATION OF CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) MEDIATIONS.—Section 416(b) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1416(b)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: '', and the Executive Director shall notify each person participating in the mediation of the confidentiality requirement and of the sanctions applicable to any person who violates the confidentiality requirement.''.

(2) HEARINGS AND DELIBERATIONS.—Section 416(c) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1416(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''The Executive Director shall notify each person participating in a proceeding or deliberation to which this subsection applies of the requirements of this subsection and of the sanctions applicable to any person who violates the requirements of this subsection.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to mediations and other proceedings which are first initiated after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL TERM FOR MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE.

Notwithstanding section 301(e)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1381(e)(1)), any individual serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance as of February 28, 2015, may be appointed to serve for one additional term of 2 years.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT TO FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO HOUSE COMMISSION ON CONGRESSIONAL MAILING STANDARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 501(b), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members to the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards:

Mrs. MILLER, Michigan, Chairman

Mr. LATTA, Ohio

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS, Illinois

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:

FEBRUARY 18, 2015.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, This letter serves as my official resignation from the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. It has been my pleasure serving on this Committee since being elected to Congress.

Best Regards,

FREDERICA S. WILSON,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

HONORING AGENT BRIAN TERRY

(Ms. MCSALLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, Border Patrol unveiled a new statue honoring slain Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry at the Naco, Arizona, border station in my district named in Agent Terry's honor.

The statue, depicted here, shows Agent Terry carrying a member of his Border Patrol tactical unit on his shoulders and is a fitting tribute to a man who loved his job and his fellow agents.

Agent Terry entered the service with the Border Patrol on July 23, 2007. Before that, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and as a police officer in Michigan.

On December 14, 2010, Agent Terry was on patrol with three of his fellow agents in Peck Canyon near Nogales, Arizona, when they came across five

individuals suspected of crossing the border illegally.

The agents approached the suspects and were fired upon, prompting them to return fire. In the gunfight that ensued, two agents were wounded, including Agent Terry. He died from his wounds in the desert later that morning while waiting for medical assistance.

Agent Terry's sacrifice is a constant reminder of the dangers those who defend our homeland face every time they put on their uniform. Their job is to protect our communities, and often, they are the last line of defense against terrorist attacks on our country.

Agent Brian Terry gave the ultimate sacrifice to carry out his duties. Every day, agents like him put everything they have on the line to keep us safe. They deserve everything we have to support them.

THE ASSASSINATION OF BORIS NEMTSOV WAS A REPREHENSIBLE ACT

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the assassination of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov last Friday in front of the Kremlin was a reprehensible act that demands a thorough and independent investigation.

Mr. Nemtsov was a political leader who had fought for democracy inside the system. His murder took place against the backdrop of Putin's continued suppression of the rule of law, political debate, and human rights in Russia. His murder follows the murder of other critics of Putin's tyranny, Anna Politkovskaya and Sergei Magnitsky.

Today, Putin is rebuilding many of the barriers to individual freedom, democracy, and self-determination that were thought relegated to what President Reagan called the ash heap of history.

As a former chairman of the Helsinki Commission in the final years of the cold war, I witnessed the yearnings of the Russian people not to be bullied through fear and control by their leaders. Vladimir Putin and his henchmen have created a culture of terror for those who oppose his rule and have increasingly isolated Russia from the world.

Congress and the American people must keep speaking out against the erosion of the basic freedoms the Russian people achieved in the 1990s.

This week, Mr. Speaker, the thoughts and prayers of the American people are with the family of Mr. Nemtsov and millions whose hopes and dreams he fought for throughout his life.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate having proceeded to reconsider the bill (S. 1) ''An Act to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline'', returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the Senate, in which it originated, it was resolved that the said bill do not pass, two-thirds of the Senators present not having voted in the affirmative.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THEODORE HESBURGH

(Mr. YOUNG of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Theodore Hesburgh. As the president and public face of the University of Notre Dame for so long, his passing isn't just deeply felt in South Bend, Indiana, but all across our great State.

A lifelong educator, Father Hesburgh spent the vast majority of his 97 years giving lessons that everyone—regardless of age, profession, or station in life—can learn from. A few of those lessons, I think, are especially apt for those of us in this body, chief among them: ''The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet.''

Too often, those of us in elective office find it easier to blow the horn of opposition rather than committing ourselves to the hard work of developing constructive policies.

As we reflect on his legacy at this time, my hope is that we will all follow the advice that Father Hesburgh exemplified so well throughout the course of his distinguished career and rededicate ourselves to laying out a positive vision and concrete solutions that will move our great Nation forward.

□ 1515

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. 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 today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have spent the last week and a half debating funding for the Department of Homeland Security, a debate that started because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle didn't like the President's executive actions on immigration.

House Republicans finally did do what they ought to have done all along: joining with Democrats to pass the bipartisan funds for DHS through Fiscal Year 2015. That legislation has restored certainty for thousands of employees at the Department of Homeland Security; and, even more importantly, it ensures the safety and security of our entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, while we settled the funding for DHS, we haven't addressed the issues that led us to the impasse in the first place.

Republicans in both the House and the Senate wanted to hinder the President's legal authority to better manage our broken immigration system. They have called it illegal amnesty, and many of their conservative counterparts have gone as far as calling the President a tyrant, but they have not offered any plan of their own.

Today, during this Special Order hour, I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of our Progressive Caucus, to join with my colleague, the Congressman from Arizona, to express our concerns from the Progressive Caucus' perspective on our plans for the future as it relates to immigration.

To that extent, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for having this opportunity for us to come and talk about the root issue, as she explained, the root issue that caused almost the potential of DHS and that Department having to be shut down because of the amendments added by this House of Representatives to an appropriations bill, a bill that should have been clean.

It was a bipartisan piece of legislation, but amendments were added to it, amendments that were against the President's executive order, amendments that were aimed at undoing any progress that had been made with DREAMers, the DACA, the amendments that were punitive in its entirety, and did not seek any solution to deal with our broken immigration system.

Thankfully, the adults in the House took control. A clean bill was passed with overwhelming and unanimous support from Democrats and with significant support from our Republican colleagues.

That being done, that example should be a harbinger that on ''must-pass'' legislation critical to the future of this Nation, critical to its tranquility, that we stop playing games with that legislation, and that the track to deal with immigration reform should be a track that we all pursue.

To try to put mean-spirited, divisive, ''got you,'' grandstanding amendments on a piece of ''must-pass'' legislation, whether it is Homeland Security the other day, Transportation in the future, that is not governing; that is merely pandering to a political ideology that has nothing to do with the underlying bill, as it did with national security.

Let me talk a little bit about how we got to that situation, as the gentlelady said. In the time that I have been here, immigration reform and the broken system has been an acknowledged fact by all sides.

There was an attempt that the Senate, a year ago, passed, a bipartisan bill, overwhelming support, that took us in a direction, a very critical first step to reforming this broken immigration system. For a year, we waited for the leadership of this House, the Republican leadership, to bring that bill up and let the people's House work its will. That never happened.

Time and time again, we admonished the leadership in saying: If nothing is done by this House to allow an up-or-down vote on that piece of legislation that the Senate passed, the President will have no option but to relieve the anxiety, to relieve the painful family divisions that were going on in this country and to prevent additional community trauma that many of our communities were facing with the high level of detentions and deportations, the splitting of families, even when there was U.S. citizen children or a spouse involved.

The President waited; he waited a considerable amount of time. I was one of those that criticized that waiting period, that should be done immediately. At the end, the President put the executive orders together, the expansion and enhancement of DACA for DREAMers, for young people, and DAPA, for those parents who have citizen children, that they, too, would get the 2-year umbrella of protection, could work and could come out of the shadows.

This was not automatic, as it has been exaggerated by the opponents of his actions. This was a process that requires documentation and that requires qualifications in order to be eligible for the programs.

As the President said, Department of Homeland Security, ICE, and Border Patrol can now concentrate on the smuggling and organized crime that occurs along our border that is the root cause of much of the violence and heartache that we see on our border.

In Arizona, there has been over close to 5,000 individuals that have lost their lives in the desert trying to cross to the United States, countless acts of violence—all generated by human traffickers, drug smugglers, and organized crime on both sides of the border.

It is time to concentrate on that very obvious threat to American security. The other is to go after the people that we don't want here. It is another exaggeration to say that this is blanket amnesty. It is not blanket amnesty, far from it.

We, like everyone else—the people that don't belong here because of felonious behavior, violence, drug smuggling, and breaking the laws of this Nation, those are the people that ICE should put its emphasis on and get rid of felons, as the President said, and not families.

The President did that order, much to the outcry of some colleagues of mine on the other side of the aisle—not all. I would never paint the whole Republican Conference with one brush, but there is a significant number that see the issue of immigration in a very different and clouded way.

That clouded way has to do more with ideology. It has more to do with the sense that it is us versus them and an insecurity about the changing demography of this country and what it means to the Nation. That insecurity is just sad, an insecurity not founded in fact and not founded on the immigrant history of this Nation.

As a first-generation American, I can tell you the pride and the values that I have were grown in this country, were nurtured in this country, and serving in this body could be the highest honor I could ever have. That story is repeated, day in and day out, for the history of this Nation, that the immigrant community has come to give and to contribute, not to take.

The President has wide latitude, as President, with executive orders. The court case, an injunction to hold the implementation of his executive orders in Texas, where a selection process chose this judge for his previous legal opinions and his previous public comments regarding the issue of immigration, that sided very much with the opponents.

I am totally confident—totally confident—that as we move up the chain of the Federal court system, that the constitutional authority that the President has for these executive orders, as previous Presidents had for executive orders, will be redeemed; and that lower injunction will be overturned.

In the interim, we continue to tell people in the undocumented community, immigrant community: Come forward, bring your documentation, begin to prepare yourself for an opportunity to be one of the people and families that qualify for this program.

What the President did with those executive orders is significant in many ways. Those executive orders began mending the social fabric of this Nation. One of the most divisive issues has been immigration, and maybe it is a good election ploy to continue to beat that horse dead in order to get elected.

In the long term, in the generational term of this Nation, it does nothing but divide us along very superficial issues. It divides us along the issue of race and divides us along the issue of language and country of origin. Those are not divisions for the social well-being of this Nation that we can tolerate.

Immigration reform is also about the domestic tranquility of this Nation and to heal that social fabric that has been ripped.

I also want to say that the Progressive Caucus, from the onset, has been a tireless advocate for comprehensive immigration reform, humane policies, family-centered reforms, and reforms that deal with the reality of what is around us and doesn't ignore it.

I am proud to be a member of that caucus and for its steadfast and unwavering support not only of comprehensive immigration reform, but of the President and his executive orders.

Five amendments were presented as part of the DHS bill, which were at the center of the controversy, and the ones that were eliminated so we could finally vote on a key piece of legislation.

One amendment, the Aderholt amendment, this amendment prohibits any funds or fees to be used to carry out the majority of the President's executive order, including DAPA and DACA.

Reality, fact, the prohibition is irrelevant and moot. All the cost of this program comes from the individual making an application. It is a fee-driven process. There is no specific allocation that this body has made to it or that the Department is making to it.

The Blackburn amendment, which I thought was of particular anguish to everyone, this amendment would end the DACA program, the DREAMer program for DREAMer children susceptible to deportation.

Let's say those almost 300,000, if not more, young people that are qualified under DACA, suddenly, with that amendment, would have that protection taken away and their status would now be back in the deportable status.

That amendment, in and of itself, does nothing for national security, does nothing to address the issue of a broken immigration system; but, indeed, adds a level of cruelty to the whole process of trying to solve this problem.

Preventing the President from being able to have new enforcement priorities, going after criminals and felons, as opposed to trying to break up families and deport families, one of the amendments was meant to stop that.

The Salmon amendment really made no sense. Undocumented people are not able and cannot receive and participate in the Affordable Care Act. Employers cannot register and have them employed, period, by Federal law. It was just to state the obvious and try to create an issue in which there wasn't one.

□ 1530

And there is no prioritization, where people under this executive order will be ahead of other people. There are two different processes: one is for a legal reprieve of protection that lasts up to the tenure of this President, and the

other one, naturalization and getting legal permanent status, continues to be a process. One process doesn't get in front of the line of the other.

I want to go back to one point. At some point, we are going to have to deal with the issue of immigration reform in a constructive, proactive way. And it is going to have to be dealt with because I think the economic security of this country is at stake; the domestic well-being and quality of life for this country is at stake; the economy is at stake; and the security is at stake; and if for no other reason, to look at the benefits of those areas in the discussion of comprehensive immigration reform.

We could continue on the path of making immigration reform and immigrants the cannon fodder in the 2016 election. We could continue to make immigration reform the collateral damage in any piece of legislation that is brought before this Congress, with the assumption that the individuals affected by these laws are not real human beings. We can continue to deny the obvious and the reality of this Nation, that when you have 11 million undocumented living, working amongst us, that the prudent, smart, and pragmatic thing to do is to deal with that issue and not exploit it or ignore it.

We have heard so much pandering to this issue. We have heard of disease being brought to this country, which was proven untrue. The young children that were in detention that came in that surge across the border 6, 7 months ago, their rate of infection was no higher than the rate of infection for children throughout this Nation. We have heard the pandering about terrorism coming over the border. Not one incident has been qualified as fact—that, indeed, that has become a pathway for terrorism.

The issue that somehow it is tearing at what America is, I think that is the most important point that we should take into consideration. ''From many, there is one'' is the motto that this Nation holds dear to itself, that all of us come here, and that by being here, we began to form this Union of ours, integrating the values, the aspirations, the rule of law, and the history of that Nation in making it one.

To continue to pretend that we can have a two-tiered society without consequences to the economy and the social well-being of this Nation is wrong. It is wrong for very humane and just reasons, but it is profoundly wrong on what this Nation is and what I learned and all of us have learned this Nation is and will continue to be: a nation founded on the rule of law, a nation founded by immigrants.

I also want to say—and I will say it as delicately and as carefully as I can—that the issue of immigration reform to many people who are citizens—maybe second and third generation whose original folks were immigrants who happened to be of color, who happened to come from a country of origin where the language and the culture were different from the mainstream of this Nation, whom it integrated fully and who have contributed to the defense and the well-being of this Nation—they feel that the constant drumbeat of accusation, of ''it is us versus them,'' of division, that this issue not only is an issue of immigration reform for the people who need it and for the Nation that needs it, but it is also an issue of civil rights, that no one should be profiled into a situation where they are less than someone else because of where their parents came from, because of the language that they spoke or the country that they came from or the color of their skin.

That is not America. And we continue to pander to those emotions, fear, as a means to score political points and possibly win an election here and there. That we do it at our own peril.

So for many generations of Americans that have served this country, the issue of immigration strikes us as an issue about our rights, our presence, our history, and our ability to proudly stand with anyone else and be as American as the next person.

With that, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for organizing this, and I thank her for the opportunity that she has granted me to be able to state some things that sometimes the confines of our debates here don't allow us to.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Thank you very much.

I am very grateful to my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona, for sharing his vast knowledge, experience, and dedication to such an important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am relatively new to this Chamber; but I must tell you that, as I have been working here and observing, I am always reminded of the fact that this is a nation of immigrants. This is a nation that was conceived of by immigrants. It was created by immigrants. It was made great by immigrants because all of our Founding Fathers who are responsible for the way this country operates and the way we operate this democracy came to this land from another land.

According to our polling that has been released by the Public Religion Research Institute in February, 77 percent of the country supports either a pathway to citizenship or permanent legal residency for undocumented immigrants. Only 19 percent want to enforce deportation. Citizenship is also favored over deportation in every single solitary State in this Nation, frequently by very wide margins.

In the last Congress, as my colleague from Arizona noted, the Democratic-led Senate passed legislation that would have provided that pathway for 11 million immigrants seeking the American Dream but currently living in the shadows. That bill also would have strengthened border security, something I hear my Republican colleagues argue about quite frequently. That measure passed with significant Republican support, 68–32 votes; yet our Speaker, Speaker BOEHNER, declared that that bill was dead on arrival in the House.

It is not just my constituents, it is not just Democrats that know it is time for a change on immigration. The American people are quickly reaching consensus that the American Dream should not be withheld and that there is nothing to fear from those who are seeking it.

The American people are beginning to understand that the absolutely deplorable rhetoric used to keep immigrants in the shadows is just that, rhetoric. The American people are starting to agree that our legacy as a nation of immigrants means that offering the same opportunities to new generations should be the order of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on my Republican colleagues right now to open the discussion on real immigration reform.

This, as I said, is a nation of immigrants, built by people who came from different worlds, seeking opportunities to change their futures. So we should be having a conversation about how we honor that legacy and protect the promise of the American Dream for a new generation that is ready to work hard, play by the rules, and seize it.

This is not a nation that will thrive by keeping our immigrants in the shadows. This is a nation right now that is just gaining traction and economic growth, with plenty of people still looking for employment and a government too burdened by austerity measures to provide any relief.

So we should be having a conversation about the economic benefits of comprehensive immigration reform and the extraordinary impact it would have on job creation and innovation. It is not just the right thing to do; it is the fiscally right thing to do; it is a morally right thing to do; and it is a timely thing to do.

We need to let go of our excuses and end the scare tactics. Let's get together and pass comprehensive immigration reform right now.

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

DESIGNATION OF FUNDING FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114–15)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with language under the heading ''Coast Guard, Operating Expenses'' of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015

(the ''Act''), I hereby designate for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism all funding so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 4, 2015.*

HONORING THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great life of Father Hesburgh.

Today I looked up on Wikipedia some information about Father Hesburgh. It says:

Born: Theodore Martin Hesburgh, May 25, 1917, Syracuse, New York, United States. Died: February 26, 2015 (age 97), Notre Dame, Indiana, United States. Alma mater: The Catholic University of America. Profession: Priest. Religion: Roman Catholic.

And then it shows his signature.

Well, today, in South Bend, Indiana, and on the University of Indiana, flags are flown at halfstaff to honor the passing of a giant among men, a warrior for peace and a champion for civil rights, Father Theodore Hesburgh.

I want you to just think for a minute and let your mind drift to what we will see in the future as a tombstone that is going to have Father Hesburgh's name, and it is going to say: Born May 25, 1917; died February 26, 2015. And I want you to forget about those two dates and, for a minute, think about the 97 years in between those dates—not just the day Father Hesburgh was born or the day Father Hesburgh died, but the 97 years that Father Hesburgh spent on Earth doing great work because, truly, a man is measured not so much by his years on Earth but what he accomplished while he was here.

For those of us at Notre Dame, I think it is important to go back and think about just who Father Ted was. Father actually passed away last Thursday at 11:30 p.m.

I want you to think about Father Hesburgh's last day. He rose in the morning. It was very important for him to celebrate Mass, which he did that day. Throughout the course of the day, he wasn't feeling quite right; but, again, he was 97 years old. That evening, as he was accustomed to do, he smoked a cigar, and then he went to bed. And for whatever reason, he was surrounded by some very good friends, but he was also surrounded by a nun.

Father Hesburgh's last moments were the recitation of the rosary. Now, he was very fluent in five different languages. The language that he thought was the most beautiful was the French language, and the rosary was recited in French.

□ 1545

Picture, if you can, a 97-year-old man lying in a bed, friends around him, knowing that something was going to happen, and Father Hesburgh closed his eyes and passed. But think about the glorious moment right after the closing of those eyes. Because in the next instant they were opened, not on Earth, not on the University of Notre Dame, not in a bed where he was a dying old man, but in Heaven, surrounded by all those folks who knew Father Ted, who loved Father Ted, and who have been patiently waiting for his arrival, because that is what we believe. We know that he is at home.

Now, I told you Father Hesburgh was born in Syracuse, New York. He was educated at Notre Dame and at the Gregorian University in Rome, from which he received a bachelor of philosophy degree. He was ordained a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Sacred Heart Church, now the Basilica, on Notre Dame campus in June of 1943.

Earlier today, Mr. Speaker, at 2 o'clock, the funeral mass for Father Hesburgh was held at this very same church, Sacred Heart Basilica on our beautiful and beloved campus. Now, as I stand here, the funeral mass for Father Ted is concluding, and the Notre Dame community will be following Father Ted on St. Mary's Road out to his final resting place at the Holy Cross Community Cemetery. It will be a sad march, but it will also be a rejoicing march because certainly we miss him, and we are going to miss him, but we rejoice in what he was able to accomplish.

For generations of students at Notre Dame, Father Hesburgh was simply known as Father Ted. That is all—Father Ted. Now, I was one of those people that was fortunate enough to be there when Father Ted was there. And some of my colleagues, I think that PETER KING was there, PETER VISCLOSKY was there, KEITH ROTHFUS was there, and my good friend Senator JOE DONNELLY was there. Today Senators DONNELLY and COATS and I wanted to pay tribute to this national treasure by introducing a bicameral resolution to honor the life of this truly amazing man. Father Ted faithfully served Notre Dame for decades. He served as Notre Dame's president from 1952 to 1987.

Now, I want you to think about what Father Ted has done, because mostly when people talk about Notre Dame, they say, oh, yeah, heck of a football team, and at times we have been very good. But he was able to transition us from not just a team or a little school in the Midwest that was known for the way it played football—and we were originally called the Ramblers. We were not called the Fighting Irish. We were called the Ramblers because we had no home, and so we kind of had to go around the country to play different teams, so we kind of rambled around the country. We were the Ramblers. Then we adopted the name Fighting Irish, and it was for the very immigrants that came to the university. It was one of those universities that honored the fact that people were coming from all over the world. They were coming to the United States, and there were really not a lot of institutions of higher learning that they could get entrance to. Notre Dame was one of those institutions.

So his leadership at Notre Dame just didn't stop in South Bend, and it certainly didn't stop at the university's gates. His commitment to education and social justice extended way beyond the boundaries of my alma mater and well beyond Indiana and, in fact, well beyond America's shores. His dedication is one of shared humanity that knew absolutely no bounds.

His strong belief that what unites us is far greater than that which divides us made him a champion of civil discourse and social justice. One only needs to look at a photo that I brought with me today, and in the annals of America, it is hard to look at Dr. King and Father Ted and not look at these two lions for social justice, these two lions for civil rights, to understand that they were locked arm in arm on a mission that they knew had to take place and that they could no longer turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to. That is who Father Ted was. He believed to the very soul of who he was, the very fabric of who this man was, that this is what America needed. He not only preached it, he not only taught it, he lived it.

So this week, Mr. Speaker—and, truly, I think it is almost providential—is the 50th anniversary of the march on Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge, commemorates the 50th anniversary. Again, this was called Bloody Sunday. This was in 1965. It is hard for us to imagine that that could have taken place, but it did. In fact, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of it this Saturday. That is what helped secure the passage of the Voting Rights Act so that every American citizen could equally participate in her democratic process. This was a milestone. This just wasn't something to be marked on a calendar. This was a great event in terms of how we advanced democracy in our country.

Now, as we honor Selma's legacy this Saturday, I know that the spirits of these two great lions, these people that really stood up and took time to stand up when it wasn't really easy to stand up and it certainly took a lot of courage, they stood up to what they knew to be right, for what they knew to be true, and for what they knew to be truly American.

Now, as I said earlier, I just can imagine right now that when Father closed his eyes last Thursday night and

then suddenly opened them, again, who was around him? Who surrounded him? Whom he was able to share that moment with is incredible. I am sure Dr. King was there with him.

Now, over the years, this man, Father Hesburgh, held 16 Presidential appointments that covered every type of major social concern and civil rights concern to Third World development that a person could possibly understand, and also campus unrest. He won the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He won the Congressional Gold Medal. He won the Sylvanus Thayer Award, and he won the Public Welfare Medal. And though he counseled Popes and Presidents, Father Hesburgh was first and foremost a priest, a priest on the campus of Notre Dame. He had said: ''I never really wanted to be anything but a priest, which is in itself a great and unearned grace. I hope to live and die a priest, nothing more, but nothing less either.''

Now, for decades, he has been considered the most influential priest in America, and the world he looked at as his flock. He was truly a shepherd who lived with his flock. He demonstrated this by his tireless work and his historic service to our country, to our church, and to the world.

Robert Whittington, a contemporary of Sir Thomas More, in 1520 wrote of Sir Thomas More:

''He is a man of angel's wit and singular learning. I know not his fellow. For where is the man of that gentleness, lowliness, and affability? And, as time requireth, a man of marvelous mirth and pastimes, and sometime of as sad gravity. A man for all seasons.''

At the end of the day, Father Hesburgh was truly America's Renaissance man. He was truly our ''man for all seasons.'' And much like Sir Thomas More was to his contemporaries over 500 years ago, Father Ted has left this world a better place because he took it upon himself the responsibility to inspire others here and abroad to pursue a life of justice and peace. Truly blessed are the peacemakers.

Now, as Father Hesburgh was known to say, he, too, is ''resting in the loving hands of our Savior, bathed in the light of eternal life.'' These words were spoken by Father Hesburgh to Secretary Condoleezza Rice upon the passing of her father. He is now at peace with God. He is with the God he served so well during his lifetime on Earth.

I will leave you with this one thought. A good friend of mine that I grew up with and graduated with, a guy named Larry Vuillemin, had gone to see Father.

KEITH ROTHFUS and I, by the way, a year ago, received his blessing when he was here. We were celebrating his birthday. We knelt down, and he gave us his blessing.

Father said to Larry Vuillemin when they were having a talk about ethics, he said: Larry, ethics is fun to intellectualize, but ethics without the heart is missing something.

So if we can just concentrate on those words, let those words soak in and seep in to who we are, then I think we can truly not only honor him, but honor him in a way that really means the most, and that is by emulating his life and trying to carry forward the same issues that Father had.

I know he is now at peace with the God he has served so well during his life. May peace be with him.

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

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 240. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

H.R. 431. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, March 6, 2015, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

643. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a statement pursuant to Sec. 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended, on a 15-month transaction specific revolving credit facility under Export-Import Bank's Working Capital Guarantee Program to Accelerant Technologies LLC; to the Committee on Financial Services.

644. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Establishment of the Multi-State Plan Program for the Affordable Insurance Exchanges (RIN: 3206-AN12) received March 1, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

645. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting reports submitted in accordance with Sec. 36(a) and Sec. 26(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, Report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs (H. Rept. 96-70), and Report by the Committee on Government Operations (H. Rept. 97-214) for the first quarter FY 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

646. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List; and Removal of Person from the Entity List Based on a Removal Request [Docket No.: 141230999-4999-01] (RIN: 0694-AG46) received February 26, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

647. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties, entered into by the United States, to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

648. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-611, ''Parkside Parcel E and J Mixed-Income Apartments Tax Abatement Temporary Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

649. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-610, ''Prohibition of Pre-Employment Marijuana Testing Temporary Relief Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

650. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-622, ''Nuisance Abatement Notice Temporary Amendment Act of 2015''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

651. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-623, ''Not-For-Profit Hospital Corporation Certificate of Need Exemption Temporary Amendment Act of 2015''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

652. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-625, ''Classroom Animal for Educational Purposes Clarification Second Temporary Amendment Act of 2015''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

653. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-626, ''Apprenticeship Modernization Temporary Amendment Act of 2015''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

654. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-627, ''Fiscal Year 2015 Revised Budget Request Temporary Adjustment Act of 2015''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

655. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-628, ''Lots 36, 41, and 802 in Square 3942 and Parcels 0143/107 and 0143/110 Eminent Domain Authorization Temporary Act of 2015''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

656. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-629, ''Market-based Sourcing Inter Alia Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2015''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

657. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-630, ''Ticket Sale Regulation Temporary Amendment Act of 2015''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

658. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-594, ''St. Elizabeths East Redevelopment Support Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

659. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting

Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-595, ''Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

660. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-597, ''Sonia Gutierrez Campus Way Designation Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

661. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-598, ''Closing of a Public Alley in Square 1412, S.O. 13-10159, Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

662. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-599, ''Urban Farming and Food Security Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

663. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-600, ''Notice Requirements for Historic Properties Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

664. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-624, ''UDC Fundraising Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2015''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

665. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of the Army, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

666. A letter from the Deputy Associate Director for Management and Administration, and Designated Reporting Official, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

667. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting a proposed draft bill and section-by-section analysis for proposed legislation to create the Bureau of Land Management Foundation; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

668. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's FY 2014 report on the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program, managed by the Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice, pursuant to Pub. L. 90-351, Sec. 2806(b); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

669. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the annual report entitled, ''PRO IP Act FY 2014'' pursuant to Sec. 404 of Pub. L. 110-403, Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LEE, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. AMASH, Mr. FARR, Mr. TONKO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HONDA, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GRAYSON, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 1232. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to make certain limitations on the transfer of personal property to Federal and State agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 1233. A bill to provide regulatory relief to community financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 1234. A bill to restore to States the freedom and flexibility to regulate health insurance markets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1235. A bill eliminating the debt ceiling for a period defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1236. A bill eliminating the debt ceiling for a period defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1237. A bill eliminating the debt ceiling for a period defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1238. A bill eliminating the debt ceiling for a period defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1239. A bill eliminating the debt ceiling for a period defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1240. A bill eliminating the debt ceiling for a period defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1241. A bill eliminating the debt ceiling for a period defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1242. A bill eliminating the debt ceiling for a period defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1243. A bill eliminating the debt ceiling for a period defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1244. A bill eliminating the debt ceiling for a period defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1245. A bill eliminating the debt ceiling for a period defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1246. A bill eliminating the debt ceiling for a period defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 1247. A bill to revive and expand the Intermediate Care Technician Pilot Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LATTA, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 1248. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 1249. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent individuals receiving work authorizations under certain deferred action programs from being eligible for the earned income tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HARPER (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 1250. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide that payment under the Medicare program to a long-term care hospital for inpatient services shall not be made at the applicable site neutral payment rate for certain discharges involving severe wounds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself and Mr. GOWDY):

H.R. 1251. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to add a Federal defender representative as a nonvoting member of the United States Sentencing Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1252. A bill to apply reduced sentences for certain cocaine base offenses retroactively for certain offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1253. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to the good time credit toward service of sentences of imprisonment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1254. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify the circumstances under which the enhanced penalty provisions for subsequent convictions apply; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1255. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act regarding penalties for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WILLIAMS (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 1256. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a mileage-based

user fee for mobile mounted concrete boom pumps in lieu of the tax on taxable fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. MARINO, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 1257. A bill to direct the Attorney General to make grants to States that have in place laws that terminate the parental rights of men who father children through rape; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. TITUS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. POLIS, Mr. JONES, Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. FARR, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MARINO, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KEATING, Mr. WELCH, Ms. MOORE, Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. CAPUANO):

H.R. 1258. A bill to protect the pets of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARR (for himself and Mr. HINOJOSA):

H.R. 1259. A bill to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KIND, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. BASS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VELA, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. RUIZ, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 1260. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the American Opportunity Tax Credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 1261. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to bring the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection into the regular appropriations process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 1262. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to require the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to notify and obtain permission from consumers before collecting nonpublic personal information about such consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 1263. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to strengthen the review authority of the Financial Stability Oversight Council of regulations issued by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 1264. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to set the rate of pay for employees of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection in accordance with the General Schedule; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 1265. A bill to apply the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BARR, Mr. HILL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. PITTENGER, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. MCHENRY):

H.R. 1266. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to make the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection an independent Financial Product Safety Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. CRAMER):

H.R. 1267. A bill to exempt certain class A CDL drivers from the requirement to obtain a hazardous material endorsement while operating a service vehicle with a fuel tank containing 3,785 liters (1,000 gallons) or less of diesel fuel; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 1268. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to promote energy efficiency via information and computing technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. PIERLUISI):

H.R. 1269. A bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas (for herself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 1270. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act which disqualify expenses for over-the-counter drugs under health savings accounts and health flexible spending arrangements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 1271. A bill to provide for systemic research, treatment, prevention, awareness, and dissemination of information with respect to sports-related and other concussions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BERA (for himself and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 1272. A bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 1273. A bill to promote energy savings in residential and commercial buildings and industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 1274. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to assist units of local government in developing and implementing plans, known as Vision Zero plans, to eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1275. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national strategic action plan to assist health professionals in preparing for and responding to the public health effects of climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1276. A bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a coastal climate change adaptation planning and response program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1277. A bill to provide for ocean acidification collaborative research grant opportunities; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1278. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program of awarding grants to owners or operators of water systems to increase resiliency or adaptability of the systems to any ongoing or forecasted changes to the hydrologic conditions of a region of the United States; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 1279. A bill to carry out pilot programs to improve skills and job training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 1280. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to create a searchable database containing a credentials registry, a skills database, and a jobs bank; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 1281. A bill to increase the number of months of vocational educational training that may be counted as work under the temporary assistance for needy families program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. JONES, Mr. GUINTA, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 1282. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.R. 1283. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to ensure fairness in the establishment of certain rates and fees under sections 114 and 115 of such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 1284. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take certain actions related to pesticides that may affect pollinators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 1285. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to eliminate origination fees for Federal Direct Loans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ESTY, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FARR, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. WALZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 1286. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the lower threshold for the refundable portion of the child tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DESANTIS (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. JONES, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. PALMER, Mr. PERRY, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. OLSON, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. SALMON, Mr. WALKER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. YOHO, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. GOSAR, and Mrs. LOVE):

H.R. 1287. A bill to amend the eligibility requirements for funding under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 1288. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 1289. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 1290. A bill to provide for a study by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies on the impact of diverting certain freight rail traffic to avoid urban areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. ESTY (for herself, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HIMES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 1291. A bill to improve highway-rail grade crossing safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 1292. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend military commissary and exchange store privileges to veterans with a compensable service-connected disability and to their dependents; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. RICHMOND, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 1293. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide supportive services in permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. VELA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 1294. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the South Texas Veterans Affairs Health Care Center in Harlingen, Texas, includes a full-service Department of Veterans Affairs inpatient health care facility; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HOLDING (for himself and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 1295. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the process for making determinations with respect to whether organizations are exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(4) of such Code; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. COLE, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. ROHRABACHER):

H.R. 1296. A bill to amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 1297. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide assistance for housing cooperatives damaged by a major disaster, to provide relief to homeowners affected by major disasters who have mortgages insured by the FHA or owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 1298. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent retroactive claims of the earned income tax credit by individuals issued social security numbers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. LATTA, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. JONES, Mr. MESSER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. FORBES, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. SALMON):

H.R. 1299. A bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 1300. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. WOMACK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H.R. 1301. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to extend to private land use restrictions its rule relating to reasonable accommodation of amateur service communications; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. JONES, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. BARR, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. MESSER, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1302. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a deadline for the certification of certain forms by regional offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. JONES, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 1303. A bill to repeal Public Law 107-40; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. JONES, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 1304. A bill to repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 1305. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to limit the deductibility of excessive rates of executive compensation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H.R. 1306. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to conduct a study to determine the relationship between school start times and adolescent health, well-being, and performance; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 1307. A bill to combat trade barriers that threaten the maintenance of an open Internet, that mandate unique technology standards as a condition of market access and related measures, and to promote online free expression and the free flow of information; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mrs. LAWRENCE):

H.R. 1308. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a Multimodal Freight Funding Formula Program and a National Freight Infrastructure Competitive Grant Program to improve the efficiency and reliability of freight movement in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. SINEMA):

H.R. 1309. A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to specify when bank holding companies may be subject to certain enhanced supervision, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. JOYCE, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GUINTA, and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 1310. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 1311. A bill to provide for the establishment of an office within the Internal Revenue Service to focus on violations of the internal revenue laws by persons who are under investigation for conduct relating to the promotion of commercial sex acts and trafficking in persons crimes, and to increase the criminal monetary penalty limitations for the underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS (for herself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. LONG, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 1312. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 1313. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the treatment of certain small business concerns for purposes of Department of Veterans Affairs contracting goals and preferences; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MEEHAN (for himself and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 1314. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 1315. A bill to amend section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, to require that annual budget submissions of the President to Congress provide an estimate of the cost per taxpayer of the deficit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 1316. A bill to provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register certain firearms in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as

fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 1317. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. NOEM (for herself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. TAKAI, and Mr. DOLD):

H.R. 1318. A bill to reauthorize the Impact Aid Program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mr. YOHO, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. JONES, Ms. TITUS, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 1319. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct annual surveys of veterans on experiences obtaining hospital care and medical services from medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. OLSON (for himself, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. BABIN, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. LONG, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H.R. 1320. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to exceptional event demonstrations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 1321. A bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of cosmetics containing synthetic plastic microbeads; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. KIND, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 1322. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the public disclosure of crop insurance premium subsidies made on behalf of Members of Congress and their immediate families, Cabinet Secretaries and their immediate families, and entities of which any such individual or combination of such individuals is a majority shareholder, and to require the public disclosure of the underwriting gains earned by private insurance providers and the business expenses covered by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PITTS (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SALMON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 1323. A bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to further express United States foreign policy with respect to, and to strengthen United States advocacy on behalf of, freedom of religion or belief abroad and individuals persecuted in foreign countries on account of religion or belief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 1324. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 1325. A bill to give States and localities the option to return unused Federal grant funds to the general fund of the Treasury for the purpose of deficit reduction; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MICA, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 1326. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Mulford Road in Mulberry, Florida, as the ''Sergeant First Class Daniel M. Ferguson Post Office''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 1327. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to delay the review and revision of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. JONES, Mr. BUCK, Mr. LANCE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. OLSON, Mr. COOK, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. POSEY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mrs. HARTZLER):

H.R. 1328. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the earned income tax credit to any individual who received temporary deportation relief and work authorization in accordance with any program not specifically established by Act of Congress; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 1329. A bill to abolish the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, transfer its functions relating to the Federal firearms, explosives, and arson laws, violent crime, and domestic terrorism to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and transfer its functions relating to the Federal alcohol and tobacco smuggling laws to the Drug Enforcement Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 1330. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct offshore oil and gas leasing, to use revenues from such leasing to capitalize bonds that provide a dedicated source of revenue to fund highway, other transportation, and water infrastructure projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALZ (for himself and Mr. DENHAM):

H.R. 1331. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the treatment of medical evidence provided by non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical professionals in support of claims for disability compensation under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. YOHO, Mr. JONES, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 1332. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit for individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States or who have received work authorization pursuant to certain deferred action programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. COOK, Mr. OLSON, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama):

H.R. 1333. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify eligibility for the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WOMACK (for himself, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. DELANEY):

H.R. 1334. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to make the shareholder threshold for registration of savings and loan holding companies the same as for bank holding companies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. BYRNE):

H.R. 1335. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana (for himself, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. REED, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. POLIS, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. DOLD):

H.R. 1336. A bill to encourage and support partnerships between the public and private sectors to improve our nation's social programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. HURD of Texas, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KIND, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COOPER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. HAHN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. COHEN, Mr.

HONDA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. WELCH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SIRES, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. BASS, Ms. LEE, Mr. WALZ, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. ESTY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. WESTERMAN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. PLASKETT):

H. Con. Res. 23. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative stamp honoring the 50th anniversary of the three civil rights marches from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama that took place over the course of several weeks in March 1965; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Con. Res. 24. Concurrent resolution honoring the life and memory of Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. HONDA):

H. Res. 142. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that in order to better understand water availability, sustainability, and security at a national scale, the United States should prioritize the assessment of the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater resources, and produce a national water census with the same sense of urgency that was incorporated in the ''Man on the Moon'' project to address the inevitable challenges of ''Peak Water''; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself and Mr. CHABOT):

H. Res. 143. A resolution urging the Government of Nigeria to move forward expeditiously with national general elections; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. HAHN:

H. Res. 144. A resolution recognizing and celebrating the centennial of the United States Navy Reserve; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H. Res. 145. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Senate should ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H. Res. 146. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of March 1, 2015, through March 7, 2015, as ''School Social Work Week''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H. Res. 147. A resolution supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram, and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. ROSS introduced a bill (H.R. 1337) to waive the time limitations specified by law for the award of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces to permit the award of the Distinguished-Service Cross to Edward Halcomb for acts of extraordinary heroism during the Korean War; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 1232.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 1233.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

Additionally, Article 1, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 1234.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill restores freedom and flexibility in the states to allow private insurance plans, health savings accounts, and health flexible spending arrangements otherwise prohibited by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, while affecting interstate commerce which Congress has the power to regulate under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1235.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1236.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1237.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1238.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1239.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1240.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1241.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1243.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1244.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1245.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 1246.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 1247.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution, which grants Congress the power to provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 1248.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is enacted by Congressional Authority expressed in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 1249.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. HARPER:

H.R. 1250.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section XIII, Clause I

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1251.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1252.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1253.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1254.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1255.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 1256.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts, and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 1257.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 1258.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 1259.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: ''The Congress shall have power . . . To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 1260.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section 8 and the 16th Amendment of the Constitution.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 1261.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 1262.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 1263.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 1264.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 1265.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 1266.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power * * * to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 1267.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 1268.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 and Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 1269.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing power, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H.R. 1270.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 1271.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 1272.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 1273.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.:

''To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.''

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 1274.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1275.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1276.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1277.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 1278.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. CARNEY:

H.R. 1279.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .''

By Mr. CARNEY:
H.R. 1280.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution
The Congress shall have Power *** To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution
The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. CARNEY:
H.R. 1281.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution
The Congress shall have Power *** To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof
Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution
The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. COHEN:
H.R. 1282.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:
H.R. 1283.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 8 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
To promote the progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries.
By Mr. CONYERS:
H.R. 1284.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1. Section 8
By Mrs. DAVIS of California:
H.R. 1285.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII.
By Ms. DELAURO:
H.R. 1286.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and the Sixteenth Amendment
By Mr. DESANTIS:
H.R. 1287.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States
By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:
H.R. 1288.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. DESAULNIER:
H.R. 1289.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8.
By Mr. ELLISON:
H.R. 1290.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
From Article I, Section 8:
'' The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States . . . To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes . . .''
By Ms. ESTY:
H.R. 1291.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. FORTENBERRY:
H.R. 1292.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia; and to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the foregoing powers
By Mr. HASTINGS:
H.R. 1293.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article One, Section Eight, Clause Three ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''
By Mr. HINOJOSA:
H.R. 1294.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the constitution
By Mr. HOLDING:
H.R. 1295.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which states ''The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''
By Mr. HUNTER:
H.R. 1296.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which provides Congress with the power to regulate commerce and relations between the United States and Native American Tribes.
By Mr. JEFFRIES:
H.R. 1297.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 1298.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 1299.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. KING of New York:
H.R. 1300.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which grants Congress the power to provide for the common Defence of the United States.
By Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois:
H.R. 1301.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Fourteenth Amendment, Section 1 [Rights Guaranteed]; . . . the means employed to effect its exercise may be niether arbitrary nor oppressive but must bear a real and substantial relation to an end that is public, specifically, the public health, safety, or morals, or some other aspect of the general welfare.
By Mr. LATTA:
H.R. 1302.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 14
To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;
And
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof
By Ms. LEE:
H.R. 1303.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Ms. LEE:
H.R. 1304.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Ms. LEE:
H.R. 1305.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Ms. LOFGREN:
H.R. 1306.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, clauses 1 and 3.
By Ms. LOFGREN:
H.R. 1307.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. LOWENTHAL:
H.R. 1308.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Spending Authorization
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.
Necessary and Proper Regulations to Effectuate Powers

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power***To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 1309.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests lies in Article 1, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution, which allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.

Additionally, the Constitution grants to Congress the explicit power to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 1310.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, which reads: The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Excution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 1311.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution which provides Congress with the power to lay and collect taxes and regulate commerce among the several states.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 1312.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 as applied to providing for the general welfare of the United States through the administration of the National Health Service Corps.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 1313.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 1314.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 1 and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 1315.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, which provides that, ''The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States,'' and Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7, which provides that, ''No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be publish from time to time.''

Section 1105(a) of Title 31, United States Code, requires the President to submit to Congress the Administration's annual budget request and stipulates the contents of that submission. It is within the Constitutional Authority of Congress to provide oversight and guidance on these requirements.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 1316.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 & Amendment II to The Constitution of the United States

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 1317.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 1318.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 1319.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power*** To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 1320.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 1321.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 1322.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PITTS:

H.R. 1323.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes:'' as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POLIS:

H.R. 1324.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 1325.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . .''

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 1326.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §8, cl. 7.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 1327.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 [The Congress shall have the Power] To regulate Commerce with the foreign Nations, and among the several states and the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 1328.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1. Section 8.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 1329.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8, clause 1.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 1330.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: ''The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice and Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.''

By Mr. WALZ:

H.R. 1331.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 1332.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1, Clause 1,

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7,

No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of the Receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND:

H.R. 1333.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1—The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay

the Debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. WOMACK:

H.R. 1334.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 1335.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 1336.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to ''provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 1337.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 16

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 131: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 169: Mr. ZINKE.

H.R. 214: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 228: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 235: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KLINE, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. UPTON, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 242: Mr. ELLISON, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 292: Mr. ROSS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. KILMER, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 335: Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 402: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 411: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 412: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 420: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BARR, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 426: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 427: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 456: Mr. SCHIFF, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. DESANTIS, and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 501: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 511: Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 532: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 542: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 546: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 578: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 588: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 592: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 594: Mr. BRAT and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 605: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 606: Mr. GUINTA.

H.R. 624: Mr. ROHRABACHER and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 631: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. PAULSEN.

Mr. KILMER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BERA, Mr. STIVERS, and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 647: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 648: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 650: Mr. PEARCE and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 653: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 662: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 667: Mr. COHEN and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 670: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 685: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 686: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 699: Mr. BRAT.

H.R. 703: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia and Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 704: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 721: Mr. VELA, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H.R. 727: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 729: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 731: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 742: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 746: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 767: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 771: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 775: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 793: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 803: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 815: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 816: Mr. KLINE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 822: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 825: Mr. DESANTIS and Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 835: Mr. LANGEVIN and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 842: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 845: Mr. BARR, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 846: Mr. JEFFRIES and Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 855: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 868: Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. NOLAN, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 874: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 882: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 885: Ms. ESTY and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 888: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 903: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 908: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 916: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 920: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 921: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 923: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 928: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.

H.R. 932: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 967: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 969: Mrs. NOEM, Mr. YOHO, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 975: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. STUTZMAN.

H.R. 977: Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 978: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. KIND, Mr. RICHMOND, and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 985: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 989: Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 997: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 999: Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1003: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 1017: Mrs. NOEM, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 1023: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1031: Mr. CLAY and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 1055: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1058: Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 1059: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 1062: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 1066: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 1089: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 1092: Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 1094: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 1102: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1105: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MESSER, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 1106: Mr. DESANTIS and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1123: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1126: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1142: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 1143: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 1147: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 1148: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. PITTENGER, and Mr. GUINTA.

H.R. 1154: Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 1158: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 1172: Ms. DELBENE and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1180: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. JONES, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MICA, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 1188: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1193: Mr. GUINTA and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 1197: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1210: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 1212: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. JONES, and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 1215: Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 1218: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1222: Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.J. Res. 9: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ASHFORD, and Mr. AMODEI.

H.J. Res. 25: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 11: Mr. GUINTA and Mr. OLSON.

H. Res. 12: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. TORRES, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 54: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CLAY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H. Res. 117: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H. Res. 120: Mr. RUSH.

H. Res. 123: Mr. TAKANO and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H. Res. 133: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H. Res. 139: Mr. HULTGREN, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. MESSER.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks,

limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF MICHIGAN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on House Administration in H.R. 1213, to make administrative and technical corrections to the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *114th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 161 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH *4*, 2015 *No. 37*

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAND PAUL, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father in Heaven, holy is Your Name. You brought light from darkness and order from chaos. You can bring order to our Nation and world. Thank You for the gift of this day and for our borrowed heartbeats. Thank You also for the privilege to serve You by serving our great country.

Use our lawmakers to do Your will. May they become Your merciful hands to reduce the pain and pathology in our world. Lord, use their daily experiences of joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, victory and defeat for Your glory. Protect them with the shield of Your love as You fill their hearts with Your peace.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 4, 2015.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAND PAUL, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PAUL thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 625

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 625) to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

KEYSTONE BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, construction of the Keystone Pipeline would pump billions into our economy, it would support thousands of jobs, and a bipartisan majority in both the House and Senate voted to support it.

Today the Senate will vote to support American jobs and infrastructure one more time. It should be a no-brainer. For a long time, projects like Keystone basically were no-brainers. They were often approved without much controversy at all. But that was before powerful special interests and ideological extremists decided to embark on a quixotic crusade.

The implication that building Keystone would result in some sort of apocalyptic cataclysm has always flown in the face of science. Even the assertion that Keystone would have significant impact on global climate ignores the scientific findings of President Obama's own State Department; it said the environmental impact would be minimal.

The reality is that the energy resources in question are almost certainly going to come out of the ground whether or not Keystone is built. The real question here is whether we are going to allow Keystone's energy to help support middle-class jobs in America or whether we will allow those jobs and energy to potentially be sent to high-polluting countries such as China. Deep-pocketed leftists and extremists appear to prefer the latter option.

By vetoing the bipartisan Keystone jobs bill, President Obama sided with those moneyed special interests over the middle class, and it is still unclear why. It can't be about protecting the climate because vetoing the bipartisan bill would hardly have an effect. It can't be about protecting a broken review process the President himself broke long ago because this bipartisan bill seeks to fix the review process. And it can't be about giving the President more time because he has delayed this decision for years on end. Here is the only serious explanation I can think of: President Obama is signaling to extreme special interests that his party is turning away from workers and toward them.

We have seen how the President's veto has outraged some in the labor union community. I know it makes some of our Democratic colleagues pretty uncomfortable as well. I suspect that includes Democrats who didn't support the Senate's initial passage of Keystone. I suspect it also includes

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

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Democrats who might otherwise support their leadership's unprecedented filibuster of a veto-override motion.

I am urging every Democrat who still believes their party should be about workers, not deep-pocketed special interests and extremists, to join us. Vote for cloture. Vote to override. Keystone's bipartisan coalition in the Senate is only a few votes shy of the two-thirds majority we would need to override this partisan veto and bring Keystone's jobs here to America. And it is not too late to stop your party from venturing down a path even further afield from the interests of American workers and the middle class. So join us. Together, let's support Keystone's American jobs and infrastructure.

KING V. BURWELL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, across the street the Supreme Court will hear arguments today in an important case. King v. Burwell is the latest reminder of a law that is as unwieldy as it is unworkable—ObamaCare.

ObamaCare has been one rolling disaster after another for middle-class Americans. First, it attacked seniors by raiding Medicare to finance more government spending. Then it canceled health plans for many who had been told they would be able to keep the plans they liked. And who could forget the Web site debacle? The hits have kept on coming ever since—fewer choices, higher costs, increased tax burdens borne by the middle class, and even more headaches at tax time. In fact, we now know that the Obama administration sent inaccurate ObamaCare tax information to nearly 1 million people. America's middle class deserves a lot better than the hurt of ObamaCare.

We have heard a lot of predictions about what might happen if the Court finds for the plaintiffs in this case, but we have also seen Republican ideas about how to help Americans who may be harmed again by ObamaCare's broken promises. For instance, Republicans think it is better to give Americans and States the freedom to choose what is right for them rather than trying to impose costly mandates from Washington such as ObamaCare.

Regardless of how the Supreme Court rules, I look forward to continuing to work with my Republican colleagues because while ObamaCare is a law that is all about higher costs and broken promises, Republicans think health care should be about helping middle-class Americans instead.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, most of the issues that come before this body are complex and nuanced. Rarely are we faced with simple issues. But today we have a very simple, clear-cut issue before us. It is as straightforward and clear-cut as any one question could be. Do you support American workers or do you not support American workers?

Under our law, workers have the right to unionize and have their voices heard in the workplace. Through elections, workers choose for themselves whether to form a union.

Last year the National Labor Relations Board took important steps to modernize and streamline union election procedures—commonsense, simple advancements. Rule changes are good for workers and good for businesses.

This whole fight isn't about business versus workers. We would have to search long and hard to find a business that opposes what the NLRB did. It is all the anti-union rhetoric of the Republicans here in the Senate.

The reform that the NLRB pushed forward allows employers and unions to file forms electronically—kind of the modern world in which we all live. It also allows communications with workers by email and cell phone—pretty reasonable, it sounds like to me. Yet today Senate Republicans are trying to roll back rule changes instituted by the NLRB.

Later this afternoon we will vote on a resolution of disapproval to undo these commonsense reforms. Republicans think they are striking a blow against labor unions with votes like today's, but what they are really doing is undermining American families.

American workers and their families have come to rely on many of the benefits provided by collective bargaining: higher wages, safe working conditions, decent health care. It is no surprise that some of the most prosperous times in American history—namely, the middle 20th century—came about in times of record union membership. Even today in my home State of Nevada, unions protect wages for casino employees on the Las Vegas Strip, up at Lake Tahoe, and all over the State. We ensure through the unions safe working conditions—certainly for miners in Elko and around the State—and also, with rare exception, quality health coverage for educators statewide.

So I want to be very clear. This is about whom the Republicans really are attacking, and it is the middle class. Each time Republicans throw roadblocks for workers to organize, they are weakening the middle class.

I support American families. I support American workers. I support the middle class. Senate Democrats support the middle class. We do not support this Republican attack on unions. We will vigorously fight any attempt to weaken worker protections, including today's resolution vote.

OBAMACARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will briefly comment on my friend the Republican leader further trying to come to the floor once again to try to minimize the disastrous attacks on ObamaCare.

The House has voted 57 times to repeal that law. Each time, the result is the same. As Albert Einstein said, the definition of insanity is someone who does something over and over again and gets the same results. So it is insane what they have done in the House, and it is really insane what they are trying to do here in the Senate.

There is no question about the case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The language is clear. Almost 10 million people will lose health insurance. And we have seen in the press the last few days that very terrible things would happen to families if they lost their health care. What my friend the Republican leader is talking about doing is turning it back to the insurance industry. If you had a preexisting disability, no insurance. They set arbitrary limits as to how much they would pay. It was a time of dread for families who were trying to insure their boys and girls, mothers and fathers.

So I hope the Supreme Court will listen to the will of the American people and the will of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives which passed this law. We all knew the intent of Congress. We still do. The law is very clear, and the Supreme Court should follow the law.

Mr. President, will the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF A RULE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 8, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 8) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 2 hours of debate remaining, equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum, and I ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided between the minority and the majority.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the median time today between when a union files an organizing petition and when employees vote on whether to unionize is 38 days, or just slightly over one month. Some 95 percent of all organizing elections take place less than 2 months after the date an organizing petition is filed, and approximately 70 percent of these elections are won by unions. All in all, I think anyone would agree that unions are doing pretty well and that this is a pretty fair process.

In fact, the current median time between union organizing petitions and union elections surpasses the goal set by the National Labor Relations Board itself. One would think it would be a classic case of ''if it ain't broke, don't fix it.''

Apparently the Obama nominees on the National Labor Relations Board don't agree. They proposed a new rule which will go into effect next month and that will drastically shorten the time between the initial organizing union petition and the union elections to anywhere from 11 to 22 days.

While the current situation, if anything, gives an advantage to unions, it also provides adequate time for employers to express any concerns and for employees to hear the pros and cons of the union proposal. The new NLRB rule would remove these protections.

Businesses would have to respond to the union organizing petition within 7 days of its being filed, which would leave employers scrambling to research any arguments they want to bring up at the union organizing hearing. Small businesses, which frequently lack experience dealing with unions or in-house counsel to provide advice, would be hit particularly hard by this rule.

But it is not just businesses that would suffer. Under the new rule employees would have very little chance to research and consider the benefits and drawbacks of joining a union. They would be forced into a hasty decision with little opportunity to change their minds later on.

In addition, the rule also presents substantial privacy concerns for employees. Under the current system, employers already have to give unions employees' names and home addresses. The new rule would expand that disclosure requirement to include employees' cell phone numbers, email addresses, work schedules, and shift locations. Worse, the rule contains no additional requirements for safeguarding that information or disposing of it appropriately. Given the ever-growing concerns about privacy, it is astonishing that any employer would be forced to give up so much sensitive information without the explicit permission of his employees.

This new rule is unfair to employers and it is unfair to workers. There is a reason it is called the ambush elections rule. It would ambush employers and employees alike. Unions would have unlimited time to organize, while employers would be given almost no time to present their concerns and exercise their free speech and due process rights. Employees would be pushed into making the long-term decision about whether to join a union without all the facts.

Government should not be in the business of tilting the playing field in favor of unions at the expense of workers and businesses. The NLRB'S ambush elections rule is unfair and undemocratic. I hope Congress will pass the joint resolution of disapproval we are considering today, and I hope the President will sign it. The rights of American workers and businesses should not be sacrificed to the demands of unions.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I come to the floor to support S.J. Res. 8. I thank my friend and colleague from Tennessee for bringing the resolution to the floor to disapprove the rule that the National Labor Relations Board has proposed that basically creates what are commonly referred to as ambush elections for votes to create labor unions in workplaces.

The concerns I have with this NLRB mandate is that it is another draconian example of what I consider to be the hyperpartisan business and labor environment the National Labor Relations Board has created over the last several years. The NLRB is advancing a pro-union agenda nationwide in the guise of government policy. The NLRB's proposed policy is simply not necessary, particularly in light of the fact that some 70 percent of union organizing elections already succeed under the NLRB's current policy. Clearly the pro-union majority of the National Labor Relations Board is not satisfied with unions winning 70 percent of the time. They now want to run up the score so the unions win 100 percent of the time.

Many people, when they think about labor unions and organizing, think about big business, but I am here to talk about the negative effect this proposal will have on small businesses. A 50-employee operation or a 250-employee operation, is a business that does not have the legal, financial, or administrative resources that a big business has to be able to react in the short timeframe the NLRB wants to mandate.

Today the median time for holding elections on labor union organizing petitions is about 38 days. This rule would bring that down to just 8 days before an election would be required to be held. This would make it virtually impossible for the vast majority of America's small businesses to respond to the unionization effort and many of the employees themselves who may not want to be unionized would be swept aside by the compressed timeframe as well.

We have several examples of this in North Carolina, but rather than get into a lot of details, I will just explain why this new ambush election rule is not needed.

The petitions to unionize workplaces are already handled expeditiously. As I said, the average or median time for holding a vote is now 38 days. And again, the success rate for the unions is 70 percent. Let me say that again, 70 percent of the elections that are held under the NLRB's current rules result in employees being unionized.

By turning elections into this sort of ambush will put small businesses at a severe disadvantage against the powerful unions targeting them. For instance, take one small trucking company down in Greensboro, NC, that would suffer serious economic consequences if this rule goes into effect. Guy M. Turner, Inc. was founded by two brothers in 1924 and 90 years later it is still a family owned business employing less than 250 people, clearly it is not a mega-corporation. Yet, if the NLRB imposes this new rule, this family business will have: little time to obtain competent counsel to counter union targeting of the company, little time to answer questions, marshal facts, or prepare arguments to share with their employees regarding the potential consequences and effects of unionization.

And if that were not bad enough, under the NLRB's new proposal, employers would also be prohibited from expressing any views regarding the unionization effort—thus essentially eliminating the employer's right to free speech regarding the potential adverse effects of unionization on the workplace and the company's future viability. However, the NLRB's new rule would impose no such restrictions on a big union's right to speak in favor of unionization or the future benefits they promise it will deliver.

A little common sense and a hard look at reality clearly demonstrates that the regulations enforced today are working not only effectively, but in favor of large unions most of the time. I hope Senators will support Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER, and the thousands of businesses and hundreds of thousands of employees, who oppose this regulation because it is an unnecessary and ill-advised effort to tilt the playing field in the workplace totally in favor of the large labor unions and their efforts to unionize the American workplace.

I ask unanimous consent that the time for the quorum call be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TILLIS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, what is the pending order for the morning?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is on S.J. Res. 8 with divided time.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the Chair.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, this morning I rise, along with the women of the Senate, to speak about the issue of human trafficking.

We are 4 days from International Women's Day, and all of the women of the Senate have taken up the issue of human trafficking. Many of us wish to speak about it today. We are all working on it. Many have been leaders on this issue. My colleagues will see Republican and Democratic women coming to the floor.

As the senior woman and senior Democratic woman, I have convened over the years a dinner among the women of the Senate. The purpose of the dinner was to create a zone of civility, to create camaraderie, as well as to see where we could work across the aisle to focus on a particular issue.

The women of the Senate do not have a caucus. There is no lockstep. We discuss our different views on budgets and bottom lines and other issues. We discuss questions such as, What is the best way to approach the deficit? What are all of the deficits in our country we are facing, not only the fiscal deficit, but the deficit in research and development, and other deficits?

At one of our dinners we said, What is it that we want to work on together in this particular Congress? What is the issue that brings us all together across party lines that would have an impact on what we do at home, what would have an impact in our global community, and what would have an impact particularly on women and children, girls and boys, around the world? That is what we decided we wanted to work on—the despicable, vile issue of human trafficking. Human trafficking. That means a whole organized network and networks to buy and sell human beings as if they are a commodity, to buy and sell girls and to buy and sell little boys for the whole purpose of sexual exploitation.

This is an enormous issue. Many of our colleagues in the Senate have been working on authorizing legislation, and a great deal of it is pending in the Judiciary Committee. We have joined together and asked the Judiciary Committee to hold a hearing on the major trafficking bills, and we thank Chairman GRASSLEY and Ranking Member LEAHY for holding the hearing, as well as for joining with us in moving legislation.

This is not just a woman's issue; this is a human rights issue. So we have a Klobuchar-Cornyn bill. We have a Collins-Leahy effort. We are all working on this together. But it is we, the women of the Senate, who continue to be a force to make sure we will focus on it within our own government and around the world. We will be looking at what are the most significant efforts we can take.

The numbers are startling and discouraging. Twenty-one million people are trafficked globally every year—21 million people. It is the third largest global crime—right up there with the selling of weapons of mass destruction, and right up there with selling drugs, and drug cartels. In fact, in many instances, it is the same organized crime network. If someone is willing to sell a person and treat them as a commodity, they are willing to sell drugs, they are willing to sell guns, they are willing to sell nuclear fissionable material. They are willing to do anything.

This isn't just about recruiting girls in Asia or girls and women in Central Europe; this is in our own country, where 800,000 people are trafficked each year.

When I met with my FBI agents in Maryland and the U.S. Attorney's Office to discuss this issue, they told me that the I–95 corridor is a corridor for violence and trafficking and that we are a hotspot for trafficking activities, because we have a seaport, we have a major interstate highway, and we have big sporting events. Can my colleagues imagine such activity at sporting events such as the big games? The playoffs that we so enjoy in Baltimore are also part of trafficking.

But we know our local law enforcement and our FBI are on the job. We have programs such as Operation Cross Country. Last year, the FBI helped recover close to 170 children who had been forced into prostitution, with simultaneous raids, and they put 281 pimps in jail.

We are going to take the first step. There are many bills pending where the women of the Senate have really thought about this, worked on this, taken leadership on this, and they will talk about their various legislative initiatives.

As the chair of the Appropriations Committee, I wanted to look at not only the great work my colleagues were doing in authorizing, but what we could do now for the money. Last year, in the 2015 omnibus, with the full concurrence of then-Vice Chairman SHELBY—a really strong advocate on this issue—and then across the aisle with HAL ROGERS in the House, we put $42 million in the Justice Department to make sure we were fighting trafficking. We included a $28 million increase for programs that provide grants that are lifesaving, as well as life-rescuing services to victims. These funds were to ensure that law enforcement could enforce the law and make sure victims had emergency shelters and counseling, supporting a true rescue mission.

We also made sure the FBI had additional resources to find those criminals and bring them to justice, and to focus on efforts such as a program called ''Innocence Lost'' that focuses on the trafficking of children. We funded human trafficking prosecution by adding more money for civil rights attorneys to identify the large trafficking rings to do it.

I don't want to sound like an accountant; I want to sound like one of the women of the Senate who thinks about these women who have been recruited around the world and the children who are being nabbed and grabbed, and the exploitation of lost children, sometimes runaway youths.

We want to say to them that our Federal dollars are working hard, and we are going to look at how authorizers and appropriators really work together. We want to pass some of this new, fresh thinking on how to attack and deal with this problem. We are going to look at the Appropriations Committee across all subcommittees to see what we can do.

The women of the Senate are going to be a voice and a vote on this, and we know we have good men of the Senate who also work with us and support us. So working shoulder to shoulder, we can do something to make it safer for our communities and have a big impact around the world. We will do it because we took the time to listen to each other and figure out ways we can work together. Let's get it done, and let's get it done now.

I would now like to yield time for someone who has been a real leader on this issue, and a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, who has brought some new, fresh thinking and fresh approaches but also has been wise and prudent for her taxpayers and, I might also add, a former attorney general in the State of Minnesota. She is a great warrior, and she has made sure that she has some new ideas. Senator KLOBUCHAR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge Senator MIKULSKI and her leadership. Anyone who wondered how hard she was going to keep working after she announced she wasn't running again for the next year—I think we just saw the answer right here. She hasn't slowed down one bit. She is already here advocating for some incredibly important bills, and I am also glad to see that Senator SHAHEEN and Senator HIRONO are here. They are going to speak shortly.

Given I have been able to talk about this at length on the Committee on the Judiciary, I will be brief and say this:

I have an important bill with Senator CORNYN, and it is a bill, a version of which has already passed the House, a bipartisan bill, the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act. Also, Senator CORNYN has a bill with me and a number of other people called the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. My bill passed through the Committee on the Judiciary last week after the hearing that Senator MIKULSKI referred to, 20–0, on a vote. And Senator CORNYN's bill, which I have also cosponsored, passed on a near-unanimous vote. Senator LEAHY and Senator COLLINS, as was mentioned by Senator MIKULSKI, have an important bill—the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act. We are hopeful we can get these done, along with what Senator FEINSTEIN is doing, and many others, in the coming days on the Senate floor.

I think the first message here is this is bipartisan. I don't think any sex trafficker wants to hear we are doing some tougher stuff to go after them, but we are. It is very important that this be bipartisan.

I give you one example of a case charged last week out of Minnesota. A 12-year-old girl—not even old enough to get a driver's license, not even old enough to go to her first prom—gets a text. She goes to a parking lot at McDonald's. She thinks there is a party. A guy puts her in a car and drives her to Rochester, MN—the Twin Cities—rapes her and then takes pictures of her and puts it on Craigslist. The next day two other men buy her off of Craigslist and rape her.

That happened in Minnesota. That is happening all over the country, where 83 percent of the victims are not from other countries, 83 percent of the victims are from our own country. This is the third biggest criminal enterprise—international criminal enterprise—in the world. Only after illegal drugs and illegal guns comes selling young girls and young boys for sex. This is going on in the oil patch in North Dakota. It is going on in the city streets in Baltimore. It is going on in small towns in Minnesota. That is what we are seeing happening across our country.

I appreciate all the support of my Democratic and Republican colleagues. What this bill does that we passed 20–0 out of the Committee on the Judiciary—the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act—is it takes this model that has been really successful in Minnesota. We just got a 40-year sentence last year against someone running a ring who basically says, are you going to prosecute the 12-year-old? No. That 12-year-old is a victim.

When you start thinking like that and you start thinking of these victims as actual victims, then you give them services. Then they turn their lives around, and then they testify against the guys who are running these rings. That is how you make the cases. If you prosecute them, my guess is they are going to go right back to that pimp who brought them into this world in the first place.

That is why this has been adopted already in 15 States, and 12 States are looking at it. What our bill does is simply takes an existing grant program and creates incentives so that other States will adopt this as well.

We also have the ability for these victims to access programs that help people get jobs.

Finally, the national sex trafficking strategy. We do not have one in this country. That is in this bill as well. You can see why it got widespread support.

I am excited about these bills because finally we are working on something together. I would like to get them done as soon as possible. There are a lot of bills that have passed in the House. We are going to have to coordinate all these efforts, as Senator MIKULSKI said. But this is the moment in time where we can finally say not just to the rest of the world but to girls in our own country that we are going to stand up for them and we are going to stand up against these people running the rings.

Why has this gotten worse in the last few years? We love the Internet, but people are advertising on the Internet. They are getting away with it, and we have to make sure we are sophisticated, more sophisticated than the perpetrators who are committing these crimes.

I see that our great Senator from New Hampshire, Mrs. SHAHEEN, is here.

I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Will the Senator from New Hampshire yield for 1 minute?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I will.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I want to say this is not a Democratic women's issue. We are in this on a bipartisan basis. I want to note that the Democratic women are here because the Republican women are chairing committees and subcommittees. I know the Senator from New Hampshire, Ms. AYOTTE, will be on the floor shortly. The distinguished Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, is at a very important Navy appropriations committee hearing. So when my colleagues see us, don't assume it is just Democratic women. It is all of us together. But their responsibility has them at another duty station right this minute. I wanted to explain where we are.

I yield the floor back to Senator SHAHEEN of New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to echo what my colleagues Senator MIKULSKI and Senator KLOBUCHAR have said about this being a bipartisan issue. This is an issue that affects everybody in this country—Republicans, Democrats, Independents. It is a critical issue for the Senate. It is a critical issue for the House. It is a critical issue for State legislatures across the country.

I am so pleased to be able to join my colleagues and thank Senator MIKULSKI for her leadership for such a long time on this issue and so many others, and commend Senator KLOBUCHAR for everything she is doing to address this issue. I am so pleased to join Senator HIRONO as well this morning, and look forward to seeing my colleague from New Hampshire coming to the floor shortly.

This Sunday, March 8, nations across the globe will observe International Women's Day. It is an annual occasion to celebrate the achievements of women across the globe. But it also recognizes the obstacles that still stand in the way of equal rights and opportunities for women. Over the last century, women have fought for equal rights and opportunities, and we made enormous advances in much of the world. Humanity has learned that women's rights are human rights, and those rights include being respected as full and equal partners in all aspects of the economy and society. We have learned that when women succeed, families succeed, communities succeed, and nations succeed.

However, as my colleagues have pointed out so eloquently, across the globe countless millions of women continue to face not only the denial of basic human and civil rights, but outright violence and bondage. We would like to think of slavery as a thing of the past, particularly here in America. But the tragic reality is that this scourge continues to thrive in the 21st century. We are here this morning to shine a spotlight on the modern slave trade and to encourage all of our colleagues here in the Senate to work with us to end it.

An estimated 27 million people are trapped in the multibillion dollar marketplace that trafficks in slaves. Victims include forced migrant laborers, bonded laborers, and sex slaves, including women forced into marriages as de facto slaves. Tragically, as we have heard, children account for the majority of modern slaves, many of them trafficked and sexually exploited.

Let's be clear. As Senators KLOBUCHAR and MIKULSKI pointed out, modern-day slavery is not confined to impoverished and backward countries. I was recently briefed on a human trafficking case investigated in my home State of New Hampshire. This case involved forced prostitution. Fortunately, three arrests have already been made. The investigation is still ongoing, so I can't talk about the specifics of the case, but fortunately several of the victims have been rescued.

I want to state the obvious and point out what Senator KLOBUCHAR also pointed out: If modern slavery can exist in communities in New Hampshire, in Minnesota, in Maryland, it can exist anywhere in the world.

I am proud the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, led by Chairman CORKER and our Ranking Member MENENDEZ, is spearheading new legislation which I have cosponsored to fight the modern slave trade on a global

scale. Our bill is titled the Ending Modern Slavery Initiative Act of 2015, and it was unanimously reported out of committee last week.

It would authorize the creation of a nonprofit foundation to be known as the End Modern Slavery Initiative Foundation. This new foundation would fund projects to rescue victims of modern slavery and to prevent individuals from being victimized by slavery. In addition, it would pursue the strict enforcement of laws to punish individual and corporate perpetrators of modern slavery.

I want to again commend the work of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary under the leadership of Chairman GRASSLEY and Ranking Member LEAHY, as well as the work that Senator CORNYN and Senator KLOBUCHAR are doing. The Committee on the Judiciary advanced three bipartisan bills to crack down on criminals involved in human trafficking and to assist victims with the rehabilitation.

As we are talking about the prevalence of human trafficking, I think this picture of the areas of human trafficking shows while it is stronger in particular regions of the country—up the I–95 corridor—it is all over the country. The Presiding Officer's home State of Arkansas—a small state like New Hampshire—is one of those States where we see a big red hotspot for human trafficking. We see it all across the country. It is why we need to do everything we can nationally to respond to this scourge.

As we look forward this week to celebrating International Women's Day on Sunday, let us also remember the millions of women who have been left behind, who are being exploited by traffickers and trapped in modern slavery, who are desperate to have their humanity recognized and rescued. I urge all of our colleagues here in the Senate to join us in supporting legislation that will combat and hopefully ultimately end modern slavery, the scourge of human trafficking.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, we also are joined today by Senator HIRONO, who for many years served with me on the Committee on the Judiciary. She is now on the Intelligence Committee, but has been very active in this issue as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, and we thank her for being here today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking Senator MIKULSKI for her leadership on this issue as well as on so many other important issues.

I rise today with many of my fellow women Senators from both parties in drawing awareness to the terrible crime of human trafficking, and not just drawing awareness, but to call upon all of us to take action to stop this crime.

According to the International Labour Organization, there are an estimated 21 million victims of trafficking globally, something that Senator MIKULSKI has already mentioned. That is 21 million people. That is more than the total population of 48 States, including Hawaii, who are trafficked every single year. Only Texas and California have more than 21 million people.

The most recent estimates available show that between 14,500 and 17,500 people were trafficked into the United States in 2005. That is why I am working to enhance our ability to protect human trafficking victims seeking refuge in our country. Right now, many families are torn apart at the border because current law requires adult men to be transferred to a border location hundreds of miles away from where they were intercepted.

Meanwhile, their families, who are often with them, are sent back across the border at the place where they were intercepted with no money and no idea of where their husbands or fathers were taken. The situation leaves women and children vulnerable to trafficking, sexual violence, and other dangers.

I have also sought to place independent child welfare professionals at Border Patrol stations to provide basic humanitarian assistance to unaccompanied children held in our border stations. This would ensure appropriate screening of children to identify victims of persecution or trafficking. It also would ensure that children are not held for longer than necessary in U.S. Custom and Border Protection facilities.

At the peak of our attention to the crisis of unaccompanied minors last year, nearly 50,000 children arrived at our Nation's southern border. Much of our attention in this body was paid to dealing with these children once they reached our border. These children from noncontiguous border countries not only deserve protection but are required by U.S. law to receive certain protections.

But what about the children who might not have reached the relative safety of our border stations? Who knows how many fell victim to traffickers? How many were diverted to other places with even less protection than what they might have received in the United States? Throughout the past year, we have heard stories about children and young women who never made it to the Texas border. We know that criminals have taken advantage of this crisis in Central America by enticing families and children who are looking for a way to escape extreme violence.

When I visited the Rio Grande Valley last year, I heard heartbreaking stories from advocates who all too often saw children and young women fall victim to trafficking. Advocates even saw instances where vulnerable girls were preyed upon by criminal traffickers even after they were released from U.S. Government custody. We must continue working together to protect these young people who are seeking a better life away from the violence of their country.

Domestic trafficking is also an issue. Last year I met with the Hawaii Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council and learned of their important work with police, prosecutors, and other personnel to better identify minors who have been trafficked into prostitution rings. These minors are victims. They are not criminals. Like Hawaii, other States are turning their attention to stopping domestic trafficking.

There are a number of Senate bipartisan bills on domestic trafficking, as mentioned. For example, I joined Senator KLOBUCHAR on her bill, the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act. I also joined Senator LEAHY in his Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act to better assist these vulnerable youth in receiving the services they need to return to some sense of normalcy in their lives.

We are working in both the international and domestic arenas to better address, combat, and eliminate human trafficking. This is an issue that crosses country borders. It is certainly an issue that crosses partisan lines. We can find common ground to get something meaningful done in Congress.

I see that I am joined by my colleague from North Dakota. I also saw my colleague from New Hampshire.

I yield my time for the Senator from New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I would like to thank the Senator from Hawaii. This is such an incredibly important issue. It is an honor to see my colleague from North Dakota as well. This is a great example of an incredibly important issue that is a bipartisan issue. Unfortunately, human trafficking, sex trafficking—this is something that impacts everyone. This is something that the women of the Senate have been very focused on, but it crosses all party lines. We want to work together to end this modern day slavery. Unfortunately, the funding for this is really supporting criminal syndicates and so many other crimes. It is also supporting terrorism.

So working together, we hope to make meaningful progress to end this slavery that is happening for too many young people in this country who are vulnerable. But let's make no mistake. This happens in every single community in this country. I had the opportunity to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee last week, along with Senators MIKULSKI, COLLINS, and GILLIBRAND, regarding the importance of legislation to fight sex trafficking and ensure, most of all, that we understand that the victims of these horrific, horrific crimes need our support.

We need to ensure that we can get them back on their feet, help them get

the support they need and make sure they can lead productive lives—and hold the traffickers accountable. Those who are participating in trafficking need to understand that we are going to work together to ensure they are held fully accountable and the victims do not get blamed for these crimes.

The Judiciary Committee heard from experts who are dedicated to changing lives and helping victims. Their work is incredibly important. In my State of New Hampshire, the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, which I had the privilege of working with as attorney general, has done some tremendous work in supporting victims and also in bringing attention to the trafficking in New Hampshire and across this country.

What we know is that sex trafficking is something that is devastating. This is something where we need to work with local, State, and Federal agencies, working together to prevent trafficking, to provide support for those who are vulnerable in the community and are often targeted, whether they are runaways or people who are homeless. But also there are people who come from communities where it is not the homeless who are targeted. Children and women and also boys are targeted for trafficking.

Last week I was encouraged to see that the Senate Judiciary Committee passed two bipartisan pieces of legislation of which I was honored to be a cosponsor: Senator CORNYN's Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act and Senator KLOBUCHAR's Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act. I am pleased to be a cosponsor. I cannot wait for these bills to come to the floor. I hope our leadership makes this a priority because this is such a strong bipartisan issue.

Also last week the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed Senator CORKER's End Modern Slavery Initiative Act, which aims to eliminate modern slavery throughout the world. It is totally unacceptable in this day and age that people are trafficked the way they are. But to mention it again, modern slavery is being used to support terrorism. It is being used to endanger the world as well. So we have to work to end it.

I also recently helped reintroduce the bipartisan Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act, which helps prevent sex trafficking. This has been a very useful program in the State of New Hampshire. I see my colleague here from North Dakota. I know she shares with me—having been an attorney general of her State—that we understand that these are horrible crimes that happen in every single community, from my home State of New Hampshire to her home State of North Dakota. We are going to work together to make sure that we can end human trafficking, that we can hold those accountable who are traffickers, and, most of all, that we can support the victims of these horrible crimes.

So with that I would like to turn the floor over for the Senator from North Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from New Hampshire. I think as we begin to have this broader discussion and as we begin to explore the kind of path for other projects such as this one—whether it is domestic violence, whether it is sexual assault and changing outcomes—we know the first obstacle is awareness.

The first thing we need to do is to take these horrible issues, these dark blotches in our society out of the shadows and put them into the light and develop a plan and a strategy that will not only deal appropriately with the law enforcement component of prosecuting and finding appropriate penalties for people who engage in modern day slavery, but also it is important that we look to prevention.

So I want to first take this opportunity to thank the senior Senator from Maryland, BARBARA MIKULSKI, for not only bringing together several of the Senate women today who are coming to the floor to call for action, to stop the scourge of human trafficking but also for her long-term commitment to women and children and society's most vulnerable.

I think we all know that Senator MIKULSKI has stood tall, which for a woman of her stature is always a little tough. She has stood tall for those who have no voice in society and for those who are engaged in some of the most horrible victimizations that we can imagine, which today is the victimization of sexual human trafficking. So as the Senator from New Hampshire has talked about and as a former attorney general of North Dakota, I think I know how difficult it is to shine a light on a problem that most people do not recognize or are, unfortunately, unwilling to admit is a problem.

When we began in the 1990s to talk about a different strategy to combat violence against women and domestic violence, which was an issue that had lurked in the shadows. In fact, for many States that was an issue that was considered a public health issue, not a criminal justice issue. I, along with a number of my women colleagues who were elected attorneys general, along with this body, and most noticeably now, Vice President JOE BIDEN, began to have an ongoing discussion about the Violence Against Women Act and what we needed to do not only to protect victims but to change the dynamic.

I think that as we began to take that problem out of the shadows, as we began to address the concerns of so many women who for years—literally years—had been victimized in their home, in a place that should be the safest place for human beings, we were able to build awareness and change outcomes. There is still a lot of work to do in domestic violence. But we believe that great strides were made simply because we were willing to point the finger and shine the light and say that this is not acceptable in our society.

I see a lot of similarities in this fight that we are waging today against human trafficking. With the right strategy, the right partners, the right policies and persistence, we are going to turn the tide on human trafficking.

While there continues to be much time and attention focused on intervention and recovery—I think that is rightfully so—and on criminal prosecution, I would like to take my time today to talk about preventing human trafficking in the first place. As the Senator from the State of New Hampshire discussed, the bills that are addressing this—the homeless youth bill—are absolutely critical to being a point of intervention, to prevent children from being on the streets, from being extremely vulnerable to victimization, from being extremely vulnerable to traffickers, and by helping those children off the street, by beginning to address the issues in their home that led them to flee in the first place. I think that is a very important first step to preventing human trafficking and human sex trafficking among minors.

I also think it is important that we learn from the experiences of other places.

Last year I traveled to Mexico City with Senator KLOBUCHAR, who, as we know, has been a fierce advocate and a wonderful partner on this issue, beginning not only with her work in the Senate but her work as the Hennepin County attorney.

I also traveled there with Cindy McCain. I think we would be remiss if we did not raise her voice and her name in this body today. She has been a global leader and a tireless leader, working not only in her State of Arizona but all across the globe. She has stood up to people who say this is not a problem. She has stood up to people who would just as soon sweep this under the rug and forget it is happening. She has been a leader and a champion of not only the people in her State and the women and children of this country but the women and children of the world. I am proud of our association, and I am proud of our friendship and the work we have been able to do together.

When we went to Mexico, we heard from countless government officials and NGOs about the difficulties they face stopping this unspeakable crime.

What I was particularly struck by were the stories of women and children coerced into this life—not forcefully, not being grabbed off the street against their will, but forced and coerced through promises of a better life, promises of someone to love and care for them. Unfortunately, for many of these young girls, these promises are short-lived because these girls and women are quickly pushed into a world of

physical abuse, drug use, and forced sex with hundreds, if not thousands of men. What was once a promise of a better life is a nightmare relived countless times a day as these victims are sold time and time again, their value now strictly as a commodity to be constantly traded over and over again. Imagine the horror of their lives. Imagine the horror of their existence.

How do we prevent this from happening? We must make sure to work with survivors. We must ask survivors to go to communities, to go to vulnerable populations, and tell their stories. The women and children who are most vulnerable and most susceptible need to hear firsthand the tactics used and, most importantly, the reality of following these false promises.

Shortly after returning from Mexico City, I met with Madai Morales Albino from Mexico. She is an amazing survivor of human trafficking. She was sexually exploited for 2 years, and she successfully escaped while being transported from Mexico to New York City. She is now an activist, and she talks about her experience and helps to teach and prevent this crime among the youth. She has become a role model for the younger girls at the shelter where she was cared for in Mexico. She attends national and international forums and workshops as a speaker to talk about her experience and the horror of human trafficking. She is currently studying to become a lawyer so she can continue to help girls who are now trapped in human trafficking.

The strength and courage of this young woman is awe-inspiring, and she is changing outcomes. We need more people like her in the world. We need more of her courage in the world, the courage to tell a story and then the courage to reach out and relive that horror through telling a story every day, the horror that was her existence.

We must also bring hope to the hopeless and love to those who do not feel loved. We can do this through increased educational opportunities, increased job opportunities, providing the necessary social services infrastructure, and working to build a safer, stronger community overall for women and children around the world.

Most importantly, what we should not bring to this is judgment; instead, bring a helping hand, bring an opportunity for a new life. Whether we are talking about the streets of Mexico City, Baltimore, or Indian Country in North Dakota, we can and we must do better. We can start taking action immediately in the Senate. We can directly impact efforts to prevent human trafficking in the United States by providing the resources necessary to work with some of our most vulnerable and most susceptible—our runaway and homeless youth.

I urge the majority leader to bring forward S. 262, the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act, a bill championed by my great friend Senator LEAHY. We all recognize that homeless youth are some of if not the most vulnerable and susceptible to trafficking. This is certainly true in North Dakota. It is certainly true in Mexico City. I am certain it is true in every community where runaway and homeless youth exist. This bill would provide much needed resources to this population and would complement other antitrafficking legislation being addressed in the Senate that addresses prevention, intervention, and recovery services to victims.

I also call on the majority leader to act by urging him to also bring S. 166, the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act, and S. 178, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, to the floor for a vote. I have worked tirelessly to push both of those bills since the last Congress. The Judiciary Committee reported two bills out of committee last week with unanimous support, and it is time to bring those bills to the floor for a vote. I believe all three bills should be part of a comprehensive approach to preventing trafficking and supporting victims.

We must do everything we can in our power to stamp out human sex trafficking in our backyard, across the country, and across the world.

With that, I yield the floor to my great friend from the great State of New York, Senator GILLIBRAND.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I also rise to speak about human trafficking, and I associate myself with the comments of Senator HEITKAMP.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery that is alive, active, and must be stopped. Many of the stories we hear from traffic survivors sound more like plots in a horror movie than real life in the United States of America, but these stories are not fiction. Over and over we hear stories about young Americans forced into captivity, about young Americans forced into sexual exploitation, about young Americans who have no freedom to say no to a violent pimp but are still tagged with prostitution charges before they even turn 18. Human trafficking is a crime that rips families apart, breaks down the trust in our communities, and shatters young American lives.

It is long overdue for Congress to pay close attention to this issue, and I commend my fellow female Senators for bringing this issue so boldly to the floor of the Senate.

Today I will talk about what Senator HEITKAMP talked about—the vulnerabilities that led to these young boys and girls becoming trafficked and how vulnerable they remain even after they have managed to escape from their pimps and their captivity.

In small towns and big cities, thousands of Americans are trafficked each year. Every single institution these boys and girls ever relied on simply failed them, failed to protect them. Their families failed to protect them. Their schools failed to protect them. The foster system they were given to failed to protect them. Our laws are failing to protect them.

Last month alone, in Rochester, NY, the U.S. attorney announced the arrest of seven people on trafficking charges. Their victims were as young as 14 years old. The U.S. attorney said: ''The victims in many cases were singled out because they were identified as being vulnerable.''

We have the responsibility in Congress to end these crimes against the most vulnerable among us. We should pass Senator LEAHY's Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act, which would provide real help to runaway youth, who are especially vulnerable to this exploitation. We should support Senator KLOBUCHAR's Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act, which would stop the prosecution of minors who have engaged in commercial sex acts. We should pass Senator CORNYN's Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which would support programs for survivors of human trafficking and child pornography and ensure that the johns who are buying trafficking victims are actually prosecuted in Federal court.

We need a law that would vacate the criminal convictions of trafficking victims because these girls and boys are not criminals; they are not prostitutes; they are victims who deserve a chance to lead a fulfilling life. I will be introducing an amendment to Senator KLOBUCHAR's bill that would vacate the criminal convictions of trafficked victims who were forced to break the law while they were trafficked. No victim of human trafficking should have to go through life—even after gaining their freedom from their trafficker—with prostitution charges on their record. We have an obligation to protect the most vulnerable Americans, and this vacatur amendment would help us do just that.

I know that if Congress does its job and does everything it can to help victims of human trafficking, thousands of young women and men in this country will have a chance to live a fulfilling life.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, today is a make-or-break day for millions of Americans who are better off because of the Affordable Care Act. As we speak, the Supreme Court is hearing

oral arguments on a case known as King v. Burwell to decide whether Americans have access to health insurance subsidies through their State exchanges or whether opponents of the law—the very same people who continued to push for over 40 votes in the House of Representatives to repeal or undermine the Affordable Care Act, the same people who shut down this government last year because of their obsession with repealing the law—will win out with a paper-thin legal argument. It would not only be a devastating blow to millions of Americans who are currently receiving subsidies for their insurance, but it would destroy the individual health insurance markets in those States and would represent an incredible power grab by the Supreme Court that would undercut the impartiality of that Court.

At the heart of this case is the Affordable Care Act, both the text and congressional intent. The question is, Did Congress intend to allow all Americans to benefit from affordable quality coverage across this country, whether they are in a State exchange or a Federal exchange?

To answer that question, you don't have to leaf through many pages of the Affordable Care Act; you can stop at the very first title, which is on the very first page. The first section reads: ''Title I. Quality, Affordable Health Care for All Americans.'' All Americans—not some Americans who live in a State that set up an insurance exchange like AccessHealthCT, but all Americans.

Before I go into a little bit of detail on this case, I wish to speak about this little boy. His name is Devin, and I was fortunate to meet with him just this last week. He is 8 years old. This picture is from maybe 1 or 2 years ago during one of his first trips to Washington. He lives with his parents and younger sister in western Connecticut.

Devin is one of about 20,000 people with hemophilia in this country. To stay healthy and to support his active life, which includes baseball, karate, and snowboarding, Devin has to take an injection every other day. The injections cost about $4,000 per dose, about $50,000 per month. Despite the challenges his disease presents, Devin was all smiles when we talked about what he liked to do, about school, and about how much you need to walk when you come to the Capitol to lobby, as Devin has the past couple of years.

The benefits of the Affordable Care Act are very clear for Devin and his family. His family will never have to worry about annual or lifetime limits on his health care. He won't have to worry, nor will his parents have to worry about him being denied insurance over the course of his life just because of his condition.

It isn't hyperbole to say that an adverse decision by the Court would be life-threatening for Americans like Devin who rely on these new insurance protections.

Obviously, Devin and his family aren't the only ones to benefit from this law. Just last week HHS released the final report on enrollment and showed that 8.84 million people have signed up for coverage in healthcare.gov States—Federal exchange States. An additional 2.8 million signed up through State-based marketplaces, such as in Connecticut, for a total of 11.6 million people who have private health care insurance because of the Affordable Care Act and its subsidies which are being spread across the country. By the way, add another 10 million people who are on Medicare because of the Affordable Care Act and we see why the uninsurance rate in this country is spiraling downward.

The tax credits the law provided for people making less than 400 percent of poverty are critical to the success of this law because they make coverage affordable. According to an HHS report from earlier this month, nearly 8 in 10 consumers are getting coverage for $100 or less after these tax credits.

In my home State, we had a goal to enroll 70,000 new individuals through private insurance and Medicaid, and we hit over 200,000. But the good news doesn't stop there. According to a new report since the ACA was passed, 9.4 million people with Medicare saved $15 billion on prescription drugs, an average of about $1,600 per beneficiary. For preventive care, there are 39 million people with Medicare and Medicare Advantage who took advantage of at least one preventive service with no cost sharing in 2014. That is why the Times, USA TODAY, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, and Politico are saying the simple message that now, more than ever, Americans understand the Affordable Care Act is working.

Yet despite the fact it is working, opponents of the law are continuing to try to tear it down. So let us be clear about what a negative decision from the Supreme Court would mean. It would mean that anywhere from 8 to 10 million Americans would lose their health care coverage and another 5 million children could lose their coverage as well.

Subsidies are important because the law envisions three interlocking sets of provisions: insurance protections to fix the abuses within our old system, the individual coverage provision to ensure we have a viable risk pool inside insurance, and, finally, tax credits to help people purchase insurance. Subsidies are the glue that holds all of that together.

That is why a victory for the plaintiffs would be devastating for everyone, not just those who receive subsidies in healthcare.gov. The individual markets in these States would fall into a death spiral if this law was overturned. If subsidies disappear, then people can't buy coverage. If they can't buy coverage, then the law says the individual mandate in those States has to disappear. If the individual mandate disappears, then healthy people don't buy coverage and the insurance protections, such as the ban on discrimination against people with preexisting conditions, simply cannot work. The insurance reforms either vanish or rates spike to catastrophic levels for people who decide to get coverage.

Don't take my word for it. The American Hospital Association warns that ''many more people will get sick, go bankrupt or die''—or die—if the Court finds for the challengers. The health insurance industry says taking away the tax credits would ''create severely dysfunctional insurance markets'' in nearly three dozen States.

Frankly, we don't even need to talk about the detrimental effects in these States because this is about congressional intent, and the intent is clear. Sometimes when we try to figure out intent we have trouble because the people who wrote the law aren't here any longer or they have passed away. Well, there are hundreds of people who voted for this law who are still in Congress. All we have to do is ask them. There is not a single person who voted for this law who will tell us they wrote the law in a way that would result in the denial of subsidies to people who are getting health care through the State exchanges.

The plaintiffs say this is a carrot-and-stick approach; that the intention was to deny subsidies to people in States that didn't set up their own exchange as a way to force them to set up their own exchange. Well, there is not a single Member of Congress who voted for the law who says that is how it was designed.

Frankly, we don't even need to get to intent. We don't even need to survey all the people who voted for it. We just have to look at the law itself. The plaintiffs focus on one line that says that subsidies shall go to State exchanges, but they ignore another line in the law that says if States don't establish their own exchange, then the Federal exchange becomes the State exchange. That is just as plainly written as the one line that is the foundation of the case.

But the entire structure of the law relies on States that don't set up their own exchanges getting Federal subsidies. Why would we even set up a Federal exchange if there weren't going to be subsidies associated with it? There would be no customers in the exchange if the intent of the law was to deny subsidies to people who bought into Federal exchanges. We wouldn't even have a Federal exchange.

Second, we would have established the insurance protections in a fundamentally different way. We would have said insurance protections apply to States that set up State exchanges and they do not apply to States that don't establish State exchanges, because again, as I said before, without those subsidies, the insurance protections simply don't work from an actuarial basis.

But that is not how the Affordable Care Act is written. The act says the insurance protections apply nationally, regardless of whether it is a State or Federal exchange. Why is that? Because subsidies were going to flow to a State no matter what kind of exchange they established.

Lastly, when Congress has historically engaged in this kind of carrot-and-stick endeavor with States, we make it totally transparent. We lay out in the statute here is what we expect you to do, and if you don't do it, here are the consequences. We don't hide the consequences to be derived at through a Supreme Court case, as is the stated belief of the petitioners in this case.

Lastly, the plaintiffs say: Well, don't worry about it. If the Supreme Court overturns this, we will just fix it. Congress can just come back and fix that line. Well, Congress isn't fixing anything these days. We can't even keep the Department of Homeland Security open and operating. Republicans have had 6 years to provide an alternative to the Affordable Care Act. We haven't seen anything more than a memo or a press release. If the subsidies disappear, they are not coming back. Congress is not fixing this problem, and 10 million Americans will lose their coverage.

I want to finish by talking about one more story, and this is the story of a woman who lives in Westport, CT. She works as a massage therapist, but since she is self-employed she was uninsured and couldn't provide insurance for herself. Last year, when the Affordable Care Act was implemented, she found out she qualified for coverage in Connecticut and that coverage finally gave her the opportunity to see a doctor. She wrote the President and said:

> The cancer has been detected at a very early stage, which, with a 98 percent survival rate, has saved my life. Moreover, the cost of this screening and minor procedure will be far less than the cost of treating a more developed cancer. Thank you, Mr. President, for assuring the passage of this critical legislation. You have profoundly improved the quality of my life.

The facts are clear. The Affordable Care Act is working. The intent of Congress is clear: to provide subsidies to all Americans, no matter their ZIP Code. The language of the bill is clear. That leaves us with one conclusion. If the Supreme Court overturns this portion of the law, it will be a plain and simple political power play. It will usher in a new era in which the Supreme Court becomes just another legislative body. They will be calling the authors of this bill liars and replacing the authors' stated intent with their own political judgment.

For the sake of Devin and Ann and millions of others who would benefit from the Affordable Care Act and for the sake of American democracy, I hope they uphold the law.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I first wish to say to the Senator from Connecticut that this Senator agrees with him. It should never come down to this. The whole purpose of that section of the Affordable Care Act is in fact to provide insurance to as many people as we can, especially the 40 million people who for years and years have been going without insurance, and it is doing a pretty good job.

In the second year of expanding the State exchanges or the Federal exchange, as the Senator has described, lo and behold, of the 8 to 9 million nationwide, over 1 million of those 8 to 9 million are in my State of Florida. So I thank the Senator for his courage, his insight, and his clarity and his statement.

IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

Mr. President, I want to talk about S. 615. It is legislation filed last Friday, and this Senator was 1 of 11 Senators who filed it originally. There were five Republicans and six Democrats, and it was filed by the chairman and the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

This is legislation giving Congress a say with regard to a potential agreement that would be enacted in the negotiations between the United States, which includes the P5 plus Iran—over preventing Iran from having a nuclear weapon.

This Senator was assured by the Republican sponsors of this bill that the bill would not come up until after the negotiations had concluded on March 24. Obviously, this Senator would not have sponsored legislation that would try to predetermine or nix the negotiations before they had a chance to succeed.

Yesterday or the day before the majority leader filed a rule XIV to bring the process directly to the floor. It is my understanding he is intending to go to that legislation next week, but that still is almost 2 weeks before the negotiations are to conclude.

I want the negotiations to be successful. It is very important to the national security of the United States that Iran not have a nuclear weapon. That is obvious to the national security of Israel as well. Yet we are about to take up legislation that would start talking about the lifting of sanctions before an agreement has even been reached.

Well, this Senator is not going to have any part of that. Therefore, if this legislation is brought up before the negotiations conclude on March 24, this Senator will not support the efforts to proceed to the consideration of the legislation in the Senate.

It is one thing to enter into these matters of considerable national security and try to disrupt them, it is another thing looking at the consequences if these negotiations don't succeed and we can stop Iran from having a nuclear weapon, that one alternative, a very serious alternative, is war, but it is another thing to make representations to a Senator that are not fulfilled, and this Senator doesn't like it one bit.

I conclude by saying there has been a lot of commentary about the Prime Minister's speech yesterday. This Senator feels like where the Prime Minister was arguing against negotiations that are ongoing before the negotiations are concluded—I don't think that is in the interest of the United States. I don't like that one bit.

This Senator also feels that when a foreign leader comes in front of the Congress—the representatives of the American people—for what to this Senator is obvious political advantage in an election that is to take place in just 2 weeks, I don't think that is right either.

This Senator is one of the strongest supporters of Israel, and this Senator has had the privilege not only of the perspective of Armed Services but also my past service for 6 years on the Intelligence Committee.

I have visited with all of the intelligence apparatus of Israel, and it has been a seamless effort in trying to protect the interests of the United States and Israel with our intelligence apparatus. When partisan politics is injected into this, it is not good, and it is not good for the relationship.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, sadly, today the Republicans are again coming to the Senate floor—not to help the working people who work every day to make our country great—but to silence their voices.

They aren't here to reward the hard-working families that work from paycheck to paycheck just to give their children a better life and the education that they deserve. They aren't here to pass a highway bill that would support millions of jobs.

Instead, they want to hold the highway bill hostage to big polluting Canadian special interests and build the Keystone pipeline which will only create 35 permanent jobs.

They aren't here to raise the minimum wage. They aren't here to expand the child care tax credit. They aren't here to ensure equal pay for equal work. They aren't here to try to make college more affordable for middle-class families. They aren't here to help workers get health care—we know that because right now Republicans are suing to take away health care from more than 8 million Americans.

They certainly aren't here to fix our Nation's broken immigration system. If Republicans were interested in that, they would be supporting the reasonable, commonsense immigration measures proposed by President Obama that will result in indisputable economic gains for our country—raising the Nation's GDP by up to $90 billion over the next 10 years.

No, the majority in the House and Senate don't have time for any of these measures to help working families—they are too busy pursuing their latest attack on the middle class.

I oppose this resolution because it would impede one of the basic rights of America's workers: to form a union.

If enacted, this resolution would prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from implementing rules to streamline and modernize union election procedures that will ensure union elections are conducted in a more fair and efficient manner.

These employees who work so hard deserve a union elections process that is free from unnecessary delays and wasteful stall tactics.

Let me tell you a little bit about those tactics. This comes from the testimony of someone who represents unions in California.

In 2010 a petition for representation was filed for approximately 45 automobile mechanics. Even though there were well-established NLRB rules that governed the proceedings on a petition for a unit of automobile mechanics, management asked for hearings, extensions, filed objection after objection, until finally, 427 days after the petition was filed, the union was certified.

Corporations are getting the benefits of increased profits and productivity. Why should they be allowed to stall these proceedings? Why do they oppose giving these workers a voice so that they can improve their working conditions and wages?

First, let me tell you what these rules do not do: They do not mandate timetables for elections to occur. Rather, the new rules simply eliminate existing barriers that get in the way of providing both employees and employers with access to a fair election process.

These rules do not prevent employers from discussing their views on unions with workers. What these modest changes will accomplish: The new rules, which will go into effect on April 14, will reduce unnecessary litigation on issues that are not relevant to the outcome of the election. The new rules will modernize the current outdated process. In the past, employers had to send out mail through the post office, which cost time and money. The new rule will allow employers and unions to file forms electronically. It will also allow the use of more modern forms of communication to employees through cell phones and email.

Instead of standing up for workers across the country who are struggling with stagnant wages, Republicans have chosen to challenge these commonsense reforms.

The right to form a union is a right guaranteed by the National Labor Relations Act and by the First Amendment of our Constitution.

These modest changes will merely allow workers to exercise that right in a fair and efficient process in order to protect their rights, increase wages, and grow our Nation's middle class.

What is so sad is that this is just the latest attack on the middle class and their economic security. Instead of taking up more floor time going after the rights of workers, let's fight to help working families. Instead of trying to undo measures that help the middle class, let's fight to do more for them.

At a time when wages are stagnating, instead of trying to silence the voices of hard-working men and women, let's fight to empower them through collective bargaining.

I urge my colleagues to support modernization and oppose this resolution. Let's let our workers know that we hear them, that we support them, and that we will fight to make life better for our middle class families.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the NLRB's current election process has some glaring problems, contrary to what some of my Republican colleagues have claimed.

For one, the process is inefficient. In many cases across the United States, frivolous litigation and needless delays threaten the rights of workers who want to vote on union representation. Federal appellate courts have called union election delays ''inexcusable,'' ''deplorable,'' and ''egregious.'' The new reforms specifically target those systemic inefficiencies and excessive delays.

Secondly, the current system is outdated. Right now, the NLRB, employers, and unions are barred from filing forms electronically during the election process. And it does not allow for the use of modern forms of communication to employees through cell phones and emails. The updates will adapt the election procedures to few forms of technology.

Another problem is the current system is unpredictable. Right now, the election process for one region of the country could be substantially different in another region. That adds to inefficiencies and confusion. The new reforms will provide uniformity and certainty in elections across the country.

There is a clear problem here. The NLRB made modest, but important, changes to modernize and streamline the process.

Mr. President, today, we have heard a lot about the National Labor Relations Board. We have heard about employers delaying workers their right to decide on union representation. We have heard about current election process that is outdated and inefficient. But, really, this debate is about what kind of economy we envision for our country.

I believe that real, long-term economic growth is built from the middle out, not the top down. Our government has a role to play in investing in working families, making sure they have the opportunity to work hard and succeed and offering a hand to those who want to climb the economic ladder and provide a better life for themselves and their families.

Our government and our economy should be working for all families, not only the wealthiest few. Thankfully, we have had the opportunity to put some policies into place over the past few years that have pulled our economy back from the brink and have started moving it in the right direction.

But we have a whole lot more to do. Over the past few decades, for most workers wages have stayed flat or have fallen over the past five decades. That means that across our country today, too many families are struggling to make ends meet on rock-bottom wages and poor working conditions on the job.

While the middle class's share of America's prosperity is at an all-time low, the biggest corporations have posted record profits. In Congress, we should be working on ways to build an economy that works for all families, not just the wealthiest few.

Unfortunately, once again, instead of sticking up for workers, my Republican colleagues are rushing to the defense of the biggest corporations that have an interest in keeping wages low and denying workers a voice to improve their workplace.

Workers have the right to decide whether they want union representation. To ensure they are able to exercise that right, the National Labor Relations Board helps make sure workers have a free and fair up-or-down vote.

So the NLRB was absolutely right to carry out its mission to review and streamline its election process to bring down these barriers that prevent workers from getting a fair vote. After a rigorous review process, in December of last year the NLRB made reforms to their election process.

These updates will make modest, but important, changes to modernize and streamline the process. They will reduce unnecessary litigation on issues that won't affect the outcome of the election. The new reforms will bring the election process into the 21st century by letting employers and unions file forms electronically. They also will allow the use of more modern forms of communication to employees through cell phones and email. These reforms will simply standardize the election process across regions, which will help all sides know what to expect during the process.

But some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle take great offense to these modest changes. Instead of standing for workers across the country who are struggling with stagnant wages and poor working conditions, Republicans have chosen to challenge these common sense reforms with a resolution of disapproval. Instead of talking about how to create jobs and help working families who are struggling with stagnant wages, Republicans would rather roll back workers' rights to gain a voice at the bargaining table.

Let's be clear. This rule is about reducing unnecessary litigation. And using cell phones and email to transmit information in 2015 is just common sense.

By law, workers have the right to join a union so they can have a voice in the workplace. That is not an ambush.

It is their right, as guaranteed by the National Labor Relations Act and by the First Amendment of our Constitution. So when workers want to vote on whether to form a union, they are not looking for special treatment. They are simply trying to exercise their basic rights. We as a nation should not turn our backs on empowering workers through collective bargaining, especially because that is the very thing that helped so many workers climb into the middle class.

In Congress, we need to continue to work to expand economic security for more families. That should be our mission to move our country forward. This resolution would simply be a step backward.

Instead of attacking workers who just want a voice in the workplace, I hope my colleagues will reject this resolution. I hope Republicans will join Democrats and work with us to protect workers' rights, increase wages, and grow our Nation's middle class.

I truly hope we can break through the gridlock and work together on policies that create jobs, expand economic security, and generate broad-based economic growth for workers and families—not just the wealthiest few.

Mr. NELSON. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JOHNSON. I yield back all our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time for debate having been expired, the joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 67 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Alexander	Blunt	Capito
Ayotte	Boozman	Cassidy
Barrasso	Burr	Coats
Cochran	Hatch	Risch
Collins	Heller	Roberts
Corker	Hoeven	Rounds
Cornyn	Inhofe	Rubio
Cotton	Isakson	Sasse
Crapo	Johnson	Scott
Cruz	Kirk	Sessions
Daines	Lankford	Shelby
Enzi	Lee	Sullivan
Ernst	McCain	Thune
Fischer	McConnell	Tillis
Flake	Moran	Toomey
Gardner	Paul	Vitter
Graham	Perdue	Wicker
Grassley	Portman	

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Reid
Booker	King	Sanders
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schatz
Brown	Leahy	Schumer
Cantwell	Manchin	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	McCaskill	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	
Heinrich	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—1

Donnelly

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 8) was passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 8

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures (published at 79 Fed. Reg. 74308 (December 15, 2014)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the veto message on S. 1, the cloture motion be withdrawn, and at 2:30 p.m. today the Senate vote on the question of overriding the President's veto of S. 1, the Keystone bill, with the time equally divided in the usual form.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Is there any way the time could be changed from 2:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m., otherwise there are four people who may miss their planes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the majority leader so modify his request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. The request is that the vote occur when?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At 2:20 p.m. instead of 2:30 p.m.

Mr. MCCONNELL. That is fine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the vote on the veto override will occur at 2:20 p.m. Senators should be in the Chamber and prepared to vote from their seats. This will be the last rollcall vote of the week.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE APPROVAL ACT—VETO

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the veto message on S.1, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Veto message to accompany S. 1, a bill to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 2:20 p.m. will be equally divided.

Who yields time?

If no one yields time, the time will be divided equally.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary order at this time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is on the veto message to accompany S. 1.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, if we could have order in the Senate, I wish to open debate on S. 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in order.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Presiding Officer.

Senator CANTWELL will be comanaging this bill, and I thank her very much for her strong leadership.

The vote that is going to occur at 2:20 p.m. is a very important vote.

I rise today to oppose the attempt to override President Obama's veto message of S. 1, the very first bill the Senate majority brought to the floor.

As I look at this bill, it says to me that the only people who are helped by this bill are the big Canadian special oil interests.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, the Senate is not in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in order.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the Keystone Pipeline is presented as something that is going really to help this economy and help oil prices. I think the only thing it helps, frankly, are the special interests in Canada—the special big oil interests—which, by the way, will carry the filthiest, dirtiest, tar sands oil into our great Nation.

If we look at the history of the tar sands, we will find that misery follows the tar sands. We still have terrible problems in Michigan and Arkansas because there was a spill of this dirty, filthy oil, and they cannot clean it up because it is so, so difficult to clean.

This is a picture of a tar sands spill in 2013 in Mayflower, AR. That has not been cleaned up because this is tar sands oil. We had a spill in Michigan, and we know that since 2011 they have not been able to clean up that spill. So why would we build a pipeline to bring dirty, filthy oil into our great Nation and our great communities when we know the dangers?

Mr. President, I ask again that there be order in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in order.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I know Senators have an opportunity to talk to one another, and I appreciate that, but it is hard to make our thoughts come out right when there is so much talking in the Senate.

I thank the Presiding Officer very much.

Here is the deal. Why on Earth would the Republicans make the first bill a bill to help Canadian special oil interests that will bring in tar sands oil and has caused terrible problems for our communities? It is the hardest oil to clean up. Why would they do it, and why would they go against public opinion?

A recent ABC News/Washington Post poll showed that 61 percent of Americans support the President's position on this pipeline, which is: Don't stop the process. Keep it going. Let's see what this does to our people and to our communities.

I spend a lot of time on environmental issues, and I am saying to you that as you look at the environmental laws of our great Nation, we find that they brought such a better quality of life to people. We can turn that around if we decide at this point—there are all of the challenges we face in our communities, such as, the challenges of lung disease, the challenges of heart disease, and the challenges of stroke. That is what happens from the pollution we get from the tar sands oil.

Earlier I said that misery follows tar sands. I met with the Canadian people who live near the tar sands excavation site. They have terrible rates of cancer.

The bottom line is that because of climate change—and we see it all around us. Just the other day we learned a remote Alaskan village has to be relocated due to climate. We know the impact of this dirty tar sands oil on that, and we know what happens when the tar sands pipeline spills. We know all of these things.

I think the President is right by allowing the process to continue. He was very right to veto this bill, and I hope we will have enough votes to sustain his veto.

I yield the floor for my friend Senator CANTWELL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues not to override the President's veto of this special-interest piece of legislation.

I wish to thank my colleague from California for her leadership on this issue and for her constant involvement in making sure that national environmental and safety standards are adhered to. She has been a great advocate throughout this process and I very much appreciate her voice as we close the debate about the Keystone Pipeline legislation.

This bill to approve the Keystone Pipeline undermines a well-established process for determining what is in the national interests. If we overrode the President's veto, we would be subverting safety and environmental standards that are important to the American people.

I am glad the President vetoed this legislation, and I urge my colleagues not to override the decision. I think the President's veto message said it best:

> Through this bill, the United States Congress attempts to circumvent longstanding and proven processes for determining whether or not building and operating a cross-border pipeline serves the national interest.
>
> . . . And because this act of Congress conflicts with established executive branch procedures and cuts short thorough consideration of issues that could bear on our national interest—including our security, safety, and environment—it has earned my veto.

So the President sums it up pretty much, I think. Why circumvent the process? The people who have been advocates for the pipeline have been circumventing the process all the way through. They circumvented the process by not going through the utility commission in their State, the public utility commission, and instead wrote legislation around that. That legislation has been challenged in court. The rest of it has been an enormous process here in Washington, DC. While the company was negotiating with the State Department, it was also supporting efforts to circumvent that process at the State Department and just get a rubberstamp on their permit, saying ''project approved.'' I think this project, as does every other project in the United States of America, should follow the rules.

While we spent the better part of January considering this legislation, there were other events that transpired. We heard a lot about the routing and that it was a settled matter. Since January, it is worth noting that Nebraska landowners have taken new steps to defend their rights as private property owners. On January 9, 2015, the Nebraska Supreme Court upheld a special carveout of TransCanada to site the Keystone XL Pipeline. They did this even though four judges who addressed the question said this carveout was unconstitutional.

After the setback, several landowners whose property would be seized along the proposed route filed a new suit and hopefully stopped the seizure of their land. Last month—just this past February—two Nebraska district courts have issued temporary injunctions enjoining TransCanada's effort to acquire rights of way to support the Keystone Pipeline by eminent domain. So at this moment here in the Senate, with the vote imminent, the pipeline's route through Nebraska is still in doubt because the new lawsuit challenges the Governor's ability to approve it.

It is also worth noting that South Dakota will hold a new hearing on the proposed route of the pipeline through their State in May. At this time we simply don't know whether South Dakota will make the same decision it did when it first approved the route 3 years ago. The situation in Nebraska and South Dakota makes it clear that even if this bill were to become law, the Keystone Pipeline will not get built any time soon.

I know my colleagues would like to rush the process, and they will talk about all of the various steps in the process where this project got delayed. But who said building a pipeline through the United States of America by a foreign interest should get ''expedited approval'' stamped on it from the very beginning? That is what they have done. They have circumvented what is the process in the State, which should have been through the utilities commission, and they have tried to circumvent the process here in the Senate.

So I hope we will not override the President's veto, but give the President of the United States the ability to still consider these national interests of the environment and security.

We had a pretty robust debate here on the Senate floor, and many of the issues that would have been important my colleagues voted to say we shouldn't consider—environmental issues. So I get that on the other side of the aisle, there are people who want to give a pass-go, a speedy permit to this process. I urge my colleagues to not override the President, but allow him to do the homework that is needed on security, on the environment, and on making sure that due process is followed.

I ask my colleagues to not override the President's veto.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I came here to speak on another topic, but let me interject in light of the comments from our colleagues from across the aisle on the Keystone XL Pipeline. Everybody says, on a bipartisan basis, We want job-creating legislation. We want to facilitate the creation of new jobs here in America. When it comes to voting, our friends across the aisle seem to be stuck on voting against job-creating legislation, because our State Department has estimated that as many as 42,000 jobs would be created by the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

The thing that mystifies me the most about this debate is at last count, we had roughly 2.5 million miles of pipelines crisscrossing America. I have come to the floor before and I have suggested that people might want to do a search on their laptop or on their tablet for oil and gas pipelines, and they will see a map of those pipelines, and it looks like a spaghetti bowl, because they are everywhere. Indeed, we also know this is the most efficient and the safest way to transport natural gas and crude as well.

So I remain mystified by the fact that the President and many in his party seem determined to try to kill what is clearly job-creating, energy-

providing legislation that would be from a friendly source.

THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH TO CONGRESS

Mr. President, turning to the Middle East, yesterday, as we all know, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered what can only be characterized as a powerful and important message about the common threats to the national security of Israel and the United States. Again, only in Washington would a speech such as this be controversial. I think most people would be concerned enough about the subject matter of what he talked about that they would want to hear the insights and information he delivered in that speech. It was a powerful and important message, and really a call to arms for the United States and our allies in Israel against the threat of radical Islam, particularly in the form of Iranian terrorism.

His words reminded me why—as I know many on both sides of the aisle agree—we have no closer Middle Eastern ally than Israel. Unfortunately, his speech also reinforced the belief I have held for many years that we have no bigger adversary in the Middle East than Iran.

The cold, hard truth is that today, more than ever, Iran is a terror-sponsoring theocracy that is actively pursuing a nuclear weapons capability and trying to establish an Iranian axis of power from Tehran to Damascus to Beirut to Gaza. Iran claims a right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes, but its leaders have routinely lied and attempted to deceive inspectors in the past as a matter of standard practice.

Prime Minister Netanyahu also reminded all of us whose memories might have dimmed that over the last 30 years, Iran has engaged in a war by proxy against the United States and our allies. I was reminded by a member of my staff of an article that came out in 2011 in the National Journal. The heading of it is: ''Record Number of U.S. Troops Killed by Iranian Weapons.'' It tells the tragic story that June of 2011 was the deadliest month in 2 years for U.S. troops, with 14 killed. These were primarily by Iranian-backed militias using very deadly weapons called explosively formed penetrators that could literally cut through the steel in our humvees and other armored vehicles like a hot knife through butter.

So given this track record that we were reminded of by the Prime Minister yesterday, and just the remainder that I have tried to provide here with this article, do we really believe that Iran would use its nuclear weapons in a way that would not make the world more unstable and less safe? Do we really believe that Iran, were they to get a nuclear weapon, won't give it to the same proxies that have been killing Americans and our allies in the Middle East and around the world, including the Shia militia, Hezbollah, Hamas, or the dictator in Syria, Bashar al-Assad, who has now killed roughly 200,000 of his own civilians in a civil war, and with almost 13 million people displaced not only internally, within Syria, but in neighboring countries and the like?

So as the P5+1 negotiations involving the United States continue, there remain serious questions about Iran's true nuclear intentions and about whether the deal the Obama administration is eagerly finalizing—whether it will cement Iran's status as a nuclear threshold nation. Based on some of the details we know so far, many of which are being held very close to the vest by the administration and not being made known to Congress, much less the American people, the President's deal would abandon longstanding U.S. policy of preventing a nuclear-armed Iran, period.

I remember when the former Secretary of Defense, Senator Hagel at the time—he became the Secretary of the Department of Defense—when asked about our policy toward Iran, stumbled a little bit in his answer but ultimately said that containment was not our policy. Our policy was to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. But it appears now that the deal that is being negotiated on the President's behalf by Secretary Kerry would abandon that longstanding U.S. policy of preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. Instead, it would opt for a feeble 10-year containment plan. Such an outcome would be both dangerous and unacceptable.

So while I was glad to hear Leader MCCONNELL announce yesterday that the Senate will soon consider bipartisan legislation that would give Congress the authority to approve any agreement that is reached by the administration, that was quickly replaced by confusion when I read that some of my Democratic colleagues, who have shown great courage in urging that Congress have a role in approving any negotiated agreement between Tehran and the White House—now they are suggesting they might filibuster their own bill and the vote we are going to have at 5:30 on Monday.

Yesterday, for example, one of our colleagues who had been a key sponsor of this bipartisan legislation said that he was outraged—outraged—that the Senate would vote on the very bill that bears his name. He indicated his outrage with the Senate not for voting on the substance of the bill, but basically because of the timing. He thought the timing was wrong. In other words, he opposes voting on his own bill because of the Senate procedures and the process. I don't know how we explain that back home. I couldn't sell that to my constituents in Texas, saying, I am a sponsor of this legislation; I think it is important and the right thing to do, but I am going to vote against it because I disagree with the majority leader's timing, or the procedure by which the majority leader is bringing this to a vote and debate in the U.S. Senate. Good luck explaining that to our constituents.

I suspect who is also not concerned with the process are the Israeli Government and the millions of innocent civilians who stared down an Iranian regime bent upon their annihilation every day. I suspect they could care less about the process. What they want to do is to stop Iran from getting the bomb.

So I sincerely hope everyone here who has supported Israel and embraced a policy of blocking Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon will calm down and work together and consider this important piece of legislation. Because as we heard yesterday, again, from Prime Minister Netanyahu, it has profound implications for both our national security as well as the security of our best ally in the Middle East.

Before the Obama administration initiated these misguided negotiations, Congress had created incredible economic pressure on the regime in Tehran through sanctions backed by the threat of military action. It also has helped, frankly, that America is now producing more oil, and the price of oil is now down around $50 a barrel, more or less. That has put incredible financial pressure on Tehran itself, because they have basically had to finance their terrorist ambitions around the world through these various proxies by use of high oil prices. But we had imposed tremendous sanctions on Tehran, which, of course, the administration is now in the process of rolling back.

I believe an approach of tough sanctions is one we must return to as quickly as possible. The President and some of his friends have suggested it is either this deal or war. That is a false choice. That is not true. It is either this deal or tougher sanctions, sanctions designed along with the credible threat of military action if Tehran continues on its path to get a nuclear weapon that I believe will ultimately have the best chance of success and deter them from getting it.

The concept of good-faith negotiation, though, strikes me as a little implausible when you are dealing with the rogue regime and state-sponsored terrorism. We simply cannot trust the Iranian leadership with nuclear weapons. Yet, sadly, the President seems to be traveling down a path to secure what he views as a legacy foreign policy accomplishment when he should be implementing an Iran policy that would best safeguard America and our allies for years to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, protecting the President's veto of the Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act is about protecting the review process for this project. The President deserves to have all of the input from the different agencies delivered to him so he can make his decision.

Today in the vote that we will be having shortly, we are saying the

President should be able to exercise his prerogative to review the pipeline and to decide whether it is in the national interest to have this pipeline constructed through the United States of America. But we are also protecting his prerogative to decide in the end, because this is a pipeline that should be rejected on its merits.

The pipeline fails the test on job creation. After it is built, it will only have 35 to 40 permanent jobs that the United States will have on its soil. Meanwhile, we should be having a debate about the wind production tax credit because if we extended that, we would keep 30,000 people working permanently here in the United States, as this wind revolution continues to explode. Last year, there were 5,000 megawatts of solar energy installed in the United States. That is like five huge powerplants. This year 7,500 megawatts, at least, of solar are going to be installed in the United States. And next year 10,000 megawatts, at least, in solar are going to be installed. But that tax break is expiring at the end of 2016. You would think there would be an urgency here on the floor of the Senate to debate the wind tax break and the solar tax break which will create upwards of 250,000 jobs in the United States.

We already have 175,000 people working in the solar industry, but there is no urgency to take up wind and solar. But a pipeline from Canada taking the dirtiest oil in the world, tar sands—tar. Think about that, tar. The tar has to be actually melted down so it can be put into a pipeline. It is tar, the dirtiest oil in the world, and then a pipeline like a straw through the United States of America, built right down to Port Arthur, TX

What is so unique about Port Arthur, TX? I will tell you right now. It is a tax-free export zone, and so there is the plan for the Canadians—build a pipeline like a straw through the United States, right down to a tax-free export zone, and then get that oil out of the United States of America.

Why is that? I will tell you right now that the price for oil in the United States is now $12 less than it is if you can get it out onto the global market. Per barrel, $12 less. You don't have to go to Harvard Business School to get a degree to put that business plan on a 3-by-5 card. Get it out of the United States, and you will make $12 a barrel more.

The advocates for the pipeline say that is not going to happen. That is why I made the amendment on the Senate floor. The oil will not be exported. If we are going to take all of the environmental risks, then we should receive the benefits of the oil being here in the United States.

Why is that important? It is important for this reason: We are—the United States is—the largest importer of oil in the world. China does not import as much oil as we do. We are the leader. You might see these ads on television where the American Petroleum Institute and other oil companies advertise that with regard to what a great job we are doing in producing more oil in the United States. And we are producing more oil in the United States. Let's take note of that. The truth is we are still 5 million barrels a day short. This pipeline will be moving maybe 800,000 barrels of oil from Canada right through the United States, which could reduce our dependence upon imported oil, but it is going through a tax-free export zone. So we know what is going to happen.

Why is that important? It is important because we export young men and women in uniform every single day to the Middle East to protect the ships with oil coming into the United States that we import from Kuwait, from Saudi Arabia, from the other countries around the world. So why would we be exporting oil out of the United States while we are exporting young men and women in uniform out of America who then protect oil coming back in from countries in the Middle East? That makes no sense.

That is what this pipeline is all about. It is all about getting some benefit for the United States. Climate change, big loser. It is the dirtiest oil in the world. The Canadians actually escape paying the tax in the event that there is an oilspill. They don't have to pay into that fund, either, that American oil companies do. And then notwithstanding their ads on television that say they are going to keep the oil in the United States, they bitterly object to any provision being voted here that keeps it in the United States while they run ads on television saying North American energy independence, that is their greatest goal.

You can't have it both ways. Life is not like that. Either your ads are saying what your goal is, North American energy independence, or you are going to export it. But you can't have it both ways, do one thing on television and then another thing in real life and say to the Senate, please don't put any restrictions on our ability to export this oil. That is the challenge for us here.

By the way, one other thing. If we keep the oil here in the United States, that is going to keep a pressure to keep the price of gasoline lower, because the more oil we have here in the United States, the lower the price of gasoline. Every time there is a 1-penny reduction in the price of gasoline, it is $1 billion that goes into the pocket of consumers in America. One penny equals a billion. So when the price of oil, gasoline, drops 10 cents, that is $10 billion. When it drops $1, that is $100 billion. It is down by $1. It is down by more than $1 over where it was this time last year. That is a lot of money that goes as a stimulus into the pockets of Americans who can spend it on other things. But this oil is going out of the country, so the pressure it would keep to help our manufacturers, to help our drivers, is not going to exist. It fails on each one of these items: One, it gets exported. Two, they don't pay their full taxes, or any at all, to the Oilspill Liability Fund. We don't keep it here to keep the price lower for American drivers. I understand the Canadians want to make the most money by getting out of the open market. That hurts you. That hurts us. That hurts our drivers. That is the challenge.

It fails each one of these tests. It fails on the climate change. It fails on the export test because it goes overseas. It fails on the tax issue. It fails on the process issue of trying to short-circuit the President's prerogative to be able to consider this in a comprehensive sense.

The President has correctly vetoed this bill. The President is standing up for the American taxpayer, for the American consumer, for the environment of the United States. He is asking the right questions. He is doing the right things.

I urge my colleagues here on the Senate floor, within the next hour, to vote to sustain the veto of President Obama on this policy which does not advance the best interests of the United States of America.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARKEY. I ask unanimous consent that all time within the quorum call be divided equally between the two sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise to speak about human sex trafficking—an issue that plagues the world and our Nation. Today I join my colleagues, Senators CORNYN, WYDEN, KLOBUCHAR, and KING, in supporting legislation to help fight this evil and to stop it from spreading. Sex trafficking is real. It is affecting millions of people around the world. We should not tolerate it, and we cannot turn a blind eye. This modern-day form of slavery has continued to grow in the shadows all around us. It is time to take action.

The scale of this problem is difficult to calculate; yet many estimates, including those from the United Nations and various human rights organizations, show that millions of human

beings are being trafficked every year. Meanwhile, the criminals who force these victims into slavery profit to the tune of $32 billion annually.

Mr. President, 300,000 children right here in the United States are at risk of becoming victims of this vile practice. Teenagers are the primary targets. These kids are being sold into a life of physical and emotional abuse. Often they are runaways who flee violent households looking for a way out. Women and girls represent a disproportionate amount of those trafficked around the world, but this does affect all of us. The pain and suffering victims experience is hard to describe in words. Simply put, it is evil. We must do more to stop this plague, and our work begins by setting a clear example.

This Sunday we will commemorate International Women's Day. As we celebrate the progress women have made here in the United States and around the world, we must also use this moment to remind ourselves of the work that still needs to be done.

As I mentioned, Senator CORNYN and I, along with several of our colleagues, introduced a new bill to address this issue. This legislation would set up a deficit-neutral fund to support people abused by sex trafficking. Through enhanced reporting and mechanisms that would reduce demand, this bill can serve as the next step in providing care for victims of trafficking and child pornography. Furthermore, Senator CORNYN's bill protects victims in courts by treating the traffickers as violent criminals. By labeling traffickers in this way, convicts can now be detained while they await their judicial proceeding. Funding for the bill comes from increased fines placed on those convicted of trafficking.

While nothing can erase the pain inflicted on these victims, we must do what we can to make a difference. I encourage all of my colleagues to join in this effort and stand against this vile practice.

A number of my colleagues have other bills as well. We should take the time to consider solutions that are offered by all of them. Our government has a responsibility to stand up and to act for those whose voices grow weak in the shadows of this imperfect world. This is our moment to do something. These victims do not have time to wait. We must act now.

I ask unanimous consent that all time spent in quorum calls before the 2:20 vote this afternoon be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FISCHER. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today is the 150th anniversary of the second inaugural address of President Abraham Lincoln. Later on this evening there will be an observance in the Rotunda sponsored by the Illinois State Society and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation to observe this anniversary. My colleague Senator KIRK is scheduled to be there; former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood; Stephen Lang; and some of the most distinguished Lincoln scholars in America: Dr. Edna Greene Medford, Chief Justice Frank Williams of Rhode Island, and the most prolific Lincoln writer I know, Harold Holzer from New York.

There have been 15,000 books written about Abraham Lincoln. I think Mr. Holzer has written about half of them. He is not only prolific, but he is profound in his observations about this great man's life. He was joined by Edith Holzer, his wife, who stood by him through his Lincoln travails.

Historians disagree on whether the second inaugural address of Abraham Lincoln was his greatest speech or his second greatest. I am in the latter camp. I accord that highest honor to the Gettysburg Address for its brevity as well as its inspiration, but both speeches are immortal.

I am not a Lincoln scholar, but my life as a Springfield attorney, elected Congressman, and Senator from Illinois has taken me to some of the same streets and same buildings that were part of Abraham Lincoln's life.

Although he tried mightily to be elected to the Senate in 1858, Abraham Lincoln fell short. It was in that campaign of 1858 that he debated Stephen Douglas. At the end of the debates and when the votes were cast, Stephen Douglas was the victor in that senatorial contest in Illinois. Of course, the same two men faced off again 2 years later for the Presidency. But that Senate seat, the Douglas seat that was contested in the 1858 election, is the same seat I am honored to hold today in the State of Illinois.

We can feel Abraham Lincoln's presence in this building, particularly near the Senate Chamber. There is a magnificent room off the Senate Chamber known as the President's Room. It is one of the historic rooms in the Capitol.

It was in this room in April of 1862 that President Lincoln signed the bill outlawing slavery in the District of Columbia. It was in this room in 1965 that Dr. Martin Luther King and other leaders watched Lyndon Baines Johnson sign the Voting Rights Act, prohibiting discrimination at the polls—100 years after Lincoln's death. It was in the same room on January 20, 2009, that a newly inaugurated President Barack Obama signed his first official documents as President of the United States. And it was in this room that Abraham Lincoln worked long into the night before his second inauguration, signing and vetoing bills passed in the final hours of one Congress, before the next Congress was sworn in. Imagine that, Congress leaving important business until the last minute.

President Lincoln was working in the President's Room on March 3, 1865, when he received an urgent message from GEN Ulysses Grant. GEN Robert E. Lee was seeking a peace conference to negotiate an end to the war. Grant asked the President, his Commander in Chief: What should I reply?

After conferring with Secretary of War Stanton and Secretary of State Seward, Lincoln sent word back to General Grant that he was not to meet with Lee ''unless it be for the capitulation of General Lee's army.''

The following day, in his second inaugural address, March 4, 1865, Lincoln explained more fully why he had refused Lee's request for a negotiated settlement. He said: ''With firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in.''

Less than 5 weeks later, General Lee surrendered unconditionally at Appomattox. The cannons would fall silent. After 4 years of horrific death and destruction, the worst war and the most costly war in the history of the United States was over. But the work was not.

President Lincoln told us in his second inaugural address the urgent challenge is not only to win the war, but to win the peace by achieving true reconciliation. Another President could certainly have been vindictive toward the South—that had been the practice of the day and it is what many people wanted in the North—but Lincoln understood that if America remained divided after the hostilities ceased, then the terrible sacrifices of war would have been in vain. So he counseled in that immortal inaugural address: ''With malice toward none, charity for all.'' Let us bind up the wounds here, and not inflict new injuries. That was how the Union would be reunited and persevere.

Six weeks later after this speech, Abraham Lincoln was cut down by an assassin's bullet. He was, in fact, the last casualty of America's war within its own boundaries.

That address, that second inaugural address, remains the second shortest in the Nation's history, only 703 words. Lincoln spoke so briefly that many people were still arriving after he finished. As at Gettysburg, some listeners were mystified by the President's brevity. Few understood the genius of the speech at that moment. Frederick Douglass was an exception. He said to Mr. Lincoln afterwards, ''Mr. Lincoln, that was a sacred effort.''

In the century and a half since his death, we have made uneven progress in achieving the kind of America Abraham Lincoln believed we could be. A

full century passed before African Americans in the South were guaranteed the most basic right of citizenship, the right to vote.

If President Lincoln were here today, I think he would be happy to see how our Union has survived. I think he would be pleased and astonished to see that America had elected and reelected another lanky lawyer from Illinois, and an African American, to be our President.

I also think he would challenge us. When our government ''of the people, by the people, for the people'' is under threat from a cabal of secret, special interest money that can buy elections, I think President Lincoln would tell us we have unfinished work to do.

When we neglect to bind up the wounds of war of even one soldier returning from war, and neglect to care for widows and orphans, Lincoln would have reminded us that we have unfinished work to do.

And when the right to vote is under systematic attack in so many States for obvious political reasons, there is still work to do.

When Americans who work long and hard can't earn enough to provide for their families, I think Lincoln would tell us to put our shoulder to the plough and finish the work of creating a genuine opportunity for all Americans.

We can see in the second inaugural and in the Gettysburg Address one reason that Abraham Lincoln remains our greatest President. He shows us that America is capable of constant progress toward our professed creed. We can love our country and be determined to make it better.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BARTHOLOMAY

Mr. President, even by Chicago standards, this has been some winter. From Boston to Birmingham, AL, tens of millions of Americans have been clobbered this winter by record snowfalls. In fact, we are heading for the exits in Washington this afternoon with the threat of another winter storm.

That may be why so many of us are so happy this week is finally here and we can literally count the days until spring training of baseball begins. In cities throughout the Sun Belt, mighty Casey is smiling again. More than Punxsutawney Phil or the sighting of the first robin, spring training for many of us marks the unofficial arrival of spring.

Few people on Earth are happier about the start of the baseball season than Bill Bartholomay, a man who has done so much for the cities of Chicago and Atlanta, for the sport of baseball, and for our Nation.

Bill Bartholomay has achieved more in his one life than many talented people in five. He is phenomenally successful as an entrepreneur, and he has built some of the most successful insurance brokerage firms in the world. Bill has owned a restaurant, a candy company, and a chain of toy stores.

He helped a friend and business partner by the name of Ted Turner transform CNN from an upstart news station to one of the most powerful news organizations in the world.

Bill Bartholomay is more than a successful businessman, he is a principled civic leader and a true philanthropist. On top of all that, he is chairman emeritus of the Atlanta Braves. He is a man who half a century ago, with support from leaders, including the father of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., brought Major League Baseball to America's Deep South. What a life.

In 1962, Bill Bartholomay and a group of investors bought the Milwaukee Braves. The Braves roster then included a lot of great legendary ballplayers. Among them was a young catcher with a rocket for an arm whose mother had to sign his first major league contract because he hadn't reached the age of 21. His name was Joe Torre. But the Braves greatest player then and ever was a man named Henry Aaron, ''Hammerin' Hank.''

In 1966, Bill Bartholomay and his partners moved the Braves from Milwaukee to Atlanta. Here is something that will do your heart good. Go to YouTube and watch the video of that magic night, April 8, 1974, when Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's record to become baseball's all-time home-run champ, a record he would hold for 33 years. For anyone under the age of 50, it may be impossible now to fully appreciate what that moment meant.

It was 6 years almost to the day after Dr. King's assassination. For more than a year, as Hank Aaron had closed in on Babe Ruth's fabled record of 714 home runs, he had been cheered by many, but also subjected to ugly racist threats and taunts. There were people who just seethed at the idea that Babe Ruth's immortal record would be broken by a Black baseball player.

Years later, Hank Aaron would acknowledge that the anger and the jeers wore on him. They worried Bill Bartholomay too.

So watch that clip on YouTube, April 8, 1974. It was the Braves home opener against the Los Angeles Dodgers. More than 53,000 fans were standing for that great moment—a record crowd.

It is the fourth inning. Henry ''Hank'' Aaron is up at bat. The count is 1 and 0. And then it happens: Aaron swings and smashes the ball over the center field fence.

The fans roar. Fireworks fill the sky over the stadium. As Aaron rounds the bases, the Dodgers infielders reach out to shake his hand.

He crosses homeplate, surrounded by teammates, his beaming wife, and parents. And standing right next to him was Bill Bartholomay.

It had been a dozen years since Bill and his partners had bought the Braves and 8 years since they moved to Atlanta. Part of their reason for moving the Braves to Atlanta was because Atlanta was working hard in the 1960s to become the leading city of the new South, a city that would move beyond the old legacy of Jim Crow to a new era.

Leaders, including Dr. King, believed that Major League Baseball could help to create that new Atlanta, and Bill Bartholomay and his partners wanted to be part of that dream. Eight years after he moved the team to Atlanta, there he stood with baseball's new home-run king, a man who had started his career in the old Negro League, who had just broken the most revered record in Major League Baseball and who would become a symbol of immense pride for Atlanta and all of America. That was one of the many great moments for the Braves under Bill Bartholomay.

Since he moved the team to Atlanta in 1966, Bill has witnessed the Braves winning 16 division championships, including a record-setting 14 in a row, 5 National League pennants. And in 1995 the Braves went all the way, winning the World Series.

Bill no longer owns the Braves, but he is still closely connected to the team and has served as the chairman emeritus since 2003. He is an active member of the MLB owners group.

Bill Bartholomay grew up in Illinois in a family where his father and grandfather had made good money in the insurance brokerage business. He was the second of two boys, and he grew up in Winnetka, IL, just outside of Chicago, in a big house. The Bartholomay family were friends with both the Wrigley family, who owned the Chicago Cubs, and the Comiskey family, who owned the White Sox.

As far back as he can remember, Bill loved baseball and so did his mom. They used to go to Cubs games together.

At North Shore Country Day School, his eighth grade phys ed instructor thought Bill loved baseball a little too much. He sent home a report card that said:

> Billy is very cooperative in play activities. While his ability is not great, he makes up to a large degree by his enthusiasm and interest. My greatest concern with him is that he seems to borrow much of his ideas of conduct from professional baseball.

That teacher needn't have worried. The lessons of baseball have served Bill Bartholomay very well. They have inspired and shaped his entire amazing life.

One of Bill's favorite sayings is: ''Start strong, finish strong and play all nine innings.'' Translation: Give it everything you have got—no half measures.

That attitude has enabled Bill to build or even help build a number of powerful insurance brokerage firms, along with other diverse businesses.

In 2003, he became vice chairman of Willis Group Holdings, one of the largest insurance brokers in the world. He increased their presence in Chicago to the point where they became the regional headquarters of what was formerly known as Sears Tower, now

known as the Willis Tower. Today that office anchors Chicago's place as a first-rate place to operate a global company.

Bill is more than a businessman, more than a man of baseball; he is a civic leader as well. In the early 1980s, then-Chicago mayor, the late James Byrne, asked Bill to serve on the park commission, overseeing Chicago's 400 parks. Bill never said no to public service. So even though he had five teenaged kids and a number of businesses, he said he would serve for 1 year. He ended up serving for 23 years, including many as commission chairman.

All told, three of Chicago's mayors recognized Bill's talents as a bridge builder in Chicago. He made sure the commission focused not only on the wealthy parts of the city but all of the city.

Bill created a charitable foundation and he has helped to make it work and helped millions of others. He is a generous man and he is generous in praise of others.

I wish to give a short story that I read when I was reading a book one day and stumbled on this little episode in Bill's life that really tells a story. It is a story about another baseball legend, a man by the name of Satchel Paige, who may have been the best baseball pitcher ever. He was an American treasure.

He was a star in the Negro Leagues during the Jim Crow era. He later became the first African-American pitcher in the American League and the first Negro League player elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

He played for an astonishing 250 teams in his 40-year career. He used to pitch year around, often on back-to-back days. He hurled exhibition games on his day off. He spent the winter months playing in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico.

In 1968 Satchel Paige was 62 years old, and despite all the time he had played in baseball, he hadn't played long enough to qualify for a pension. He fell 6 months short. So Satchel Paige sent a letter to every Major League Baseball team asking them if they would consider hiring him as a coach, and if they would for 6 months, he would qualify for a pension.

Well, you can guess who replied. It was Bill Bartholomay. Bill Bartholomay, in a real true act of kindness, said: ''Baseball would have been guilty of negligence should it not assure this legendary figure a place in the pension plan.''

Bill made sure Satchel Paige got his pension. He hired him to be the Braves' pitcher-coach-trainer just long enough for him to meet his pension needs. In case there was any doubt about what he was doing, he assigned Satchel Paige the number 65, the age at which his retirement salary would kick in.

But there was another reason the Braves hired Satchel Paige. That summer—the summer of 1968—riots were raging and cities were burning across America in the wake of Dr. King's assassination. Bill Bartholomay believed that having a bridge builder such as Satchel Paige might help diffuse tensions in Atlanta, and he was right.

Satchel did that partly by signing autographs and spending time with fans and serving as a good will ambassador. Even though his title was trainer, what Satchel Paige really wanted to do, even at age 62, was pitch. The club didn't care for the idea. They were afraid his eyesight wasn't good enough and a line drive might knock him off the mound, but Satchel insisted. He said he could tell by the crack of the bat where the ball was headed.

In 1969, Satchel Paige pitched a couple of innings in an exhibition game for the Braves' highest level minor league team, the Triple-A Richmond team. So picture this: Satchel Paige on the mound beaming, and who steps up to the plate? Hank Aaron. The best pitcher in baseball history against the best hitter.

Strike one, strike two, and finally Hank Aaron swings hard, gets a piece of the ball and pops out to third. Old Satchel still had it.

In his 1966 Hall of Fame induction speech, Ted Williams urged the inclusion of Negro League players to the Hall of Fame. Satchel Paige was elected as the first Negro League player to be inducted.

Satchel Paige once said: ''Ain't no man can avoid being born average, but there ain't no man got to be common.''

Bill Bartholomay has led an uncommonly good life as a business leader, as a pioneer in baseball, as a civic leader, as a philanthropist, and as a man who sensed in his lifetime an opportunity to build bridges in America and make us a better nation through the game of baseball and through the integration of that sport. He served the cities of Chicago and Atlanta in an extraordinary way, but he served America as well. He proved his old phys ed instructor from grade school wrong by showing that the rules of baseball are pretty good rules for life after all.

On this day, as we start spring training and a new baseball season, I wish the very best to the very best—Bill Bartholomay.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to address the motion to override the President's veto of S. 1, which would force approval of the construction of the Keystone Pipeline to transport tar sands heavy oil from Canada to the gulf coast. We will be having that vote in just a while from now.

My key consideration today is this. What would the impact of this bill be on global warming? The reason that is the core question I am raising is that already we are seeing extensive damage to our rural resources around the world from our warming planet. We are seeing this in Oregon, and we are seeing, therefore, an impact on our future economic prospects.

To put it very simply, the burning of fossil fuels is damaging our forests, our farming, and our fishing. By many estimates, to contain 2 degrees Celsius, which is almost 4 degrees Fahrenheit, we must transition aggressively and rapidly from burning conventional fossil fuels for energy toward the use of nonfossil renewable energy.

Now, this shift is well within our power. It is well within our technology. But do we have the political will to make this happen? And that test is before us in the vote we are taking today.

Building the Keystone Pipeline opens the faucet to rapid exploitation of massive, new, unconventional reserves called tar sands, and it takes us in exactly the opposite direction from where we need to go. Indeed, the pipeline locks us into utilizing the dirtiest fossil fuels on the planet for a generation, and it accelerates human civilization down the road towards catastrophic climate change. Thus, building this pipeline is a mistake, and there is a lot to be concerned about.

Now, global warming isn't some imaginary scenario 50 years from now about some computer model predicting something bad will happen. No, it is about facts on the ground right now.

The warmest 10 years on record for global average surface temperature have occurred in the last 12 years. And 2014, the calendar year we just passed, was the single warmest year on record. While some Senators may come to this floor and say that it is just an anomaly here or an anomaly there, it is not. The facts are in. When we have 10 of the warmest years on record within the last 12 years, we know something dramatically is happening to the globe.

The average forest fire season is getting longer. Since the 1980s the season has grown 60 to 80 days longer than it was before. That means that with each year passing the fire season is growing by an average of about 2 days, and the number of acres consumed annually by wildfires has doubled to more than 7 million acres. This is an enormous impact, and those fires themselves put additional carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. So we start to see a feedback mechanism that is accelerating us down this road to catastrophic change.

The snowpack is decreasing in our Oregon mountains, the Cascade Mountains, which means smaller and warmer streams, which are certainly not good for trout. But it also means less water for irrigation. We have right now virtually no snow in the Cascades. At this point we should have a substantial snowpack. So the possibility of yet another major drought faces us this coming summer.

We had the worst-ever drought in the Klamath Basin, a large agricultural

basin in southern Oregon, in 2001. We had another devastating drought in 2010—a near worst-ever drought—and another devastating drought in 2013. And here we are this year, with virtually no snowpack to provide irrigation water during the summer. That is a very big deal.

It isn't just farming and forestry. It is also fishing. The carbon dioxide that we are pumping into the air is absorbed through wave action. It becomes carbonic acid. We can envision mankind pouring vast vats of carbonic acids into the ocean, because that is essentially the effect of what we are doing. If you think putting all that acid into the ocean wouldn't be a good idea and would have bad effects, you are right. The ocean has become 30 percent more acidic than it was before the industrial revolution—before we started burning coal and other fossil fuels as a major source of energy—and we can start to see the impact.

At the Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery on the Oregon coast, we have a big problem. The big problem is that the baby oysters are having trouble pulling enough carbon out of the water in order to create their shells because the water is too acidic. That is a little bit like the canary in the coal mine. If the oysters are having trouble, what other shellfish are being affected by the increasing level of acidity?

As humans on our planet, we have the moral responsibility to exercise wise stewardship of our resources—a responsibility to this generation but a profound responsibility to the generations to come.

Now, our youth tend to have a better understanding of this than do the lawmakers who come to the floor of the Senate. Our youth widely rank global warming as a major concern, a major issue they want to see us take on. They will face the challenges that we will leave behind. But here is the problem: If we wait to tackle global warming until—we have pages on the floor—our 15- and 16-year-old pages are in office, when they are in their forties and their fifties, then it will be almost impossible to address this issue because of the feedback loops that are occurring.

I was watching yesterday a time-lapsed series of ice in the Arctic, and I can tell you that essentially, as viewed from North America, there was a swirling mass of ice—and this was over several decades—and that swirling mass became less with every passing year, to where we are halfway to starting to be ice-free in the summer. That is a massive change happening within a single human lifetime which is but a blink in time when you think about the age and course of this planet.

So big changes are occurring, and when those changes occur, we do have additional problems arise. All of that open water in the Arctic absorbs more sunlight. That is what makes the water blue and it becomes warmer; whereas, the ice reflects the sunlight and keeps the water cooler. Therefore, we have a magnification of the effect of global warming at the poles. This is not a good thing.

So whether we are looking at the impact on our farming or the impact on our forests which are burning or the impact on our oceans and our fisheries which are becoming too acidic, we have a responsibility to address those issues. That means we are going to have to not burn all the fossil fuel that we have been clever enough to find in the crust of the Earth.

It is estimated that we would have to leave four-fifths of the fossil fuels we already have identified that are in the ground. We have to leave it in the ground rather than burn it if we are not going to exceed 2 degrees centigrade in global warming. That is a huge challenge.

That means we cannot proceed to build infrastructure designed to accelerate the extraction of these fossil fuels. The pipeline is exactly that kind of infrastructure.

Now, have no doubt, I love the idea of jobs and construction. That is why I am a huge supporter of the Partnership to Build America Act. The Partnership to Build America Act would create hundreds of thousands of construction jobs over the course of a number of years in America. That is the type of investment in jobs and construction and infrastructure we should make, but we shouldn't be investing infrastructure that is going to do profound damage to our planet. That does not honor the moral responsibility we have to the stewardship of this beautiful blue-green orb that we live on known as this planet Earth.

Let's honor our responsibility and let's not override the veto the President has put on this bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. I ask unanimous consent for up to 30 minutes to engage in a colloquy on the Keystone Pipeline approval legislation which was vetoed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. Thank you, Mr. President.

I am here to discuss the Keystone Pipeline approval legislation and the President's recent veto as well as our efforts today to override that veto.

I will be joined in the colloquy with my distinguished colleague from South Dakota. Also our colleague on the other side of the aisle from West Virginia will be joining us shortly, as well as the chairman of the energy committee, our colleague from Alaska. I want to make a couple points upfront and then turn to my colleague from South Dakota.

What I have here and have shown before on the Senate floor is the route the Keystone XL Pipeline would take from the oil sands in Hardisty, Alberta, coming down through Montana where we pick up domestic crude. Often people think of it as moving Canadian crude, but it also picks up domestic crude in the Bakken region. Our country likes sweet Bakken crude oil from Montana, and then it takes it on to refineries throughout the country. So that is the project we are talking about.

This chart shows the project itself, and it shows what is going to happen if we don't approve it. You have to understand, this has been going on now for over 6 years. The President has delayed this project for more than 6 years, but if we don't build the pipeline to move our domestic crude in the United States, then Canada will build pipelines to the west coast and that oil will go to China by tanker ship and be refined in China.

Again, we go through all these different discussions, but the reality is the oil will be produced. The question is, Do we want to have that oil here in our country or would we rather see it go to China?

Of course, if it goes to China, then not only does that affect our ability to use the oil in our country because we don't have the infrastructure to move it around safely and cost-effectively, but we also then continue to import oil from the Middle East.

I will run through a couple more of these charts and bring us up-to-date. It is not like we don't have pipelines. When the President takes more than 6 years to make a decision—having such a hard time with this pipeline—it is not that we don't have a few pipelines in the country. We have millions of miles of pipeline. Of course, this is going to be the latest, greatest state of the art with all the safety features—something like 53 different safety features that are required as part of the approval process that, as we say, has been going on for more than 6 years.

The other point I want to make before we go into the latest status is this is the finding of not one, not two, not three, not four, not five reports by the administration, but in fact the Obama administration's State Department has done five environmental impact statements, three draft statements, two final statements—three draft statements and two final environmental impact statements.

Here is what President Obama's report states after studying the environmental impact: ''No significant environmental impact'' according to the U.S. State Department environmental impact statements as a result of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

So here we are today, after more than 6 years in the ''approval process'' by the administration.

We passed this legislation with 62 votes in the Senate. It passed through the House with about 270 votes in the

House, a big bipartisan vote for this legislation.

Last Tuesday—last Tuesday we sent it to the President. We sent it to him in the morning and he vetoed it the same day and had it back to us that afternoon. So that was pretty efficient. We send it to him in the morning and—bang—he has it back here in the afternoon.

His rationale for vetoing the project is he said it cut short his review process. That is right out of his veto message. It cut short his review process. So for somebody who figured out how to veto it in one day who has been studying it for over 6 years—over 6 years—and he vetoed it because we cut his review process short after more than 6 years.

Subsequent to that, the President was asked by the press: Mr. President, if Congress is somehow cutting your process short, when are you going to make a decision? His response to the press—I believe it was last week or earlier this week—he said he is going to make a decision either in a couple weeks or maybe in a couple months but certainly by the end of his term.

My question is this, How can there be any process there? Where is the process? What process are you talking about?

If he delays it for more than 6 years—a situation where TransCanada, a company that has met every single requirement of the law and regulations—they have met all the requirements for more than 6 years. The six States on the route have all approved the project. All six States on the route have approved the project. It wasn't tough; they had 6 years to do it. The American people overwhelmingly support this project in poll after poll, from 65 to 70 percent.

What process is he talking about that was cut short? There is no process there. If you go on for 6 years, where a company has spent millions of dollars, taking 6 years to try to build an $8 billion project that would help us create energy security in this country, working with our closest friend and ally, Canada, what process is he talking about? When asked: When are you going to make a decision as to your process, he said: I don't know, maybe a few weeks, maybe a few months, by the end of my term, anyway. That is 8 years.

Isn't this a country of laws? How would you or anyone else feel—any company, large or small, anybody who feels if they comply with the law and they do everything they are supposed to do and they do it over and over again and somebody who is elected to office says, yes, you know, I just don't feel like it.

When did we cease to become a country of laws? When did we cease to have a situation where we can rely on the laws and the regulations of this State, whether it is an individual, a family, a community, a company or anything else?

So when we look at a project such as this one, that is a question we have to ask ourselves, because if it can happen in this situation, can't it happen in any situation? When do we as a Congress step up and say: We pass the laws. We pass the laws and those laws have to be respected and enforced. Isn't that our job? Isn't that our obligation? Isn't that why the people of this country sent us? I believe it is.

It is one thing to say: Well, it is that TransCanada company. They do business in Canada. They do business here. What if it was you? What if it was your company? What if it was 6-plus years of your life? What if it was millions of your dollars? How would you feel about it?

Remember, America is the place people throughout history have come to do business. This is where they come to do business because they can count on our laws and they can count on our regulations and they can count on the fact that if they made the investment, they would be able to do business on a certain, dependable basis. What happened to that? When we lose that, what happens to our economy?

With that, I would like to turn to my good friend from South Dakota. This pipeline will run through his State, creating jobs and millions of tax dollars for his State.

Mr. THUNE. I appreciate the leadership of the Senator from North Dakota on this issue. He has been a fierce advocate for many months in the Senate for the jobs and economic activity, the energy independence, and the positive benefits to our national security in building this pipeline. The most recent development is the frustration with having the President veto a bill that has more than 60 cosponsors in the Senate. This is a broad bipartisan bill. The Senator from North Dakota worked very hard to make it that way. A lot of Members on both sides of the aisle support this pipeline.

What is striking to me about it is some of the misstatements and things that have been said here recently—the President in his veto message and some of the things he said. The Washington Post Fact Checker, as recently as a couple days ago, pointed out that when the President said that this is going to bypass the United States and we are not going to get any benefit from this, not only did they give him one, two, three—he got four Pinocchios from the Washington Post. What that means, folks, is that is a really big whopper to suggest that there is not going to be any benefit to the United States from this.

In fact, they went on to point out in that story that their estimate is that 70 percent of the oil to be refined would be used in this country.

Furthermore, as the Senator from North Dakota pointed out, this is a significant investment, obviously, by people who want to do business in the United States because of our rule of law or rules and certainty that come with that. The production, the oil sands up there in North Dakota is 30 percent owned by Americans. There is a lot of American ownership in this, and Canada is our friend and ally. Instead of getting the same type or quality of oil from a country where we don't have a favorable relationship—Venezuela, for instance—we can get it from Canada, and it can come through this country. The suggestion that it is not going to benefit anybody in this country is completely wrong.

I know the Senator from North Dakota has pointed out before that up to 100,000 barrels of oil a day would be put in here from his State of North Dakota and from Montana—a lot of the light, sweet crude that is so valued—and it would take pressure off the railroads.

Interestingly enough, the Senator from North Dakota pointed out that the administration found no significant environmental impact. Well, think about this. You are now putting this oil on a railcar or a truck, and the studies show that creates 28 to 42 percent more emissions than shipping it in a pipeline. It is going to go some way. It is going to go on a truck, a railcar or a pipeline. If it goes on a railcar or a truck, it will create 28 to 42 percent more emissions than transporting it through a pipeline. From an environmental standpoint, it makes all the sense in the world.

As somebody who represents a border State to North Dakota, we have had our own issues these last couple of years with the rail service and trying to get our agriculture commodities to the marketplace. There is an awful lot of pressure to move oil on rail. If you can move some of that in the pipeline—100,000 barrels a day—it takes a lot of pressure off of the rails and frees up that infrastructure and capacity to move agricultural commodities that are so important to both of our States.

There is a lot of misinformation that has been put out on this particular subject. I hope we can at least have discussions based upon a common set of facts, and most of the facts we are talking about are things that have been put out by the administration.

My State of South Dakota—as the Senator from North Dakota mentioned—would be crossed by this. The estimate by the State Department was that it would create $100 million in earnings in South Dakota, create 3,000 to 4,000 construction jobs, and generate about $20 million in property tax revenue.

There is an awful lot of interest in my State in what happens with the economic activity, the jobs, the property tax revenue, and what that could do to support local governments, law enforcement, schools, and those sorts of things—not to mention getting us away from the dependence we have on foreign sources of energy.

Let's be factual in this discussion. This doesn't bypass the United States. This has tremendous economic and positive economic impacts on our country, and we should not forget that. As we debate this here and have an opportunity now to vote on this veto, we

should at least have a set of facts that is consistent with reality.

The Senator from Alaska has been very involved and has been a great leader on this issue.

My colleague from West Virginia is here as well. He has been working very hard to move this project along. It is unfortunate we are where we are. Perhaps we will be a couple of votes short today, but who knows. Maybe some people will come to the right conclusion and help us advance this important project.

I thank the Senator from North Dakota for his leadership. The Senator from North Dakota pointed out the number of pipelines that already exist in this country. I know the Senator has also pointed out the positive impact—when we get this down and it gets refined in other parts of this country—that a lot of this energy will be used here in the United States. I appreciate the fact that the Senator has made all of those facts abundantly clear on the floor. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to persuade the President, but I still have hope.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I thank the good Senator from South Dakota, and turn to my colleague from West Virginia who has been a champion on this project and other energy projects. As a Governor, he has worked on energy. He understands job creation, and he understands that we can make this country much stronger if we produce energy here at home versus getting it abroad.

I turn to my colleague from the State of West Virginia and thank him for his leadership on this legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. I thank the Senator. I very much appreciate this colloquy, which is basically just common sense.

I became a Senator on November 15, 2010, so I have been here a little over 4 years. That is when I was first brought to understand the Keystone project, which was underway at the time and trying to be built. I was asked the question: What do you think? I looked at it very quickly, and I looked at how much oil we buy from other countries around the world. We buy the same type of oil—750,000 barrels of oil a day—from Venezuela. I was thinking that I would rather buy from my friends rather than from my enemies—the people who take the proceeds and the profits from our buying their product and use it against us. I was very clear on that, and I think most West Virginians feel the way I do.

Let's look at the facts. Forty percent of this pipeline has already been built. This is the part we are talking about, which has not been built and which we are producing and would like to build. The capacity from the Bakken—we talked about how 12 percent of the volume from this will be Bakken oil from North America.

We are saying that we are moving and producing our oil, buying from our best, friendliest neighbor and ally, Canada, and it makes us more secure as a nation. I have heard all of the arguments against it. People have said that we can't do this because basically this oil will come straight down and go out. They make you believe it is going to come down here, get loaded on a tanker, and taken to another country, so that we get no benefit at all. That is what they are telling me.

We had a press conference 2 or 3 weeks ago. We had the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of Alberta. Everybody who was there agreed that will not happen, and it can't happen because they need this to refine it. They will be subjected to the same rules and regulations that our Commerce Department puts on oil in America. No crude will be exported unless we change the law. So that prevents that from happening. That is a misnomer.

Next, they said they don't pay 8 percent into the Oilspill Liability Trust Fund in case there is a spill. They agreed to do that. They said: Wait a minute; this will not be built with American steel. Yes, it will be. They agreed to that. Everything we have asked for, they have agreed to.

We can't even get our side of the aisle to agree basically to put it in a piece of legislation to make sure that it will happen. I trust the Canadians. They will do exactly what they said. I would like to codify it by putting it in the bill, and I am working on that.

The politics of what we are dealing with is this. If we can't get four more Democrats on my side to vote with me to repeal and beat the veto the President has, this is coming back. Everybody in this understands the reality of politics. This legislation is coming back in the form of an infrastructure bill or a road bill. It will come back on a bill that we will all vote for, and we will have to spend a lot of time and energy again on this same subject. I have said to do it now. Let's do it now and move on to something that we need to move on to, which will be something of great interest.

I have a hard time reasoning with those who say that this pipeline is not going to make us more secure. We buy 7 million barrels of oil a day. We buy that oil from other countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, and even Russia.

If you want to make this country more secure, let's not depend on the foreign oil where they will use resources that will be used against us. The last time I checked, I don't believe Venezuela uses any of the money we give them for their oil to benefit America. I am not convinced that Saudi Arabia uses any of their money to benefit our country or any of these other foreign countries that we buy from.

This is a perfect, commonsense solution. I also think that our good friend from South Dakota talked about the amount of trains. My State just had a tragedy. Thank God there was no loss of life, and by the grace of God, no one was injured. I can tell you that the amount of transportation on the rail has increased 3,300 percent since 2009. So 3,300 percent more oil is being transported in America by rail. If we can relieve some of that and be safer—as well as environmentally safer—we should do it.

I ask my colleagues to consider this legislation because if we don't do it now, it is going to come back. We have a chance to put it to bed. It makes a lot of common sense as far as jobs.

I will say one more thing about jobs. They talked about jobs. When I was Governor and when the Senator from North Dakota was Governor, we built an awful lot of infrastructure, such as roads and bridges. I never remember creating one permanent job after I built a bridge. There were a lot of good jobs that paid good money during the construction, and all of my contractors were happy. All of my affiliated trades people were happy that they had jobs, but we never expected to create permanent jobs. They were construction jobs. That is what it is.

Why are people saying that we are not creating jobs? This is construction. When it is done, it is done. I don't know why we can't come to grips with that. We do it all day long. We will talk about an infrastructure bill and be tickled to death that we are getting jobs. But when we talk about 20,000 to 40,000 jobs to build this pipeline, I don't understand why it is not something we can all embrace.

I say to all of my colleagues on my side of the aisle, as well as on the other side of the aisle, that we should all support something that makes so much sense to the American people and the working people of America and also for the security of our Nation.

I applaud and support my friend. I cosponsored this bill. I feel very strongly about it, and I will continue to speak out about it as long as we have to. I hope today is the last time we have to speak about this legislation. I hope we get this veto repealed and move on.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I thank our colleague from West Virginia for his tremendous leadership. I know that will continue. He is right. If we don't win the battle today, we will win the war because we will find another bill to attach this legislation to. But the thing is that we ought to pass it on its merits, as the Senator so eloquently explained.

I will now turn to the head of the energy committee, somebody who is truly committed to an ''all of the above'' energy approach and demonstrates that leadership on the ''all of the above'' approach every day in this body and certainly in her leadership of our energy committee. That is why she speaks on this issue in a way that should have everyone listening to her. Whether she is speaking about fossil fuels, traditional energy or renewables, this is a Senator who has supported all of these and has great creditability on this issue.

I turn to my colleague from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank my friend and colleague from North Dakota for his leadership. He has been dogged not only as we have advanced this measure through the floor and process but truly over the years.

It has been 6-plus years, or 2,350 days, since the company seeking to build the Keystone XL Pipeline first submitted its cross-border permit application. Even with all this time, the President is incapable of making a final decision.

I thank my colleague from West Virginia, who just spoke. He articulated some of the myths and misconceptions that are out there, and the Senator from South Dakota annunciated them as well.

When you think about where we are today, with this veto override here in front of us—you have to think about that fact that this is bipartisan energy legislation. The first bill we sent to the President this year is bipartisan and has strong support around the country from an environmental perspective, from an energy security perspective, and from a national security perspective. The Keystone XL Pipeline is what we should endorse. It is wrong and shortsighted that this President has chosen to veto this bipartisan energy initiative.

We have heard on the floor all of the reasons why this proposal is good and sound and rational. It focuses on the energy infrastructure. I think it is also important to remind colleagues that when we had this bill on the floor in January, we had something that we have not had in a long period of time, and that was an open amendment process. We moved 41 different amendments forward to the floor, and some of those amendments actually passed. They became part of this Keystone XL Pipeline legislation.

So in addition to vetoing the infrastructure aspects of this legislation, the President has vetoed a time-sensitive provision that will provide regulatory relief to our water heater manufacturers. He also vetoed multiple provisions to increase the efficiencies of our commercial buildings. He has also vetoed a provision that would improve the energy retrofitting assistance that would be available for our schools. He also vetoed what I believe many of us viewed as a very responsible path forward on the Oilspill Liability Trust Fund and our statement asserting that climate change is real.

We made some good progress with this bill. If this vote is not successful, all of that is now off the table. We are not just talking about permitting a piece of pipe, the infrastructure that goes across the border. Keep in mind, folks, we also included some things that this body felt were important to advance, and that has all been vetoed by this President. It was wrong to veto this legislation.

I think it is also important to highlight some of the irony we see with the veto of this legislation coming from this administration. In effect, the President is making a mockery of the Executive order meant to expedite decisions, as it has been more than 2,350 days since this application was submitted for permit. But there is other irony here, and I wish to take a brief moment to point this out.

Last month the White House released the National Security Strategy for this country. I will quote from this strategy:

> The challenges faced by Ukrainian and European dependence on Russian energy supplies puts a spotlight on the need for an expanded view of energy security that recognizes the collective needs of the United States, our allies, and trading partners as well as the importance of competitive energy markets. Therefore, we must promote diversification of energy sources, fuels, and routes, as well as encourage indigenous sources of energy supply. Greater energy security and independence within the Americas is central to these efforts.

Well, Canada is within the Americas.

The President's veto of the Keystone XL Pipeline contradicts his own national security policy. It contradicts his own energy policy that is outlined by the Council of Economic Advisers in their economic report when they say ''the extent to which a country's economy is exposed to energy supply risks—specifically, international energy supply disruptions that lead to product unavailability, price shocks, or both.

The President is contradicting himself at every turn, whether it is his Climate Action Plan that he has introduced, vetoing his own—this veto contradicts his own climate policy.

We have an opportunity to boost our economy, to help our allies, to increase our energy security, to be an environmental leader, and to lead on energy. This President's veto denies us that. It is a failure of leadership.

I recommend that all of us on both sides of the aisle come together to override this veto.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, President Obama had advocated reducing our reliance on Middle Eastern oil. The President has advocated reaffirming the commitment of the United States to its close allies. The President has led us to believe he would work to create American jobs, not veto them. Of course, signing the bipartisan Keystone jobs bill would have advanced all of those priorities, but President Obama chose deep-pocketed special interests over the middle class with his partisan veto of the Keystone jobs bill. It is the kind of thing that puts union workers on edge. I suspect it makes some of our Democratic colleagues uncomfortable too.

But here is the good news: Our Democratic friends don't have to make the same choice the President made. There is a bipartisan jobs coalition right here in the Senate that would love to have their support. We are pro-Keystone jobs, we are pro-Keystone infrastructure, and we are pro-middle class.

If you are interested in jobs and infrastructure and saving your party from an extreme mistake, then join us. Vote with us to override a partisan veto and help the President pursue priorities he has advocated in the past. There is no reason to allow powerful special interests to block the billions this infrastructure project would pour into our economy or the thousands of American jobs Keystone would support. Your vote for common sense can release this special interest stranglehold. It can return a little more sanity to Washington.

There is a lot we can accomplish by working together with serious jobs ideas and commonsense reform as our guiding principle. So I hope you will join the new majority in that effort because no matter what happens today, this new Congress is not going to stop working for good ideas, and we are not going to protect the President from them either.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I wish to thank the majority leader and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting this bipartisan legislation.

The Prime Minister of Israel was here yesterday and he spoke to Congress. We have an opportunity to declare energy independence. We do not need to rely on oil from the Middle East. I ask my colleagues to join with us and vote yes to override the President's veto of this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Shall the bill (S. 1) pass, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the Constitution.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 68 Leg.]

YEAS—62

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Perdue
Bennet	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heitkamp	Rubio
Carper	Heller	Sasse
Casey	Hoeven	Scott
Cassidy	Inhofe	Sessions
Coats	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Johnson	Sullivan
Collins	Kirk	Tester
Corker	Lankford	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Tillis
Cotton	Manchin	Toomey
Crapo	McCain	Vitter
Cruz	McCaskill	Warner
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	

NAYS—37

Baldwin	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Reid
Booker	King	Sanders
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schatz
Brown	Leahy	Schumer
Cantwell	Markey	Shaheen
Cardin	Menendez	Stabenow
Coons	Merkley	Udall
Durbin	Mikulski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Franken	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Nelson	
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—1

Donnelly

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 62, the nays are 37.

Two-thirds of the Senators voting, a quorum being present, not having voted in the affirmative, the bill, on reconsideration, fails to pass over the veto of the President of the United States.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, nearly 4 months ago—not 4 weeks ago but 4 months ago—President Obama announced his intention to nominate Loretta Lynch to be our country's next Attorney General. I had the privilege of attending that White House ceremony. In fact, I took this photograph at the ceremony.

But as I took it, I was mostly moved by what Ms. Lynch explained. She said she was excited about the challenge of becoming our Nation's chief law enforcement officer. She noted with obvious admiration that the Department of Justice is the only Cabinet Department named for an ideal. Think of that. The Department of Justice. It is named for the ideal of justice.

We know from Loretta Lynch's long public service career that she aspires to make that ideal a reality. She will when she becomes Attorney General of the United States. As U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, she brought countless terrorists and cyber criminals to justice. She obtained convictions against corrupt public officials from both political parties. She fought tirelessly against violent crime and financial fraud. Her record shows as Attorney General she will effectively, fairly, and independently enforce the law.

As many people have said, she is a prosecutor's prosecutor. Her record of accomplishment goes beyond just that. It goes to who she is as a person. It is bolstered by the faith and values instilled in her by her family. The Judiciary Committee was honored to have her proud father, the Reverend Lorenzo Lynch, with us not only at both days of the historic hearings in January, but also last Thursday as the committee considered his daughter's historic nomination.

When Loretta Lynch was a young child, Reverend Lynch bravely opened his church to students and others to organize lunch counter sit-ins in North Carolina. He taught his only daughter that ''ideals are wonderful things, but unless you can share them with others and make this world a better place, they are just words.'' Every one of us who has ever been in public service ought to listen to that. The fact that she has dedicated the majority of her career to public service reaffirms that she has lived those ideals of justice in the service of others.

Last week, the committee reported her nomination favorably with a bipartisan vote. I wish the vote had been unanimous. I suspect that if the President who nominated her had been a Republican, she would have been confirmed by now. But in the sixth year of this administration, perhaps there is no one who can be confirmed unanimously, because those Republicans who are opposing Ms. Lynch are not doing so based on her record. They are opposing her because they disagree with a decision that President Obama made and that she played no part in. That is not treating her fairly.

One need only look at her supporters to know how nonpartisan her nomination really is. Louis Freeh, the former Director of the FBI and a Federal judge, has written:

> [I]n in my twenty-five years of public service—23 in the Department of Justice—I cannot think of a more qualified nominee to be America's chief law enforcement officer.

I know Judge Freeh very well. He is a man of total integrity. He would not say this unless he strongly believed it.

The current New York Police Commissioner, who was appointed by a Democrat, and a former New York Police Commissioner, appointed by a Republican, both strongly support her nomination.

Even prominent Fox News hosts have praised Loretta Lynch's work as a prosecutor. Bill O'Reilly has called her a hero for her prosecution of a child rapist. Megyn Kelly, of Fox, has described Ms. Lynch as a ''straight shooter'' for her service as a Federal prosecutor, especially for her crackdown on gang crime and terrorism.

Ms. Lynch also has broad support from law enforcement, fellow prosecutors, civil rights groups, and numerous other prominent individuals.

I ask unanimous consent to have a list of letters in support of her nomination printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

Nobody else is seeking the floor. I ask unanimous consent to go beyond the 10 minutes allotted, up to 3 extra minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. In January, Ms. Lynch testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee for nearly 8 hours. She has now responded to nearly 900 questions for the record. I have been here 40 years and I have a hard time remembering somebody who has answered so many questions. The witnesses invited by Republicans to speak on this, not a single one of them actually opposed her nomination. In fact, I asked all of the outside witnesses: If anybody here opposes her nomination, would you please raise your hand. Nobody did.

Despite this, some voted no—some Republican Senators voted no on her nomination in committee. Some of these Senators opposed her because she would not renounce the President's Executive action to keep immigrant families together. They are attacking her for this. They blame this on her. But they fail to acknowledge that if the Republican leadership in the House had just allowed a vote on the immigration reform that passed the Senate, then the President would not have been compelled to act.

Very hard-working Republicans and Democrats came together in this body to pass by a 2-to-1 margin an immigration bill. Most people felt it would pass the House of Representatives had it been allowed to come to a vote. But the Speaker determined not to let it come to a vote. You cannot then say: We are not going to vote on anything, but, oh, by the way, we are not going to let the President do what Presidents have always done in the absence of legislation, take executive action.

Now we all agree that we have problems in our immigration system. We all agree that we need legislation to fix it. The President is not going to do that. Congress has to do it. We have to stand up and vote for or against changes. But to blame the Attorney General nominee for this is simply unfair. To blame her because the House of Representatives will not vote on immigration is not fair. Ms. Lynch played no part in the President's decision to set the prosecutorial priorities of the administration.

As a Federal prosecutor in New York, no one has claimed that Ms. Lynch has failed to enforce the law. There is no legitimate reason to delay her vote any longer. In fact, there are a whole lot of people in prison today who wish that she had not enforced the law. But if they were guilty of crimes, she enforced it, whether Republicans, Democrats—no matter who they were—and with quite a few terrorists—she enforced the law. She put them in prison.

So we should examine Loretta Lynch's nomination based on her

record, her accomplishments, her extraordinary character. I call on the Republican Leader to schedule an immediate vote on Loretta Lynch's confirmation. Vote yes or vote no. But this confirmation has been pending for 116 days—116 days. We have had several breaks—some of our constituents call them vacations—during that time. Let's take a day or so and vote on her.

Let's not deprive the American people of even one more day of having Loretta Lynch as their Attorney General. Let's vote to confirm this superb woman, this superb nominee for Attorney General, this nominee who believes that justice is an ideal, that all of us, no matter what our political party, should ascribe to.

I told her father how moved I was to watch his pride as she was before our committee for confirmation, I said, the pride was well earned because of the example he set to her as a child, to face up to all obstacles and overcome them. Well, let's not have the Senate set an obstacle that she cannot overcome. Let's have a vote. Let's put her in there as Attorney General, for the good of the country, not of any political party, but for the good of the country.

This is not the Attorney General of the President. This is not the Attorney General of the Members of this body. This is the Attorney General of the United States. It is the Attorney General for 300 million Americans. Let's give 300 million Americans the Attorney General they deserve.

I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LETTERS RECEIVED IN SUPPORT OF LORETTA LYNCH'S ATTORNEY GENERAL NOMINATION

CURRENT & FORMER ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Honorable John Lewis (GA–5); The Honorable Kathleen Rice (NY–4), former District Attorney for Nassau County; Durham County, NC, Board of Commissioners; Martin County, NC, Board of Commissioners; John Sexton, President of New York University, Former Chairman of the New York Federal Reserve; The Honorable Marcia Fudge (OH–11)

Two letters from the 46 members of the Congressional Black Caucus: The Honorable Alma Adams (NC–12); The Honorable Karen Bass (CA–37); The Honorable Joyce Beatty (OH–03); The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA–02); The Honorable Cory Booker (D–NJ); The Honorable Corrine Brown (FL–05); The Honorable G.K. Butterfield (NC–01); The Honorable André Carson (IN–07); The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke (NY–09); The Honorable Wm. Lacy Clay (MO–01); The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO–05); The Honorable James E. Clyburn (SC–06); The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ–12); The Honorable John Conyers, Jr. (MI–13); The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings (MD–07); The Honorable Danny K. Davis (IL–07); The Honorable Donna F. Edwards (MD–04); The Honorable Keith Ellison (MN–05); The Honorable Chaka Fattah (PA–02); The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge (OH–11); The Honorable Al Green (TX–09); The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings (FL–20); The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee (TX–18); The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries (NY–08); The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX–30); The Honorable Hank Johnson (GA–04); The Honorable Robin Kelly (IL–02); The Honorable Brenda Lawrence (MI–14); The Honorable Barbara Lee (CA–13); The Honorable John Lewis (GA–05); The Honorable Mia Love (UT–04); The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks (NY–06); The Honorable Gwen Moore (WI–04); The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC); The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr. (NJ–10); The Honorable Stacey Plaskett (VI); The Honorable Charles B. Rangel (NY–13); The Honorable Cedric Richmond (LA–02); The Honorable Bobby L. Rush (IL–01); The Honorable David Scott (GA–13); The Honorable Robert C. ''Bobby'' Scott (VA–03); The Honorable Terri A. Sewell (AL–07); The Honorable Bennie Thompson (MS–02); The Honorable Marc Veasey (TX–33); The Honorable Maxine Waters (CA–43); The Honorable Frederica Wilson (FL–24)

CURRENT & FORMER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

Louis Freeh, former FBI Director, Chairman Emeritus of Pepper Hamilton; William Bratton, Police Commissioner of New York City; Kevin O'Connor, former Associate Attorney General at the U.S. DOJ in the Bush administration, current VP of Global Ethics and Compliance for United Technologies; Joseph Guccione, former U.S. Marshal for SDNY and current Managing Director for FGIS; John Gilbride, former Special Agent for DEA's NY Office and current Global Head of Financial Intelligence for Morgan Stanley; Larry Thompson, Former VP of Government Affairs and General Counsel of PepsiCo, Deputy U.S. Attorney General, and U.S. Attorney for Georgia; Jamie Gorelick, Former Deputy U.S. Attorney General; Bart Schwartz, Chairman of Guidepoint Solutions and former Chief of the Criminal Division for the SDNY United States Attorney's office; Brian Parr, Chief Security Officer of Citigroup and former Special Agent in Charge of the United States Secret Service, New York Field Office.

4 Former EDNY U.S. Attorneys: Andrew J. Maloney; Zachary W. Carter; Alan Vinegrad; Benton Campbell; 13 Former EDNY Assistant U.S. Attorneys: Stanley N. Alpert; Jodi L. Avergun; Robert L. Begleiter; Jason Brown; Eric O. Corngold; Matthew E. Fishbein; J. Cristopher Jensen; Katya Jestin; Gregory J. O'Connell; Patricia A. Pileggi; David A. Pitofsky; Lauren J. Resnick; George A. Stamboulidis.

25 Former U.S. Attorneys from both Republican and Democratic administrations: David B. Barlow, United States Attorney, D. UT (2011–2014); Wayne A. Budd, United States Attorney, D. MA (1989–1992); Mark T. Calloway, United States Attorney, W.D. NC (1994–2001); Paul K. Charlton, United States Attorney, D. AZ (2001–2007); Paul E. Coggins, United States Attorney, N.D. TX (1993–2001); Robert C. Corrente, United States Attorney, D. RI (2004–2009); E. Bart Daniel, United States Attorney, D. SC (1989–1992); Richard H. Deane, Jr., United States Attorney, N.D. GA (1998–2001); Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney, N.D. IL (2001–2012); Thomas B. Heffelfinger, United States Attorney, D. MN (2001–2006); Walter C. Holton, United States Attorney, M.D. NC (1994–2001); G. Douglas Jones, United States Attorney, N.D. AL (1997–2001); Scott R. Lassar, United States Attorney, N.D. IL (1997–2001); Matthew D. Orwig, United States Attorney, E.D. TX (2001–2007); Deborah Rhodes, United States Attorney, S.D. AL (2005–2009); Jose de Jesus Rivera, United States Attorney, D. AZ (1998–2001); Richard B. Roper, United States Attorney, N.D. TX (2004–2009); Richard A. Rossman, United States Attorney, E.D. MI (1980–1981); Jack W. Selden, United States Attorney, N.D. AL (1992–1993); Donald K. Stern, United States Attorney, D. MA (1993–2001); Charles J. Stevens, United States Attorney, E.D. CA (1993–1997); Jeffrey A. Taylor, United States Attorney, D. DC (2006–2009); Gregory A. Vega, United States Attorney, S.D. CA (1999–2001); Kenneth L. Wainstein, United States Attorney, D. DC (2004–2006); Joseph D. Whitley, United States Attorney, N.D. GA (1990–1993), M.D. GA (1981–1986).

LAW ENFORCEMENT & CRIMINAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS

National District Attorneys Association (NDAA); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); Major Cities Chief's Association (MCCA); Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association; National Black Prosecutors Association; Women in Law Empowerment Forum; Association of Prosecuting Attorneys; FBI Agents Association; Women in Federal Law Enforcement (WIFLE); International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; National Urban League; National Women's Law Center; YWCA; Alliance for Justice; People for the American Way; NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc.; National Immigration Law Center (NILC); Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Human Rights Campaign; American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO); Legal Momentum: Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund.

OTHERS

14 Former Presidents of the New York City Bar Association: Michael A. Cardozo; Michael A. Cooper; Louis A. Craco, Sr.; Evan A. Davis; Carey R. Dunne; John D. Feerick; Conrad K. Harper; Patricia M. Hynes; The Honorable Barry Kamins; Robert M. Kaufman; Bettina B. Plevan; The Honorable E. Leo Milonas; Barbara Paul Robinson; Samuel W. Seymour.

13 Current and Former Presidents of the Federal Bar Council: Robert J. Anello (2012–2014); Robert J. Giuffra, Jr. (2008–2010); Bernard W. Nussbaum (1990–1992); Joan G. Wexler (2004–2006); Mark C. Zauderer (2006–2008); Steven M. Edwards (1998–2000); Vilia B. Hayes (2014–Present); Bettina B. Plevan (1996–1998); Frank H. Wohl (2010–2012); Robert B. Fiske, Jr. (1982–1984); John J. Kenney (1994–1996); The Honorable Gerald Walpin (2002–2004); George B. Yankwitt (1992–1994).

44 Partners at Hogan Lovells: Stephen J. Immelt, CEO; J. Warren Gorrell, Jr., CEO Emeritus; Dennis H. Tracey, Head of U.S. Litigation; Stuart M. Altman; Robert B. Buehler; Ty Cobb; Steven M. Edwards; Scott Friedman; David J. Hensler; Robert F. Leibenluft; Sanford Litvack; Janet L. McDavid; Joseph R. Rackman; George A. Salter; Michael J. Shepard; Peter S. Spivack; Mark J. Weinstein; Peter R. Bisio; Claudette M. Christian; Robert B. Duncan; Ira M. Feinberg; Mark D. Gately; Craig A. Hoover; Adam K. Levin; Eric J. Lobenfeld; Martin Michaelson; Barbara M. Roth; Lee Samuelson; Ira S. Sheinfeld; Catherine E. Stetson; David F. Wertheimer; Stanley J. Brown; Arlene L. Chow; David Dunn; Amy Bowerman Freed; Maureen A. Hanlon; Mitch Lazris; Carol A. Licko; Mitchell R. Lubart; Peter J. Pettibone; Corey W. Roush; Allison J. Schoenthal; Frank T. Spano; Michael C. Theis.

11 Former Presidents of the New York County Lawyers' Association (NYCLA): Arthur Norman Field (1990–1992); Klaus Eppler (1995–1996); John J. Kenney (1996–1997); Rosalind S. Fink (1997–1998); Stephen D. Hoffman (1998–2000); Craig A. Landy (2000–2002); Catherine A. Christian (2007–2008); Ann B. Lesk (2008–2010); James B. Kobak Jr (2010–2011); Stewart D. Aaron (2011–2013); Barbara Moses (2013–2014).

28 African American AmLaw partners and Fortune 500 general counsels: Benjamin F. Wilson, Managing Principal, Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.; John E. Page, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Golden State Foods Corporation; Frederick R. Nance, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs LLP; Kevin J. Armstrong, General Counsel, DST Brokerage Solutions LLC; Anthony T. Pierce, D.C. Managing Partner, Akin Gump Stauss Hauer & Feld LLP; April Miller Boise, Vice President, General Counsel & Corp. Secretary, Veyance Technologies, Inc.; Kwamina Thomas Williford, Partner, Holland & Knight; Michael Parham, Sr. Vice President and General Counsel, RealNetworks, Inc.; Grace E. Speights, D.C. Co-Managing Partner, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP; Gail D. Hasbrouck, SVP, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Advocate Health Care; John W. Daniels, Jr., Chairman Emeritus, Quarles & Brady LLP; Christopher P. Reynolds, General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer, Toyota North America; Ava E. Lias-Booker, Baltimore Managing Partner, McGuire Woods; Kevin J. Armstrong, General Counsel, DST Brokerage Solutions LLC; Dave Carothers, Managing Partner, Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP; Philip G. Hampton, II, D.C. Administrative Partner, Haynes and Boone, LLP; Maurice A. Watson, Chairman, Husch Blackwell LLP; Dennis Archer, Chairman Emeritus, Dickinson Wright, PLLC; Erek L. Barron, Counsel, Whiteford Taylor & Preston; W. Anthony Jenkins, Member, Dickinson Wright, PLLC; Frank P. Scruggs, Partner, Berger Singerman LLP; Paul W. Sweeney, L.A. Administrative Partner, K&L Gates; Paul Lancaster Adams, Partner, Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart; Sherrie L. Farrell, Member, Dykema; Richard H. Deane, Jr., Atlanta Partner-in-Charge, Jones Day; Bernard Gugar, SVP & General Counsel, Harpo, Inc.; Damario Solomon-Simmons, Managing Partner, SolomonSimmmonsSharrock & Associates; Steven Wright, Boston Executive Partner, Holland & Knight.

Audrey Strauss, EVP and Chief Legal Officer for ALCOA; Sara Moss, EVP and General Counsel for Estee Lauder Companies; National Conference of Women's Bar Associations; Women's Bar Association of DC; National Bar Association; Peter Walsh, Senior Deputy General Counsel for UnitedHealth Group; National Association of Women Lawyers; Constance Patillo; Frank Brown, Dean Emeritus at UNC-Chapel Hill; Tyrone Dash, Deacon at White Rock Baptist Church; National Association of Social Workers.

Mr. LEAHY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KING V. BURWELL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a tremendously important case that was heard this morning in the Supreme Court. The case is King v. Burwell, and it involves the administration of ObamaCare. I was privileged to attend the argument.

The King case is important for a number of reasons. It is important because it involves a fundamental component of ObamaCare, and it is important because of its significant implications for the rule of law.

From the early days of the Republic, a core component of our constitutional character has been the idea that the government is a government of laws and not of men. That means our leaders are constrained by the words of the laws in our statutes and in our Constitution. Government officials must follow the law even when their personal preferences would lead them in a different direction.

The current administration, however, is engaged in a sustained assault on the rule of law. I have spoken many times on the Senate floor about the President's disturbing disregard for the separation of powers and other limits on his authority. His offenses run the gamut of releasing Guantanamo detainees without first notifying Congress, to claiming that congressional inaction somehow clothes him with legislative-like authority to suspend immigration laws, to arrogating to himself the power to determine when Congress is in session. President Obama's actions in the King case are of a piece with the other Executive overreaches.

First some background. ObamaCare requires every person in America to buy health insurance. This is the so-called individual mandate the Supreme Court controversially upheld 3 years ago.

Most Americans receive health insurance through their employer, which pays a large part of the premium, but not all do. Many must purchase insurance on their own. And to ensure that such individuals are able to comply with the individual mandate, ObamaCare directs States to create health care exchanges—government-operated Web sites where consumers can go to compare and choose insurance plans. ObamaCare also provides subsidies for individuals who purchase insurance through these State-run exchanges.

Remember that most people receive health insurance through their employer and that their employer pays part of the premium. Individuals who purchase insurance on their own through exchanges, however, don't receive this employer subsidy, so they themselves must contribute more toward the premium. ObamaCare provides subsidies to these individuals to help offset the cost of insurance.

With that background, let me turn now to the legal issue in King. As I have described, ObamaCare directs States to establish health care exchanges. To be precise, the law says that ''each State shall, not later than January 1, 2014, establish an [exchange]'' that meets certain conditions set forth in the law. But there is a wrinkle: The Constitution does not permit the Federal Government to order States to do things. This is called the anticommandeering principle and is well established in Supreme Court case law. What the Federal Government can do, however, is incentivize States to act, and that is precisely what Congress attempted to do with ObamaCare.

Here is how the incentive works. Another provision of ObamaCare—the one at the heart of King—conditions the aforementioned subsidies on an individual's enrollment in a State-run exchange. According to this provision, a subscriber is eligible for a subsidy for each month she is covered by a plan that she ''enrolled in through an Exchange established by the State.'' The text of this provision could not be more clear. If an individual enrolls in a plan through an exchange established by the State, she gets a subsidy; if she enrolls in any other plan, no subsidy.

The incentive for States to act also could not be more clear. If a State fails to establish an exchange, its citizens lose out on millions of dollars. ObamaCare's proponents quite reasonably thought this would lead States to set up exchanges and would thus accomplish the same result—the creation of State-run exchanges—that Congress could not achieve through a direct command. In fact, I actually heard arguments by administration people that if they put enough pressure on the States, the States would do this.

Congress also recognized, however, that some States might not take the deal; thus, it provided a backstop. In yet another provision of ObamaCare, Congress instructed that if a State does not set up an exchange by the January 2014 deadline, the Department of Health and Human Services shall ''establish and operate such Exchange within the State.''

Crucially, however, Congress did not similarly provide that subsidies would be available to subscribers enrolling through a federally established exchange, and the reason is obvious: If subsidies were available under both State and Federal exchanges, States would not have any incentive to create their own exchanges because the subsidies would come either way. Fewer States would create exchanges, meaning the Federal Government would have to step in and create more exchanges of its own.

The restriction of subsidies to State-established exchanges was thus a key element of ObamaCare's entire cooperative federalism scheme. Without this restriction, the end result would have been a federally run health care market—a result unacceptable to several key ObamaCare supporters whose votes were essential to passage of the bill.

Now we come to President Obama's act of overreach. Notwithstanding the unmistakably clear text of the statute, which limits subsidies to plans purchased through State-established exchanges, and notwithstanding that this limitation was absolutely fundamental to accomplishing Congress's purpose of incentivizing States to establish exchanges, the President decided he would also offer subsidies for plans purchased through federally established exchanges.

President Obama's open defiance of clear statutory text and utter disregard for the balance Congress struck is an affront to the separation of powers and to the rule of law. The President and his enablers argue that subsidies for federally enrolled plans are necessary to accomplish ObamaCare's overall purpose of reducing costs and improving health care access. Without subsidies to individuals in the 34 States without State-run exchanges, the President argues that residents of those States will be hit with higher costs and unaffordable health care. The law must be rewritten, he says, to avoid the consequences the law itself imposes.

Laying aside the fact that the Constitution gives Congress, not the President, the power to amend laws, the President's argument is completely circuitous. The reason 34 States could afford not to establish exchanges is because the President said he was going to pay subsidies regardless of whether a State establishes an exchange. Why would a State go to the trouble and expense of creating an exchange if the end result is the same?

The President also grasps at exceedingly thin straws. Because the backstop provision instructs that if a State does not establish an exchange, HHS shall step in and establish such exchange itself, the President says this means Federal exchanges are State exchanges. Right is left and up is down.

But let's return to the real provision in dispute in King, the one that defines eligibility for subsidies. This provision says, again, that an individual is eligible for each month that she is covered by a plan that she ''enrolled in through an Exchange established by the State.'' An exchange established by the Federal Government is by definition not an exchange established by the State, regardless of whether the Federal exchange is a backstop or not.

It gets even worse for the President because the provision additionally specifies that the State exchange must have been established ''under section 1311 of the [statute].'' That section sets forth the requirements for creating State-run exchanges. Nowhere does it mention Federal exchanges. Rather, the conditions for creation of Federal exchanges appear in a different section—section 1321. Under no plausible reading of the text does a State exchange established under section 1311 mean a Federal exchange established under section 1321.

Advocates of the President's position would have us believe that statutes are infinitely malleable—up can mean down, right can mean left, established by a State can mean not established by a State. What matters to them is advancing some vague notion of statutory purpose that coheres with the President's leftwing agenda, regardless of what the statute actually says.

Those of us on the other side, however, insist that text matters, words matter. What the statute says is what matters, because at the end of the day the words in our statutes and in our Constitution are what bind our leaders and what prevent them from doing whatever they want.

The administration's actions in King have undermined the rule of law and contravened important constitutional checks on the President's authority. As has increasingly become the case under President Obama, it is now up to the Supreme Court to rein in the President's overreach and to reaffirm the fundamental obligation of all government officials to follow the law. I surely hope the Court will do so.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to address today's vote to override President Obama's veto of the bipartisan Hoeven-Manchin bill to authorize the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Our economy and North America's energy security would greatly benefit from building this pipeline. It would increase our GDP by approximately $3.4 billion annually. The State Department, which has provided clear-headed analysis of the benefits of this project, has found that Keystone would support roughly 42,000 jobs during the construction phase alone. It would provide refineries with up to 830,000 barrels a day of North American oil.

Moreover, the Keystone XL Pipeline would be an environmentally sound way to transport this oil. The State Department's extensive environmental impact statement concluded that building the pipeline would actually be better for the environment than not building it.

We have to be clear here. This oil is going to go to market no matter what. Building Keystone would take oil off the tracks and off the roads, transporting it in a way that is safer, more efficient, more environmentally sound, and better for creating good-paying American jobs.

In his veto message, President Obama suggested that an issue such as this is somehow too important to be left to the legislative process and that we should trust in the integrity of the regulatory process.

This is exactly the sort of debate we should be having in the Senate. This is the body that is supposed to debate the important issues of the day. When a project as important as this is stalled without meaningful justification for so long, our involvement is even more important.

In our consideration of this bill, we legislated according to the best traditions of this body, including robust debate, an open amendment process, and regular order. After years of mismanagement, our consideration of this bill showed how the Senate is back at work on behalf of the American people under our new leadership.

While I certainly hope we will find another means of approving the Keystone XL Pipeline, I am naturally disappointed that we came just a few votes short of overriding the President's veto and enacting this bill into law. Furthermore, I can certainly understand why many Americans will view this occasion as yet another example of how Washington is broken.

In many respects, I share this same frustration. Nevertheless, we cannot allow ourselves to slouch toward pessimism and disillusionment about every institution. Indeed, I think my fellow colleagues on both sides of the aisle merit praise for their responsible handling of this bill. Instead, we should shine a light on where exactly the problem is and offer real solutions to make Washington work on behalf of the American people.

At the end of the day, the Keystone XL Pipeline and so many other bureaucratic failures just demonstrate that our regulatory bureaucracy is broken. After all, this project is now in its sixth year of limbo, waiting for a single permit to be issued. This debate has gone on longer than an entire term of a U.S. Senator.

It should not take years and years of navigating the Federal bureaucracy only to have the government decide not to make a decision. This new Congress is focused on helping to create jobs and getting our economy back on the right track, which is why regulatory reform must be a key part of our agenda over the next 2 years. We must strive not only to approve this particularly important project but also to prevent similar abuses from occurring in the future.

Perhaps the two most troublesome features of the modern administrative state are, first, the size of the regulatory burden on the economy and, second, the lack of accountability in the regulatory bureaucracy. Both problems have been illustrated by the Keystone XL project, but they manifest themselves across the board throughout the regulatory process.

The growing Federal regulatory burden has been a concern for decades, but the problem is now worse than ever. Both the number of regulations and their combined cost have exploded in recent years. The American people are now bound by more than 1 million individual restrictions in the Federal Register, with a total cost of around $1.86 trillion each year. To put that in perspective, that is about 11 percent of our total GDP, it amounts to about $15,000 per household, and it totals over $300 billion more than annual individual and corporate taxes combined. In short, our regulatory burden is enormous.

Even as we resist President Obama's mad dash to add new rules, our Nation simply cannot afford to ignore the crushing burden of existing regulations. They weigh down our efforts to boost economic growth and make it impossible to get our country back on track.

Every President, from Jimmy Carter to Barack Obama, has embraced the

notion that outdated, unsuccessful or otherwise ineffective regulations should be repealed. Nevertheless, the cumulative regulatory burden continues to expand year after year.

To address this growing problem, I will be partnering with Congressman JASON SMITH to sponsor the Senate version of the SCRUB Act—Searching for and Cutting Regulations that are Unnecessarily Burdensome. This legislation creates a bipartisan commission to examine the entire administrative corpus in search of regulations that are obsolete, outdated, ineffective, overlapping, duplicative or unjustified. Its goal is to achieve a 15-percent cost reduction in our Nation's total regulatory burden. The Commission can recommend either immediate repeal or incremental reform through a flexible procedure that puts the agencies and stakeholders in the driver's seat.

The SCRUB Act transforms a longstanding bipartisan commitment to retrospective regulatory review from mere rhetoric into meaningful reality. It would result in lower prices, higher wages, and more job opportunities for hard-working Americans. All the while, such commonsense regulatory review poses no risk to our health, our safety or our environment. It is the kind of legislation that can earn support from both sides of the aisle and for which there is a realistic path to having it enacted into law.

A second critical flaw in the current administrative state is a fundamental lack of accountability in how the Federal Government makes and enforces regulations. Far too often the agencies and interest groups manipulate the rules and stack the decks against innovators, entrepreneurs, and ordinary citizens.

Thankfully, there are a number of potential avenues for meaningful reform, but the one area that has thus far escaped much legislative attention is the role the Federal judiciary plays in the regulatory process. Given the broad authorities Congress has ceded to administrative agencies, the courts often stand as the only truth independent check on increasingly out-of-control regulators. But recent abuses by the political branches have created serious challenges for effective and appropriate judicial review on the regulatory process.

By writing vague laws, Congress has created extraordinary flexible grants of authority that are both unwise and constitutionally troublesome. Judicial deference to agency interpretations of the law has magnified this power to an extreme degree. Although originally intended as a means of curtailing judicial activism, Chevron deference and its associated doctrines have resulted in a gross misallocation of lawmaking authority. Such doctrines have consigned courts to be rubberstamps, rather than effective checks on administrative overreach.

The threat of toothless judicial oversight of increasingly problematic regulatory action was only heightened when President Obama and his allies packed the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals with compliant judges even less inclined to engage in meaningful administrative review, and Congress's creation of broadly available private rights of action to challenge administrative decisions and regulatory activities has opened another avenue for abuse of the courts.

While these provisions provide important opportunities for regulated parties to defend their liberties, too often they have allowed groups with no concrete stake in the process to use the courts as a means to drive their own ideological agendas.

Worse yet, inconsistent efforts by the judiciary to define the constitutional limits on standing have inadvertently created a perverse environment where businesses with real skin in the game are often shut out of court, while special interest groups with no meaningful injury in fact are allowed to litigate.

Restoring the constitutionally proper judicial role is vital to returning accountability to the regulatory process. In reviewing agency actions, courts should hear only real cases and controversies, where litigants have concrete interests at stake. But when they do, they should state firmly what the law is and not simply ratify what the regulatory agencies argue that the law should be.

Legislation to ensure meaningful reform on each front and thereby bringing the administrative state more in line with the Constitution will be one of my top priorities in this Congress.

It is disappointing that we could not override the President's veto of this important legislation. The failure to authorize Keystone demonstrates how broken our regulatory process is. I hope we can use this occasion of bipartisan consensus to move forward in ways that can fix our out-of-control bureaucracy and get Washington back to work for the American people.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. MURRAY pertaining to the introduction of S. 660 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mrs. MURRAY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ARCTIC

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it is quiet around here today, this afternoon. We have been notified that we are not going to be having any further votes this week because Washington, DC, is anticipating a winter storm. It is March 4. I think most people here in Washington had hoped that winter had already come and gone, but that is not the case.

In my home State of Alaska, this is the time of year that we welcome winter. We embrace winter. In fact, I am going to be going up to the State this Friday to attend the kickoff of our biggest sporting event, which is the Iditarod sled dog race, 1,100 miles, where about 70 teams of dogs and intrepid mushers make the trek typically between the Anchorage area and 1,100 miles up to Nome.

This winter has been a little bit different. It is warmer back home than most of us Alaskans would like, and we have actually had to reroute the Iditarod for the second time in the race's history. It is going to be starting out of my hometown in Fairbanks, and rerouting the race so that it is still a thousand-mile race. But it does speak to the fact that we are seeing some changes up there, at least for this winter, in terms of our temperatures and our climate.

We have a lot of folks around here anticipating what we are going to see tomorrow who are wondering what is going on with climate? What are we seeing? Is this temporary in nature, or are we going to start seeing more arctic conditions here on the eastern seaboard?

I want to talk about the Arctic today. I want to talk about the value of an amazing part of the globe and the opportunities we have in the Arctic, the opportunities we have as an Arctic nation.

We have a map here. This is the bathymetric chart of the Arctic Ocean. It is a view that perhaps most Americans are not intimately familiar with. You look at it and say, where on planet Earth is this?

To locate everybody a little bit, here you have Russia, Greenland, Canada over here, and the United States. This is the State of Alaska with all of the interior arctic areas there, but an amazing mass located at the top of the globe, an area where, quite honestly, most Americans put it out of sight, out of mind. The only time they really think about the Arctic is when there are temperatures that make it feel like the Arctic.

There are probably going to be a lot of folks here in Washington, DC, tomorrow who are thinking, yes, maybe we do live in an Arctic nation because I am feeling it here. It doesn't make any difference whether we have a storm coming at us or whether it is the

heat of the summer in Washington, DC, or the fall in New England, or the warm winter temperatures in a place such as Arizona. Wherever you reside in this country, you are part of an Arctic nation. I am willing to bet that when the Presiding Officer was elected to represent the State of Colorado, he didn't think at that time that he was also elected to be a Senator for the Arctic. But, in fact, he is because we are an arctic nation. In Colorado—I suppose the Presiding Officer is probably thinking, tell me why the Arctic is relevant to Colorado, other than the fact that we also share some good winters and have an appreciation for the snow and colder climates. But in the State of Colorado, 30 percent—30.5 percent of the total exports that go out of Colorado are exported to arctic nations.

Now think about that. Thirty percent of what goes out of Colorado is exported to an Arctic nation, one of the eight Arctic nations—Canada, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden. These are your trading partners.

Our colleague from Wyoming was just on the floor. Let's see what Wyoming exports. They are about in the same category as Colorado, about 28.3 percent of the total exports from Wyoming are exported to the Arctic nations. When we think about the dollars that are coming to Colorado or Wyoming or Maryland as a result of exports from your States, it causes us to maybe perhaps look at the Arctic a little bit differently.

We have an opportunity to build upon a dynamic relationship, an evolving part of the globe, as we prepare as a nation to assume the chair of the Arctic Council. This event will take place on April 25, just a couple of months from now. But the Arctic Council is the intergovernmental forum for the eight nations that have territory inside the Arctic Circle. Again, this is pretty much this map here: Canada, Russia, Denmark through Greenland, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and then, of course, by virtue of the State of Alaska, the United States.

The Arctic Council also includes six nonvoting permanent participant groups that represent the indigenous people of the Arctic. There are also 32 observer entities. The interesting thing with these observer participants, 12 of the 32 are non-Arctic nations, so areas that are not countries that we would think of that would have a keen interest in what is going on with Arctic policy. This is France, Germany, the United Kingdom, China, Japan.

What is really impressive to me is that we are seeing the growth in the number of non-Arctic nations that are seeking observer status. Back in the 2013 Arctic Council ministerial meeting we had in Sweden, six nations were admitted as observers. Many others have indicated their interest as well.

It is also interesting to note that with the admission of China, all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are now members or observers of the Arctic Council. Also represented are 8 of the world's 10 largest economies based on GDP, which is an indicator of the level of importance the world ascribes to the Arctic.

What has happened with the Arctic is, again, a keen interest from all over the globe in what is happening. Why is that? What is going on that is capturing the interests, the imagination, the opportunity for nations all over the globe? So much of it is because this area, an area that for most has always been locked up in a world of ice and permanently frozen in time. So to even imagine the possibilities of what could unfold in the Arctic was so foreign that only the most adventurous of the explorers ever pushed out.

It is changing up North, whether it is the northern sea route coming across on the Russian side, whether it is the Northwest Passage, whether it is nations that are looking to explore for resources, whether it is those involved in maritime traffic and engaging in a level of commerce that are looking for that shorter route that will cut days, weeks, off of a journey and, therefore, costs off of the expense of shipping. Whether it is the tourists—cruise ships are coming across the top. Up in Point Barrow, right up here at the top of the world, you have cruise ships that are moving through those waters—the ultimate ecotourists and those who are seeking something different.

The Arctic is notable within the international community from an economic perspective. As its shipping lanes open up, we have additional areas that become accessible for resource development. Again, the rise of tourism is an example of the increased accessibility of the Arctic.

It is also notable from a political perspective as the region that is not bogged down by the inertia of longstanding disputes. Think about so many parts of the world where there have been decades, if not centuries of conflict. This is a part of the world that does not have that overlay, if you will. It does not have the entrenched views that make international cooperation in other areas difficult.

Instead, it is an area that seeks to promote collaboration and remain a zone of peace. Think about the conversations I am able to have with Secretary Kerry, as I did just a few weeks back, talking about the Arctic and being able to speak to the Secretary of State about how we can work more collaboratively, how we can keep an area as a zone of peace as he deals with hot spots all over the globe—to know that there is a cool place, not only from a physical perspective but perhaps from an emotional and a political perspective, where perhaps we can be working together to advance goals and initiatives rather than constantly being at issue with one another.

It also is a region that is writing its history as we speak. This has been around for a long time. But what is happening at the top of the globe is like a clean sheet. It is an opportunity for us to write history. It is even more important for the United States to take a lead in guiding international policy decisions within this area. This is why I am calling on colleagues in the Senate to join me, to step up, to help us not only to build out policy initiatives but really to take that leadership role, as we should be doing as an Arctic nation.

So I have joined together with the Senator from Maine, Mr. KING, to form a new caucus. I know we have plenty of caucuses around here, but I am asking colleagues to consider joining this caucus, the Senate Arctic Caucus. This caucus has a mission to convene conversations among Members on issues relating to defense, science, energy, environment, commerce, trade, maritime affairs, the well-being of the indigenous peoples of the Arctic, to raise awareness about the importance of the Arctic, and to advance a coordinated effort toward investment in infrastructure that will benefit all Americans, including those who live in the Arctic.

I should let colleagues know that when I am offering this opportunity to join a caucus, it is not just to say that I am paying attention to Arctic issues in name only. We really want to try to educate because, again, I think the awareness of what is happening in the Arctic has captivated the imagination and the attention of people around the world, of nations around the world. It should captivate the imagination and the attention of every Member in this body. So each Member will be receiving an invitation to join this caucus, along with a breakdown of each State's exports to the Arctic region, to help demonstrate why the Arctic matters to all 50 of the States.

So as I have outlined to the Presiding Officer, about the benefits that Colorado receives and the benefits that Wyoming receives, all Members will be getting similar figures. It was 10 years ago when I started an Arctic awareness campaign. That was a long time ago. It was an effort to get folks—not only within the legislative body but within the administration—to pay attention to what was going on within the region.

It started out pretty simply. I can remember that I was on the Foreign Relations Committee, and we had the nomination hearing for Condoleezza Rice to be Secretary of State. I asked her a question: So what are we doing in the Arctic to ensure that the Arctic remains a zone of peace? Or I asked something to that effect.

I think I caught her flatfooted. The next time I saw her before the Foreign Relations Committee, she was up to speed and engaged. But I can state with some certainty here that in 2005 the State Department was just not prepared to have a discussion on these issues.

Now, I am not going to claim full credit here. But move forward a little

bit with the clock. It was good to see the movement within the administration. When Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State, she was the first Secretary of State to participate in an Arctic Council ministerial meeting. I think that was probably prompted by some visits she had made to view the Arctic, including the U.S. Arctic in Barrow, when she was a Member of this body. But as Secretary of State she traveled to Nuuk, Greenland in 2011. I accompanied her. Then in 2013 Secretary Kerry went to the ministerial meeting in Kiruna, Sweden. In 2015 Secretary Kerry will again participate in this year's meeting in Canada, where the Arctic Council chairmanship will be handed over to the United States.

I started off my comments by talking about what is going on with the weather and people feeling like we are under an Arctic siege here right now in Washington. But I think it is safe to say that Arctic awareness is at an alltime high. But unfortunately, the investment has not matched the interest. One barometer of your interest when you are talking about the Arctic is: How do you move in the Arctic if there is ice up there? You have to be able to plow through some ice. This is where an icebreaker comes into play.

But icebreakers are expensive. The Coast Guard estimates that it is going to be about $1 billion. It takes about 10 years to build. If I were to ask anybody in this body how many icebreakers the United States has, I think you would say: Well, of course we have an icebreaker up there.

We have one medium-strength icebreaker, the Healy, which does a good job for us. But our only Polar Class vessel, the Polar Star is on assignment to Antarctica for the next 5 years. We will not see her in the Arctic for 5 full years. The life expectancy, the useful life of the Polar Star is only 6 to 8 years. It takes 10 years to build a new one.

We are sitting here as a nation woefully behind when it comes to Arctic infrastructure, if you define it by icebreaking capacity. Russia is cleaning our clock in terms of the number of icebreakers they have. They have 27. Our own Coast Guard's High Latitude Study says it is going to require six major icebreakers—three heavy and three medium-sized icebreakers—to fulfill its statutory requirements.

Even China has one icebreaker. They are building six more. India—do you think of India as an Arctic Nation? They are considering building an icebreaker. Why? Because they see the Arctic opportunity. They want to be part of an area on the globe that is piquing their interest for a host of different reasons.

So as others in the Arctic region, whether it is Russia or whether it is Canada, as they continue some pretty aggressive national plans, combined with state investment to develop their Arctic resources and advance commerce in the north, the United States needs to be a participant. But we need to be more than a participant. We need to be a leader. We lead everywhere else. We led to the moon. We know more about the mapping of Mars than we know about mapping in the Arctic.

We need to step it up. It is exciting to think that we can step it up. I am hoping that we will be able to focus our attention on these issues. It is not just the resources and infrastructure that will make the Arctic a national priority. It is not just preparing for a 2-year chairmanship. It is about what the vision is—the long-term vision for the United States' role in an emerging part of the globe. It is as dynamic as anyplace out there.

But we have to be ready. We lack certain basic infrastructure needs. I mentioned the need for an icebreaker. I am going to be introducing legislation, hopefully very soon, to develop a solid foundation and put some building blocks in place for that investment, including a focus on obtaining more accurate data for charting the Arctic. We simply are so far behind in our hydrographic charting. We need to do better with our ice forecasting, with our weather observation stations, with our weather buoys, with our monitoring out in our oceans, with just having a level of communications and understanding of what we have. So, as we look to the area, we have at least to be able to assess the accuracy of Arctic weather and water forecasting. We have to be able to understand whether we have gaps in Arctic weather and sea-ice observing networks and the status of our sea-ice analysis and forecasting services.

So we are going to be having a hearing tomorrow in the energy committee. We may be the only committee that is open for business. We may be the only Senators that are here in the building. But we are going to be having the first-ever hearing on the Arctic. I think it is fair to say that it is not only the first hearing in the energy committee but the first-ever hearing on the Arctic as a whole, instead of just bits and pieces of it.

So I am encouraging all of my colleagues who may be locked out because they could not jump on a flight quickly enough or they could not get on the road soon enough. But we will be having, I think, a very informative hearing tomorrow in the energy committee to focus on what, again, I am calling Arctic opportunities. I do not know if the timing of the hearing was just prescient on my part and that we knew that this was going to happen. If so, I should also do part-time work as a weather forecaster. But I do think it is certainly timely. In fact, it is long past time that we focus again on an area that hosts amazing promise and opportunity for leadership as a nation. I would encourage all of my colleagues to join us in this new Senate Arctic Caucus. Embrace your inner Arctic self. It really is a good place to be.

With that, I see that my colleague from Wyoming is here. He has been very patient. As I mentioned to the Senator from Colorado, our Presiding Officer right now, Colorado enjoys good benefits from the State of Alaska. For the fine folks in Wyoming, 28 percent of their total exports from the State of Wyoming do go to Arctic nations. So there is a connection. I look forward to working with both of my colleagues as members of the energy committee on these issues of great importance to our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, first, let me congratulate our colleague from Alaska, who is the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. That committee is in capable hands under her direction, whether the Arctic—all energy. She is committed to affordable energy, available energy, reliable energy, secure energy, and American energy.

So we are in good stead with the new chairman who has taken over in January. As members of that committee, it is a great opportunity for us to work with her for affordable energy for all in America. We have opportunities for exports, and it is good to see her continued leadership on this and other topics.

I appreciate her hard work.

KING V. BURWELL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, earlier today the United States Supreme Court heard arguments in an important case, a consequential case. It is called King v. Burwell. This case was brought on behalf of millions of Americans who have been harmed by the President's unlawful expansion of his unworkable and unaffordable health care law.

Sometime before the end of June, the Court will decide if the law passed by Congress means what it says or if it means what the President wishes it said.

It looks at one very specific and very important part of the President's health care law. The law says that Washington could help subsidize the premiums of people buying health insurance coverage through exchanges established by the States. President Obama decided that wasn't enough. He wanted to use taxpayer dollars on behalf of people buying insurance in the Federal exchange as well. That is it. That is the legal question.

The law, written by Democrats in Congress—written behind closed doors—only authorized subsidies for one group, but the President paid them out for another group. The case is not about the Constitution, it is about the rule of law.

I was at the Court this morning listening to the arguments, and I expect that the Justices will strike down the way the President expanded the law.

Time after time this administration has claimed power it did not have and taken actions it cannot defend. The

way the administration expanded the health care law is one of the most blatant of these power grabs, because when Democrats passed the law, they got exactly what they wanted. They rejected Republican idea after Republican idea that could have made this law better. They forced it through Congress with absolutely no Republican support.

It still wasn't good enough for the Obama administration, so it expanded the law some more. ObamaCare is a minefield, and the administration refused to give people the information they need to help them navigate it.

The Obama administration knew this court case was coming well before the enrollment period to buy insurance for this year even started. So did the American President tell the American people these subsidies might not be legal? Did he warn people? What did the President actually say? Did he warn anyone signing up in the exchanges that they might not be seeing the real price of any insurance they picked? No, the President refused to do so.

He knew he might lose the case. He knew it. He knew the risk he was making people take, but the President didn't say a word—people who were just trying to make the best choices for their families. The White House did not tell people the truth about their options.

Several Republican Senators wrote to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of the Treasury asking them to warn people. We said people need this information. There are thousands of dollars at stake for families, and the Obama administration should at least tell them what might happen.

The Secretary has refused to level with the American people.

Just the other day, the Secretary of Health and Human Services admitted she had no plan B. Her letter is clear and it is consequential. She admits that if the Supreme Court rules against the Obama administration, the President does not have the authority—does not have the authority—to use administrative actions to undo the Supreme Court decision. The administration purposefully waited to admit that until after the open enrollment period ended. It didn't want to take the chance that warning people might hurt its enrollment numbers.

Today at the Supreme Court, several Justices were skeptical of the administration's legal defense. I expect the Supreme Court to say the President must enforce the law Congress has passed, rather than the law the President wishes Congress had passed. If it does, it will help rein in this out-of-control White House. It will tell the Obama administration it must obey the law and that the President cannot keep making up the rules as he goes along.

The health care law is clear. The President was wrong to expand his health insurance exchanges beyond what the law allowed. The President was wrong to use the IRS to make up rules and penalties. The Obama administration was irresponsible for not warning people.

Republicans will have a plan to protect the people harmed by the President's action and to create a path away from ObamaCare. First, our plan will help the millions of people who have been hurt by the White House's decision to illegally implement its health care law. It would be unfair for families to lose their coverage in the middle of the year just because they believed the false promises made by Barack Obama. So Republicans will help Americans keep their coverage for a transitional period.

Second, it will give States the freedom and flexibility to create better, more competitive health insurance markets, offering more options and different choices at home where people live, not decisions made in Washington.

We want to allow States to come up with health care systems that work for them, not the bureaucrats in the Nation's Capital. We would give every State the ability to create a better market, better opportunities suited to the needs of that State's citizens. It is time for President Obama to stop putting people through all of the pain this law has created.

The President's health care law continues to be unpopular, unworkable, and unaffordable. He needs to finally negotiate with Republicans to give people the reform they wanted all along, which is what people asked for—the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower cost.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow my distinguished colleague and friend from the State of Wyoming, and I rise to talk about exactly the same issue and to differ with him, respectfully, that the current law is unworkable, unpopular, and unaffordable. In fact, history demonstrates that it is certainly working.

In the State of Connecticut we know well that it is working as it was intended because we have a State-run exchange, and we have cut the number of uninsured by one-half, while improving health care quality, lowering Medicaid spending, and making remarkable achievements across a whole range of metrics. That same story is true of our Nation as a whole, whether there are State-run exchanges or Federal supervised exchanges.

Today's point, whether it is in the Supreme Court or here, should be extraordinarily encouraging about the Congress's approval of the Affordable Care Act and the fact that it is working across the country. It is succeeding in delivering exactly what was intended, what the Congress promised, what its advocates saw, access for all Americans to affordable health insurance.

The ACA is working today to protect Americans from abuses, and I saw them literally day in and day out as attorney general: people who lost health insurance when they got sick, people who were denied coverage because of a preexisting condition, people who were charged more because of their gender, people who were denied the basic care they needed and deserved for themselves, their children, and their families, giving them access not only to health care but also to work and to family stability.

I saw every day as attorney general how imperiled and critical health care is in this country and how much we need to do more and do better in this area.

The uninsured rate in this country is the lowest it has been in 7 years, and we have lowered it a remarkable 25 percent in just 1 year. Eight million people have gained health insurance through the exchanges who didn't have it before, and I know that States with federally run exchanges have made improvements, just as Connecticut has done, which is fully in accordance with the absolutely crystal-clear intent of this Congress and this law to provide affordable health insurance for all Americans, regardless of where they live, what State, what ZIP Code, whatever their occupation and background.

Let's be clear. As with any big law there are kinks that need to be ironed out, there are glitches that need to be resolved, but the Affordable Care Act is working now and working better every month, every year.

The legal issue before the Court has been debated today in depth, and I believe with the great persuasiveness—similar to the Presiding Officer, I had the honor to serve as a law clerk to the Supreme Court and watch many arguments. To say that today is historic I think is true, but in my view almost every argument before the Supreme Court is historic in its consequences—some more than others, but every one is consequential because cases don't reach the U.S. Supreme Court unless they are difficult and consequential, and issues of statutory interpretation that are said to be simple often are more complicated than they may seem.

But I know, without a doubt, having read this statute, that the text and structure of the Affordable Care Act clearly demonstrate—in fact, they unmistakably demand—that Federal tax credits be available to every eligible taxpayer in every State in this country.

I have done arguments in the U.S. Supreme Court, and I had the honor to be attorney general of the State of Connecticut as well as a U.S. attorney.

Having looked at this statute as a whole, having read the words that need to be interpreted by the Supreme Court, I have reached this conclusion: Contrary to the argument of partisan opponents, both the act itself and the plainly overwhelming evidence from its consideration and passage demonstrate its nationwide scope.

I wasn't here at the time it was passed, but from the legislative history and, most important, from the structure and language of the act itself, there seems to be irrefutably and incontrovertibly an understanding that tax credits would be available regardless of which governmental agency set up an exchange. The act simply would not have worked any other way and courts have an obligation to read statutes in a way that makes the most sense in terms of the overriding intent and purpose of the Congress.

The financial support simply, for universal coverage, would not be there without this interpretation, a commonsense interpretation that makes sense of congressional intent, purpose, and the law as a whole.

The law has given so many families across the country access to care for the first time. There has been an effort to repeal this act legislatively. There has been an effort to overturn it in the courts. Both have failed because it is working and because it is constitutional.

A ruling for the plaintiffs in this case that is now before the Court would not only be contrary to law, it would be catastrophic to millions of families who owe their health insurance to the structure the ACA has established. It would be, in fact, a human tragedy as well as a legal travesty.

There is simply no alternative that has been offered by opponents to this law. It is difficult therefore to see how this misguided lawsuit is anything other than one more cynical attempt to repeal or overturn this law—or torpedo it by any means necessary, regardless of the collateral damage to millions of innocent people who would suffer loss of health care insurance and health care. And the tragedy would be not only for them but for our entire Nation because the cost would ripple throughout our society—the cost in lost work; the cost in families suffering from the consequences of bankruptcy, which is caused most frequently by health care-related financial issues; the cost in the ability of our workforce to function at the height of efficiency that we all need; and the cost ultimately in diseases that have to be treated and ailments that have to be addressed and preventable health care consequences for our children. Prevention is one of the most cost-effective goals of the Affordable Care Act.

So I will work with my colleagues to support this act and to determine what other efforts can make progress toward the ultimate goal that we all should share—an America that is free from disease or injury that will bankrupt our families, an America that is healthier and better able to afford health care, and quality and timely health treatment.

The lack of standing on the part of these plaintiffs seems clear, but putting aside all of the technical issues and the legal debate, the Affordable Care Act has allowed America to make huge, exciting strides in the direction of better health care. So we should be proud of the act passed by this body. Even many of us perhaps who were not here at the time can look forward to how much further we can go, and America has that fundamental obligation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am back now for the 91st consecutive week the Senate has been in session to urge my colleagues to wake up and pay attention to the threat of climate change. I am delighted and proud to be joined today by my colleague and friend Senator BALDWIN from Wisconsin to consider the effects of carbon pollution in her State.

According to scientists at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, weather stations around the State show that average temperatures in Wisconsin increased by about 1.1 degrees Fahrenheit between 1950 and 2006. During the same period Wisconsin got wetter. Annual average precipitation increased by almost 3 inches. These changes are likely to continue and intensify as carbon pollution continues to pile up in the atmosphere. Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison estimate that by midcentury the State could warm by 4 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit. By the end of the century the climate in Wisconsin may look more like that of present-day Missouri or Oklahoma, raising the possibility of a dramatic shift in the Wisconsin economy and way of life.

This winter has been pretty cold in the Eastern United States and in Wisconsin. So was last year. Cold arctic air dipping down over North America drops the mercury. As we continue into a time of what has been called global weirding, scientists say that climate change may make these cold blasts more common as it alters patterns in the atmosphere. In a nutshell, on top of the long-term warming trend lies weather disorder. But the long-term warming trend is apparent. New research from UW-Madison's Professor Jonathan Martin shows that last year the so-called cold pool of frigid air that accumulates in the Northern Hemisphere each winter was the smallest since records began in the winter of 1948 to 1949. This year it is on track to be even smaller.

Sadly, some of our colleagues just can't face up to the role that human activity—such as our carbon pollution from burning fossil fuel—plays in the changes we are seeing around us. One colleague—indeed, the senior Senator from Wisconsin—is among this group. In January he voted against amendments to the Keystone XL bill stating that climate change is real and that humans contribute to it. Well, in 2013 the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel—his State's largest paper—noted that this type of denial was at odds with both Wisconsin opinion and Wisconsin scientific evidence. The senior Senator from Wisconsin, wrote the paper's editorial board, ''is just flat-out wrong.'' The paper went on to say, ''We elect politicians to make tough decisions and find solutions, not to shut their eyes and cover their ears, as Johnson repeatedly has done on this issue.'' The article continued: ''[S]tubbornly denying the facts on climate change may be akin to denying the facts on evolution or whether the Earth is flat.''

Professor John Kutzbach of the University of Wisconsin—an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences—was among a group of climate scientists who in 2011 wrote to us in Congress imploring us to take action on climate change. Here is what the letter said:

> Congress needs to understand that scientists have concluded, based on a systematic review of all of the evidence, that climate change caused by human activities raises serious risks to our national and economic security and our health both here and around the world. It is time for Congress to move on to the policy debate.

Well, I welcome that debate. Indeed, the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Senator MURKOWSKI, recently said on the floor of the Senate that she hopes we can ''get beyond the discussion as to whether or not climate change is real and talk about . . . what do we do.'' So where is that debate? Where are the other Republicans? Let's finally talk about the cost of action and the cost of inaction.

The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts was formed in 2007 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. The scientists and public officials in this program are doing important work to help the State of Wisconsin understand and prepare for climate change. They are studying how it will affect wildlife, water resources, public health, and important Wisconsin industries such as forestry, agriculture, and shipping and tourism on the Great Lakes.

Climate change threatens iconic aspects of the Wisconsin environment and economy. The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts Agriculture Working Group reports that higher summer temperatures and increasing drought will create significant stress on livestock, even touching—dare I say it—Wisconsin's famed cheese industry. Victor Cabrera, an assistant professor in the University of Wisconsin-Madison Dairy Science Department—they have one—says heat stress

interferes with fertility and milk production. Dairy cows could give as much as 10 percent less milk. The U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts that by 2030 climate change will cost the U.S. dairy sector between $79 and $199 million a year in lost production. When opponents say reducing carbon pollution will cost too much, they conveniently leave out the cost of doing nothing, such as these costs.

Well, the dairy State is not waiting for Congress to take action. The University of Wisconsin is leading a USDA-funded effort to identify dairy practices that minimize the emission of greenhouse gases and make dairies more resilient to the effects of a changing climate. Some Wisconsin dairy farmers are burning excess methane in enormous manure digesters—that is a frightening concept—to generate their own renewable electricity.

Wisconsin sportsmen know that Wisconsin has more than 10,000 miles of trout streams—some of the best trout fishing in the country. Cold-water fish, such as the brook trout, are there, but they are highly sensitive to temperature increases in streams. Under the worst cases analyzed by the researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, ''brook trout are projected to be completely lost from Wisconsin's streams.'' Even the best-case scenarios see losses of as much as 44 percent of the brookies' current range by midcentury. Other cold-water species, such as the brown trout, are not much better off.

Trout Unlimited—sportsmen and conservationists working to protect trout streams in the Driftless Area in southwest Wisconsin and parts of Minnesota, Illinois, and Iowa—did a 2009 study showing fishing in the Driftless Area adds over $1 billion per year to the surrounding economies.

We have heard of loggers having trouble getting to the timber because the ground is thawed and too soggy to hold up logging equipment. For Wisconsin's loggers, the hard, frozen winter ground is what lets them move logging equipment. According to a study out of the University of Wisconsin, that period of frozen ground has decreased by 2 to 3 weeks since 1948, shortening the working window for loggers before their gear bogs down.

And then there is the badger. The Upper Midwest and Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperative even lists the great Wisconsin badger as one of the species at risk from regional climate change.

Senator BALDWIN knows that, done right, action on climate change saves Americans money, spurs American innovation, and creates new American industry and jobs. Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency program, has been helping Wisconsin families and businesses save money and reduce energy use since 2001. The Wisconsin Public Service Commission expects this program to inject over $900 million into the State's economy, and net over 6,000 new Wisconsin jobs over the next decade.

I am very grateful to my friend Senator BALDWIN for her strong leadership on behalf of the people of Wisconsin to stave off the worst effects of climate change in her home State.

I yield to her now.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his commitment to addressing the threats that climate change poses globally, to our country, and to our States. I thank him for highlighting some of those threats to my home State of Wisconsin.

Let there be no doubt that global climate change is real. It is a fact. The question is not whether it is happening, but rather how we are going to address it. Are we going to do all we can to leave the next generation a safer and healthier world?

As my friend from Rhode Island just noted, climate change will be costly to our economy and to our very way of life, and the longer we wait to act, the more costly these impacts will be.

Throughout our history, the State of Wisconsin has been a proud home to environmental leaders who have worked to pass on a stronger environment to future generations—Aldo Leopold, John Muir, and Senator Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day and the namesake for the Nelson Institute at the University of Wisconsin, which my colleague from Rhode Island just mentioned in his remarks. As a representative of our great State, it is one of my top priorities to follow in this legacy and to preserve our natural resources and quality of life for future generations.

It is not hard to see why Wisconsinites have always deeply valued environmental protection. Looking out at the crystal clear waters of Lake Superior from its south shore, or standing atop Rib Mountain gazing at the forests and farmlands of central Wisconsin, to casting your fishing rod in the world-class trout streams of the Driftless region in southwestern Wisconsin, there is no question that we are blessed by the natural beauty of our State.

But even now, the impact of climate change can be seen on each of these landscapes and in the economies they support. We see it in our agriculture—growing seasons are shifting, and extreme weather harms our crops, and we have increasing concerns about drought and our groundwater.

In fact, NASA recently warned that within a few decades—within our lifetimes—the United States may enter a megadrought that could last 30 years.

In my home State, the resulting decreased soil moisture will put additional stress on farmers, on private wells, and on municipal drinking water systems. These prolonged droughts, combined with increased intensity of storm events and changing temperature patterns, will force farmers to make changes to how and what they grow. This is extremely troubling, as agriculture is an $88 billion industry in my home State of Wisconsin.

We also see the negative effects of climate change on our Great Lakes. In Lake Michigan, for example, lake levels are largely driven by precipitation. Changes in precipitation patterns due to climate change may cause more dramatic fluctuations or prolonged changes in lake levels.

In addition, data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows that summertime surface water temperatures have increased 8 degrees Fahrenheit since 1980. Warmer surface water temperatures disrupt the food chain, which threatens our fish population. As these adverse effects are expected to worsen in the coming decades, they will inevitably lead to more wildlife disease, and warmer waters that will drive out native fish.

Changing water levels also create new challenges for property owners and communities along the Great Lakes. Infrastructure may need to be redesigned, insurance demands may change, and new health risks may emerge or be exacerbated as additional stress is imposed on our sewer systems. Each of these will hurt our local economies.

Tourism is also a major part of Wisconsin's economy, and the Northwoods is a favorite destination to fish, camp, hunt, and snowmobile. But projections show that by midcentury, the climate of areas such as Bayfield and Vilas County in the Northwoods will be more similar to what we have known in the southeastern part of the State of Wisconsin in counties such as Waukesha County.

Meanwhile, Waukesha County's climate could be more similar to what we used to expect hundreds of miles south in the neighboring State of Illinois. The impacts on tourism, recreation, and the landscapes we hold near and dear may be dramatic, and the threats may be daunting. But we cannot continue to let the challenges overwhelm us and cause inaction on our part.

Wisconsin's State motto is ''Forward.'' The people of Wisconsin have never been afraid of the challenges we face or what the future holds. We have a strong progressive tradition of confronting our challenges and working together to shape our future for the next generation.

In fact, analysis by the World Resources Institute in 2013 found that Wisconsin is well positioned to meet national goals for carbon pollution reduction. By extending existing clean energy policies, Wisconsin could reduce its emissions substantially in coming years.

In addition, many of Wisconsin's most successful companies are leaders in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean technology. They are vital sources of innovation and will provide opportunities for the workers of today and tomorrow.

I believe smart investments by government, by companies and institutions, and by citizens will help us confront the challenge of climate change, while positioning Wisconsin for 21st century economic and ecological resiliency.

This opportunity is great. We must meet the challenge head on—going forward the Wisconsin way.

I once again thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his laser focus on this issue that is so critical to all of our home States, as well as, frankly, the entire global community.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I thank Senator BALDWIN for sharing this time with me this evening, and for all the wonderful work she does on behalf of her home State.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to proceed to S. 625.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT REVIEW ACT OF 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to S. 625.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 27, S. 625, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 625, a bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Daniel Coats, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, David Vitter, Jerry Moran, Deb Fischer, Johnny Isakson, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, Orrin G. Hatch, Thad Cochran, Steve Daines, John Thune.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 625 occur 1 hour after the Senate convenes on Tuesday, March 10.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday the Prime Minister of Israel shared with the Congress and the American people his perspective regarding Israel's national security interests and the threat the radical regime in Tehran poses to stability in the greater Middle East. The Prime Minister explained later in the day in a meeting here in the Senate why any agreement that leaves Iran with a threshold nuclear weapons capability is harmful not only to the strategic interests of Israel but to the United States and to our allies.

Unfortunately, President Obama appears to be pursuing an agreement that is designed to leave the Iranians with a threshold nuclear capability under which they can retain thousands of centrifuges, continue to master the nuclear fuel cycle, advance ballistic missile research and testing, and keep secret any possible military dimensions of nuclear development that has already occurred. Iran has a record of covertly pursuing aspects of a nuclear weapons program.

The administration has pursued the P5+1 negotiation, not as part of an overall strategy to end Iran's nuclear program and to defeat its efforts to dominate the region but as a standalone matter of litigation where a settlement must be reached. This negotiation shouldn't be about getting the best deal the Iranians will agree to; it should be about the strategic objective of ending Iran's nuclear weapons program.

Many in Congress have been wary of what kind of concessions the Obama administration might agree to with the Iranians and what were the responsible steps to be taken if Iran refused to give up the pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability.

Yesterday I began the process to move to legislation that would meet the demands from both sides of the aisle—to give Congress the ability to review and vote on any deal the President agrees to with Iran. From a legislative perspective, given that this bipartisan bill was introduced last week and that the Foreign Relations Committee has ample time to mark up this bill and send a substitute to the floor, I was surprised that some Senators made statements objecting to their own legislation. It was surprising to see some Members on the other side of the aisle threaten to filibuster their own bill—a bill they rushed to introduce before the President's negotiations were complete.

This isn't complicated. A bill was introduced, and, as I discussed with the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, it can be marked up, and the committee-passed bill would be the substitute the Senate then considers.

From a policy perspective, it makes clear to the administration not to strike a deal that leaves Iran as a threshold nuclear state. And it makes obvious sense to consider the Nuclear Review Act before the deadline for a political agreement because the Iranians need to know that congressional sanctions will not be lifted if a bad deal is reached, and some will oppose lifting sanctions if they refuse to disclose the potential military dimensions of their nuclear program.

But, look, time is running out. Iran's Foreign Minister said today that he believes they are very close to a deal.

There is nothing partisan about the Senate acting to serve its constitutional role in oversight and in pursuing policies that uphold the national security interest. It was the Obama administration that decided to negotiate an agreement with Iran that would not be submitted to the Senate as a treaty. The White House went out of its way to bypass the elected representatives of the people in this negotiation with Iran. It is the Obama administration that is negotiating a deal with the Iranians that will leave them with a nuclear infrastructure. And it is the Corker-Graham-Menendez-Kaine bill that will ensure that Congress will review any deal the President strikes with Iran.

So let's be clear. The actions we have taken would allow the sponsors of this sensible, bipartisan legislation to begin the debate next week. And it will allow for the Foreign Relations Committee to follow the regular order and debate and vote on the bill. If the committee reports a bill, the committee bill will become the text that the full Senate debates. That is called the regular order.

It is my sincere hope that the sponsors of this bill will have the opportunity to review and defend their bill in committee and will not filibuster and prevent the full Senate from also acting on their important legislation. The Senators who introduced the bill—who introduced it—should certainly vote to debate the measure.

REMEMBERING DEEDEE CORRADINI

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a truly iconic Utah leader, a remarkable woman, and Salt Lake City's first and only female mayor, Ms. Deedee Corradini.

Sadly, Mayor Corradini lost her short but valiant battle with lung cancer this week. She was a fighter until the end—just as she was in her career and in all aspects of her life.

Deedee was a true trailblazer in every sense. She served as Salt Lake City's mayor for 10 years during a time of significant growth and change. During her tenure, she was instrumental in finalizing the city's bid to host the 2002

Winter Olympics. She aggressively courted economic development and managed transportation infrastructure to ensure that Salt Lake City was prepared to take the world stage.

Always energetic, Mayor Corradini was full of ideas and determination, and she always knew how to get things done.

After her mayoral service, she worked for a time in academia and real estate, but perhaps her greatest personal achievement was her vigorous advocacy of women's ski jumping. She served for 10 years as the president of Women's Ski Jumping USA, where she lobbied tirelessly for the inclusion of women's ski jumping in the Winter Olympic Games. She was able to see her vision realized at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics as women ski jumpers dazzled the world in this arena for the first time.

Prior to the Sochi games, she demonstrated her enthusiasm and determination to make this dream come true for women athletes stating:

> We've already won. Every single one of the women's ski jumpers, they've already won. . .Our battle to get the women into ski jumping became much more than ski jumping. It really became a women's rights issue and a human rights issue, because we were really fighting for all women in all sports and hopefully all aspects of life.

Deedee helped mentor many women and was an example of hard work, determination, and a will to succeed. Not only did she succeed in her professional pursuits; she was also a loving wife, daughter, sister, and mother.

Mr. President, Elaine and I send our deepest condolences to Deedee's family and friends, and we pray for their peace and comfort at this difficult time. Her influence and legacy will be felt for generations to come. Utah was privileged to develop and grow under her leadership.

KILLING OF RUSSIAN OPPOSITION LEADER BORIS NEMTSOV

Mr. DURBIN. Today I recognize, on the Senate floor, the life and work of a true Russian patriot: Mr. Boris Nemtsov.

Tragically, Mr. Nemtsov was gunned down Friday night as he walked across the Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge with his girlfriend, just yards from the Kremlin and Red Square in central Moscow. Hours before his death, he had given a radio interview where he criticized Russian President Putin for his aggression in Ukraine and Russia's own economic woes—brave acts in a nation where criticism of Putin is not tolerated.

Mr. Nemtsov has been one of the most vocal and highest profile opposition leaders in recent years, tirelessly speaking up for democratic reforms and rights on behalf of the Russian people. In fact, Mr. Nemtsov has been working on behalf of the Russian people for nearly 30 years.

He moved from physics into politics shortly after the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, first winning a seat in the Russian Parliament in 1990. After a series of successful economic reforms as a Parliamentarian and later Governor, Nemtsov was then appointed Deputy Prime Minister under the first President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, and even had a chance at the Presidency himself. However, he returned to Parliament after the 1998 crash of the Russian stock market until 2004. Since then, he was active in everything from politics to banking, and over the years he raised repeated concerns that Putin's policies were rolling back democracy and civic freedoms in Russia. Mr. Nemtsov had been arrested several times—and complained of official harassment—for his participation in demonstrations in support of reforms to end corruption, uphold the rule of law, and support basic freedoms.

It is no surprise that tens of thousands of people showed up this Sunday to a rally in Moscow. Originally scheduled to lead the event himself to oppose Russian aggression in Ukraine, the rally turned into an opportunity for members of the opposition movement to mourn Mr. Nemtsov's death. People held images of Mr. Nemtsov, flew flags, and even held up posters and signs with phrases such as: ''I am not afraid.''

Several thousand also showed up to his funeral Tuesday. Mr. Nemtsov's mother Dina Eidman received all the well-wishers. In recent months, she had reportedly shared her fears that her son may be killed for his criticism of President Putin.

Under President Putin there has been a troubling pattern of silencing peaceful dissent—a problem no doubt made worse by the deliberate whipping up of nationalistic fervor in recent months around Putin's invasion of eastern Ukraine.

We recall the tragic death in prison of Russian human rights lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, jailed for uncovering hundreds of millions of dollars in tax fraud perpetuated by Russian officials in 2009. Mr. Nemtsov had even visited Washington, DC, in 2010 to support the Magnitsky Act.

Some of you may know of Natalya Estemirova or Anna Politkovskaya, two Russian human rights activists and journalists who were outspoken about human rights abuses in Chechnya, and murdered in 2009 and 2006, respectively. There was also the 2006 poisoning in London of Alexander Litvinenko, an FSB officer who defected and made several claims of corruption against Russian law enforcement officials. Incredulously, one of those suspected for his murder by British authorities was later elected to the Russian Parliament. Sadly, the list goes on.

More recently, the nationalistic passions unleashed by the annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol last year has led to more narrowing of free speech and the marginalization of activists. Many have faced harassment, prison sentences, even violence. And in many of these types of cases, perpetrators are not brought to justice. In a country where authorities may sometimes be involved in crimes of their own and where law enforcement, judicial, and investigative bodies lack credibility, there is very little accountability.

What has been happening in eastern Ukraine and Russia is deeply troubling. President Putin has used the invasion of Ukraine to justify a further crackdown on his own people's talents and aspirations. He has used state-controlled media to unleash anti-Western propaganda that is an insult to the Russia people. He has bet his people's economic and international standing on the pursuit and protection of his own kleptocracy. The Russian people deserve better.

In the case of Mr. Nemtsov, I echo the words of President Obama and countless others: an independent investigation must take place to find out who was responsible for Mr. Nemtsov's death, and the perpetrators must be swiftly brought to justice. The same goes for the many others who had the courage to peacefully report the truth or voice dissent in Russia and then found themselves in jail or murdered.

I joined Senator JOHNSON this week in leading a resolution recognizing Boris Nemtsov and calling for an investigation. I urge my colleagues to support this hero who has been taken from us too soon, and I hope we can continue to work in his honor to support the Russian people as they stand for democratic reforms.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, next week the Nation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, when we commemorate the series of marches of nonviolent civil rights protestors from Selma to the Alabama State capital of Montgomery. They were marching for the right to vote, which had been guaranteed by the adoption of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution in 1870. The first section of the amendment reads: ''The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.''

These marches gripped the attention of the Nation because of the violence reaction from the Alabama State troopers, who attacked the marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge after leaving Selma. The State troopers attacked the marchers using billy clubs, tear gas, fire hoses, and dogs, and numerous marchers were wounded and were beaten unconscious.

The images shown on television galvanized the American public in support of voting rights. President Lyndon Johnson called on Congress to enact voting rights legislation and make

good on both the promise of the 15th Amendment as well as the responsibility of Congress to enforce the amendment ''by appropriate legislation.''

One of those protestors beaten on the bridge was a Freedom Rider, speaker at the March on Washington, and a leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordination Committee. That protestor was JOHN LEWIS.

I was honored and privileged to enter Congress in 1987 at the same time as Congressman JOHN LEWIS. JOHN LEWIS has been a friend and mentor of mine for many years and is known as the ''conscience of the Congress.'' And while I did leave the House in 2006 to enter the Senate in 2007, I have continued to be inspired by Congressman LEWIS and his continuing struggle to make sure all Americans enjoy the benefits of equal justice under the law.

Just last week during Black History Month, I had the honor, along with Congressman JOHN LEWIS, to address a group of students from Baltimore who took their own pilgrimage to Selma as we approach the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

High School students and teachers from Park School, Baltimore City College, City Neighbors High School, and Cristo Rey Jesuit High School participated in a trip to southern cities such as Greensboro, Atlanta, Selma, Little Rock, the Mississippi Delta, and Memphis, focusing on the civil rights movement.

I wish to share some of the stories that the students told to Congressman LEWIS and me last week, because their idealism, determination, and knowledge of both the past and present is very inspirational.

Let me begin with a brief history of how this trip came into being. In 2004, the first group of students and faculty from the Park School of Baltimore and Baltimore City College High School traveled throughout the American South, visiting with participants in the Civil Rights Movement and touring the museums, sites, and memorials that stand in witness to the foot soldiers, heroes, and martyrs of the movement. The trip was the dream of three Park School faculty members: Carol Kinne, Traci Wright, and Stradine Harris. They envisioned young people from different schools and different backgrounds learning together and becoming inspired to be agents of change upon their return.

Money to cover the expenses of the trip is raised each year by the students. They sell pizza and candy, rake leaves, write grant proposals, and solicit funds from various benefactors.

While learning about the Civil Rights Movement is a primary goal of the trip, equally important is inspiring students to raise awareness of civil rights issues facing people today and to become activists for justice in their own communities.

In 2015, four Baltimore schools—City Neighbors and Cristo Rey having joined the original two—sent 38 students on the trip.

The January 2015 trip was a special one, as the group had the chance to meet with former Ambassador Andrew Young in Atlanta and to attend an event for the movie, Selma, that took place on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, in honor of the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

The group also visited the International Civil Rights Center in Greensboro, NC, attended church service at Ebenezer Baptist Church, toured the Rosa Parks Museum, met with activists at the Equal Justice Initiative and the Southern Poverty Law Center, and learned about the movement in other museums in Birmingham, Memphis, and Little Rock. More importantly, the group was able to meet and learn from people who fought for change: Cleopatra Goree, Catherine Burks-Brooks, Kurt Carrington, Roscoe Jones, Dr. Sybil Hampton, and others.

I wish to share just a few of the many stories from students who went on this trip, as related in their blog:

Amber Smiley is a 12th grader at Cristo Rey. Amber wrote:

> Across from the museum was this statue of people being attacked by dogs and hit with high amounts of pressured water. In these statues you could see the emotion in every one of them. You could see the fit and the drive to make changes. After leaving we had lunch with 3 women that marched, taught, and fought for rights. The women's names are Ms. Cleopatra Goree, Ms. Catherine Burks-Brooks, and Ms. Mimes. Each one of their stories varied but all built up to the bigger theme that we have to strive to make the world better. These words stuck with me like glue on two pieces of paper. Also, they said it's our turn to make a change its make thing about how can each school community to come and make a change in Baltimore. These women impacted my life and the whole group to change the injustices in our world. I was really honored to have them come and give us these points of views and life stories. It was really a blessing.

Latonyah Williams is a 12th grader at City Neighbors. She wrote:

> At the Little Rock Central visitor center, I found a quote that immediately grabbed my attention as I walked through the doors. It goes ''If not us, then who? If not now, then when?''—John Lewis. It grabbed at me because it shows the mindset behind how the leaders were thinking back when they were fighting for our rights. They weren't thinking of themselves or their lives, but of the future and the many generations to come. So now I want to have the mindset of if not me, then who will take a stand? If not now, then most likely it will not ever happen.

I am confident that this trip continues to impact students long after they return to Baltimore.

So today, while we recognize the achievements and accomplishments of heroes like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Thurgood Marshall, and JOHN LEWIS, we cannot shy away from the painful history of race relations in our country. To do so would be a disservice to all those who struggled and sacrificed in the name of equality.

Slavery and segregation were dark and painful chapters in American history, and those abhorrent practices occurred in Maryland and throughout the rest of our Nation.

Today, we must confront the issue of racial profiling. Racial profiling is the practice of discriminatory profiling based on race, ethnicity, religion or any other stereotype, and it is a matter that needs to be addressed from its root causes.

I ask: how many more cases like Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and Eric Garner must we have? How many more families will have to suffer until we get this right?

It has been heartbreaking to see several other American towns—from Ferguson, MO, to New York City, gripped by such a tragedies that resulted from racial profiling. Eighteen-year old Michael Brown was just days away from starting his first college classes, but he no longer has the chance to pursue his dreams.

In the Senate I have introduced the End Racial Profiling Act. This legislation is a step in the direction of ensuring equal treatment of all people under the law, conserving resources, and restoring trust in the men and women who risk their lives by signing up to protect our communities.

Racial profiling is un-American. It has no place within the values of our country. It turns communities against the partnerships needed to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Racial profiling is defined in a standard, consistent definition as the practice of a law enforcement agent relying on race, ethnicity, religion or national origin as a factor in their investigations and activities.

The legislation I have introduced creates an exception for the use of these factors where there is trustworthy information, relevant to the locality and time frame, which links persons of a particular race, ethnicity or national origin to an identified incident or scheme.

Law enforcement agencies would be prohibited from using racial profiling in criminal or routine law enforcement investigations, immigration enforcement, and national security cases.

The legislation I have introduced is supported by a broad coalition of civil rights groups such as the NAACP, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, ACLU, Rights Working Group, ACLU, and numerous other national, State, and local organizations.

While some may predict further gridlock and political polarization with a Congress led by one party and the President of another, I firmly believe that we will find ways to work together on the issues most important to the American public—and racial profiling is clearly one of those issues.

Congress overwhelmingly reauthorized the Voting Rights Act in 2006 after building an extensive record that made a compelling case for the continued need to protect minority voters from discrimination.

As much as we wish it wasn't so, racism has not disappeared from America

and there continue to be individuals and groups who would use our voting system to deliberately minimize the rights of minority voters. Congress should act to revitalize the Voting Rights Act.

Protecting the right to vote also extends to restoring the rights of nearly 4 million Americans across the country who have been released from prison but barred from the voting booth, often for life. I have been leading the fight for the Democracy Restoration Act, which would restore voting rights to individuals after they have served their time and have been released from incarceration.

If we truly want to break the cycle of recidivism, we need to reintegrate former prisoners back into society. When prisoners are released, they are expected to obey the law, get a job, and pay taxes as they are rehabilitated and reintegrated into their community. With these responsibilities and obligations of citizenship should also come the rights of citizenship, including the right to vote.

The current patchwork of State laws results in the lack of a uniform standard for eligibility to vote in Federal elections.

I believe that Congress should take strong action now to remedy this problem and enact a nationwide standard for restoration of voting rights. That is why I have introduced the Democracy Restoration Act.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, let us continue the march for justice for all Americans. I urge Congress to address the issues of voting rights and racial profiling during this session.

CENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, yesterday marked the centennial of the U.S. Navy Reserve, an indispensable and valuable part of our Armed Forces. The Navy Reserve was established as the Naval Reserve on March 3, 1915, and since then sailors have served in every conflict from World War I to the present. In addition, five U.S. Presidents: John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and George H.W. Bush have all served honorably in the Navy Reserve.

Today, we have more than 2,000 Navy Reserve sailors deployed around the world and our country is extremely grateful for the contributions and sacrifices that these sailors have made and continue to make to the history of the United States.

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL GRABOWSKI

One of those sailors I would like to talk about today is LT Michael Grabowski from Norwalk, CT. Lieutenant Grabowski is a perfect example of the student-citizen-soldier who wears two uniforms, one protecting the people of my State and the other honorably protecting our soldiers overseas. As a civilian, Lieutenant Grabowski serves in the Connecticut State Police and is one of six servicemembers of the Connecticut State Police currently mobilized by our Armed Forces. In addition, he is a first-year law student at Quinnipiac University. Michael is currently mobilized to Qatar supporting Operation Enduring Freedom as a master of arms in the Navy. Michael is a fine example of the courage and sacrifice that citizens of Connecticut and all across the country have made to protect our freedoms.

Today we celebrate Michael and every sailor and their families' commitment and service; and encourage all Americans to seize the opportunity to honor and support these brave men and women.

ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my remarks to the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Our nation is home to the world's greatest system of colleges and universities. From the beginning, federal policy has been to give grants and loans to students and let them choose from among all types of institutions—public four-year universities, community colleges, for-profit colleges, and private non-profits.

For example, students can study automobile technology at Nashville's auto diesel school or forensic psychology at Argosy University or computer information systems at DeVry University.

Student choice and competition are the drivers of American higher education's success. And an important participant in American higher education has always been our for-profit colleges and universities.

The students served by for-profit colleges underscore their importance. Nearly 2,100 institutions educate 3.3 million students representing, approximately 12 percent of all college enrollments, 1.8 million Pell students and 1.9 million federal loan borrowers. More than half of enrollments are students of color. Fifty percent of students are juggling school with children. More than a third of these students are working full-time while going to school. For-profits accounted for 44 percent of certificates, 20 percent of two-year associate's degrees and 7 percent of bachelor's degrees granted in the United States in 2012.

The President along with many governors and state legislatures are setting goals to increase the number of citizens with college degrees or certificates. Governor Haslam in Tennessee has an ambitious goal called Drive to 55, to see 55 percent of Tennesseans with degrees or certificates by 2025. The president has called for America to have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020.

The only way to achieve these goals is to include all sectors of higher education, including for-profit colleges and universities. Yet this administration has taken aim at the for-profit sector, and has created regulations specifically targeting your colleges and universities.

My view is that our policies should equally apply to all institutions of higher education, no matter the sector. There are bad apples in the for-profit sector—but there are bad apples in every sector of higher education.

So let me begin to describe my priorities for all sectors of higher education, which includes your colleges and universities:

1) Make it easier for students to go to college (FAST Act)

2) Make it simpler for colleges and universities to educate (Task Force on Regulation)

3) Make sure that accreditation ensures quality (Accreditation)

4) Make it harder to overborrow (FAST Act, Skin in the Game)

5) Make sure colleges are collecting useful data for students, families and policymakers (Consumer Data)

These are my priorities as we work over the next few months to reauthorize this law and ensure that 20 years from now, our colleges and universities still remain the best in the world in the quality of education they provide.

Number one, make it simpler for colleges and universities to educate. Today we have a government form so complicated and confusing that it discourages as many as 2 million Americans from attending college each year. This is the dreaded FAFSA—the Free Application for Federal Student Aid—which consists of 108 questions on topics ranging from your spouse's federal tax exemptions to the net worth of your parents' investment farms.

I have joined with a bipartisan group of senators to introduce legislation that would simplify the FAFSA form to just two questions—1) What was your household income two years ago? 2) What is your family size?

Four experts before our committee testified that these two questions would provide about 95 percent of all the information the federal government needs to determine award amounts.

It would also make the process, as much as the questions, less intimidating for parents. Because our bill would ask for household income from two years ago—as opposed to last year's income—it would restore sanity to the parents of applicants who are often being asked to provide the government with their income totals before they've even received their W–2s for the year.

One mentor with Governor Haslam's Tennessee Promise program, a woman named Cathy Hammon, says the form has a ''chilling effect''—intimidating parents who may themselves never have attended college, and have no experience navigating the process. She says this: ''It's the very youth we worry about the most that struggle with it.''

The FAST Act would also restore year-round Pell availability. This gives students common-sense flexibility. According to a study by New America, under today's Pell schedule: ''If a student attends a college that treats the summer as the start of the year, receives Pell Grants as a full-time student in that summer, and then attends full-time in the fall, she will not have enough aid to attend full-time in the spring.'' That doesn't make sense and it doesn't help students. So our proposal would let them use Pell all year.

Number two, make it simpler for colleges and universities to educate.

Over a year ago, Vanderbilt University hired the Boston Consulting Group to determine how much it costs the university to comply with federal rules and regulations. The answer: $150 million, or 11 percent of the university's total non-hospital expenditures last year. Vanderbilt Chancellor Nick Zeppos says that this adds about $11,000 in additional tuition per year for each of the university's 12,757 students.

The Higher Education Act totals nearly 1,000 pages; there are over 1,000 pages in the official Code of Federal Regulations devoted to higher education; and on average every workday the Department of Education issues one new sub-regulatory guidance directive or clarification. No one has taken the time to ''weed the garden.''

The result of this piling up of regulations is that one of the greatest obstacles to innovation and cost consciousness in higher education has become—us, the federal government.

A conspicuous example of this is the Gainful Employment regulation. It's a perfect symbol of what's wrong with our regulatory process that the Administration needed nearly 945 pages to define a two-word phrase that has been in the higher education law in one form or another since 1965.

What's especially concerning about the regulation is—

First, the rule is designed to almost exclusively impact and penalize for-profit colleges and universities. It selectively ignores concerns about student loan debt levels across all sectors of higher education.

The Department of Education's own National Center for Education Statistics reports that 26% of graduates from public, four-year colleges and 39% of graduates from private, four-year colleges would not be considered ''gainfully employed'' using the Department's metrics. It seems ridiculous that this regulation could shut down a nursing program at a for-profit institution but not one in exactly the same circumstances at a non-profit or public institution.

Second, the rule's complex debt-to-income ratios over-emphasize a graduate's income right after college. This is especially shortsighted for educational programs that hold an important public benefit such as education or social work, but don't result in early-career, high-paying salaries.

Third, this regulation has nothing to do with the quality of the education being provided. It simply relies on arbitrary government definitions of affordable student loan debt. What would be the result? More than 800,000 students will be kicked out of their programs at a time when many public colleges are unable to accommodate more students.

This simply isn't a good regulation and I think the Administration knows I'll do what it takes to oppose it. I've cosponsored legislation by Richard Burr and Virginia Foxx to overturn the gainful employment regulation, and other regulations that are equally ill advised. I led a letter signed by several of my colleagues opposing the proposed regulations, and I am prepared to offer an amendment to restrict funds from being used to implement the rule. As we approach the rewrite of the Higher Education Act, I intend to do what I can to prohibit the Department from implementing this regulation and treat all institutions equally.

This is just one example of regulatory excess.

And when it comes to bad regulations, let me make clear: we cannot just blame President Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan. They have contributed to the problem, but so has every president and every education secretary—and that includes me—since 1965 when the first Higher Education Act was enacted.

More than a year ago, four members of the Senate education committee—two Democrats and two Republicans—asked a group of distinguished educators to examine the current state of federal rules and regulations for colleges and universities. We asked them not just to tell us the problem, but to give us specific solutions.

They last month sent to us, ''Recalibrating Regulation of Colleges and Universities,'' a remarkable report in which they outline 59 specific regulations, requirements and areas for Congress and the Department of Education to consider—listing 10 especially problematic regulations. In their own words, America's 6,000 colleges and universities live in a ''jungle of red tape'' that is expensive and confusing and unnecessary.

So with this reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, Ranking Member Murray and I will work on a process that takes full advantage of the recommendations in this report so we can include many of them in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

But the bottom line is that regulations are taking good money away from educating students and performing research and all sorts of other things colleges and universities ought to be doing.

We won't let that happen again with this reauthorization.

Number three, make sure that accreditation ensures quality.

Our higher education system today is governed by what's known as the ''triad'':

The federal government, which ensures that colleges and universities have the fiscal and administrative capability to participate in federal aid programs.

The state governments—governor, legislature, state boards of education—that authorize institutions of higher education, oversee public institutions, and provide substantial public funding.

Finally, and perhaps most important, is the accreditation system.

The system also has one other major check, the student consumer—who is able to choose from over 6,000 colleges and universities, and ideally is unlikely to waste their time and money on a worthless degree. When it comes to ensuring academic quality—the choice is this: Either we have Washington regulate our over 6,000 colleges and universities, or we let them self-regulate through accreditation. I much prefer accreditation.

That does not mean our system of accreditation is problem-free. Today, accreditors meddle in areas that are none of their business. And sometimes they're too stuffy to allow some of the innovation that needs to come in education. We need to take a hard look at the system and the role it serves for the American taxpayer.

We need to answer questions, such as:

Are accreditors focused on the right things such as student learning and quality?

Does the current structure of regional accreditation make sense in today's world when higher education is increasingly national in scope?

Are federal rules and regulations on accreditors getting in the way of their ability to asses and ensure academic quality?

But we need to keep in mind that this system is far preferable to any regulatory body created by the federal government.

Number four, make it harder for students to over-borrow.

There's a lot of discussion about student debt in the United States, but when you drill down on who's really got so much debt: It's a very small contingent of mostly graduate students. For most Americans, college is a good investment that will pay off.

Three out of four of our college students attend a public 2- or 4-year college and university. Of those, about two out of five of all students attend community colleges where the average tuition and fees are under $3,300. Those students receive an average of $4,850 in grants and scholarships. So the average community college student in America is receiving about $1,500 more in grants and scholarships than what it costs in tuition and fees to attend college.

Thirty-seven percent of all of our college students attend public 4-year universities. The average in-state tuition and fees is about $8,900. Those students receive in average $5,800 in grants and scholarships. We're not talking loans, so they have to pay $3,100 on average, in tuition and fees.

And then we have students who attend 4-year colleges that are private. That's about 15 percent. Their average tuition and fees are $30,000 but the scholarships and grants take that down to $12,500. At for-profit colleges and universities, the average cost is about $15,000.

About 2 percent of federal borrowers have more than $100,000 in debt. Graduate students are typically the problem.

The FAST Act would discourage over-borrowing by limiting the amount a graduate student is able to borrow. It would also help undergraduates from borrowing too much, by limiting borrowing based on enrollment. For example, a part-time student would be able to take out a part time loan only.

In addition, my proposal would allow institutions to limit borrowing based on evidence that students completing the program have difficulty repaying their loans.

I would also like to give schools more ability to counsel students on borrowing. Many in Congress are concerned with students borrowing more than is necessary while attending college and anecdotal examples of increased institutional counseling has led to reduced borrowing by students.

I believe that the institution, especially if we give you the ability to counsel students and limit borrowing, should bear some responsibility for this borrowing—after all you are the ones charging these students. However, I am seeking your input on this topic. Some of your members, as well as the association itself, have talked with me and my staff about this topic. I hope those discussions continue.

Number five, make sure the data colleges are collecting are useful for students, families and policymakers.

Before we rewrite this law, we need to know what information consumers actually find useful as they shop for schools, how much information is too much and what is the role of the federal government.

The federal government collects thousands of data points annually on schools, yet still cannot answer some of policymakers and students basic questions. In the future, Department of Education should only collect data that is useful to consumers or to policymakers regarding how well our federal programs are working. Consumers nor policymakers are able to absorb all of the data currently collected.

This is a prime area to reduce institutional burden. So we need to determine what information is truly needed. That may mean collecting new and different data that better fulfills federal responsibilities to taxpayers and drives the free market which makes our country and higher education system number one.

It is also important to ensure that the Department is not allowed to manipulate this data to create opaque, inappropriate or contrived metrics such as recently happened with cohort default rates and gainful employment, and will more than likely occur in the forthcoming ratings system.

I look forward to the upcoming reauthorization. Senator MURRAY and I are working very well in moving a fix to No Child Left Behind and I see no reason why the Higher Education Act will be any different. I intend to move to this bill this spring after we complete Senate action on No Child Left Behind. We will hold several hearings before holding a mark-up of a reauthorization early this summer. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the process unfolds. Thank you for everything you have done to be helpful so far and for providing opportunity to those seeking a higher education.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JEFFREY SHAW

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Jeffrey Shaw on his retirement after serving Southwest Gas Corporation, Southwest Gas, for 27 years. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his years of hard work and dedication to a company that services thousands across Nevada.

Mr. Shaw stands as a shining example of someone who has devoted his life to serving his State and community. After earning his bachelor of science in accounting from the University of Utah, Mr. Shaw worked for Arthur Andersen & Co. in its Dallas and Las Vegas offices in the audit division. In 1988, he began his career at Southwest Gas as director of internal audit. From there, Mr. Shaw worked to move higher in the company, climbing from controller and chief accounting officer all the way to president and chief executive officer of Southwest Gas. Today, the company services over 1 million homes across the country.

Mr. Shaw is not only driven in his endeavors with Southwest Gas, but within the local Las Vegas community as well. He is a member of the Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Leadership Las Vegas Alumni Association. He also serves on the boards of the Council for a Better Nevada and the UNLV Foundation, and he is a past president and a current board member of both the Western Energy Institute and the Las Vegas Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. His work throughout these many organizations demonstrates his dedication to honorably representing Nevada on multiple fronts. Although he is retiring, his legacy within these organizations will continue for years to come.

It is not only Mr. Shaw's commitment and drive to excel that places him among the most notable in his community, but also his genuine good nature in helping others. He has served Las Vegas by contributing to higher education and the local Boy Scout community, and by working to improve the quality of life across the State. His commitment to helping those around him is unwavering.

I am very grateful for his dedication to the people of Las Vegas and to the State of Nevada. He exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and community service and should be proud of his long and meaningful career. Today, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Shaw on his retirement, and I give my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make Nevada a better place. I offer him my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DONALDO MCINTOSH

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Donaldo McIntosh on his retirement after 58 years of service to Nevada and to the country. His hard work and dedication throughout the years is honorable.

Mr. McIntosh started his career in 1957 as a military police officer in the U.S. Army. His service extended for 3 years, protecting those in his local community, as well as his country. After serving in the Army, Mr. McIntosh then spent the rest of his career working in the transportation industry for the city of Las Vegas. In 1970, he worked as safety director for the Las Vegas Transit System and Greyline Tours and then for Transportation Unlimited. His final years of service were spent as a transportation escort for the Pahrump Senior Center.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. McIntosh for his courageous contributions to the United States of America. His service to his country and his bravery and dedication earn him a place among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our Nation. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for after their service. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

The Las Vegas community has greatly benefitted from the hard work of Mr. McIntosh. Today, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. McIntosh on his retirement. I offer my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make the Silver State a better place and for his service to this country, and I give my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, and a withdrawal, which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE DESIGNATION OF FUNDING FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM—PM 10

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with language under the heading ''Coast Guard, Operating Expenses'' of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (the ''Act''), I hereby designate for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism all funding so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 4, 2015.*

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:55 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House recedes from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 240) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, and that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the aforementioned bill.

The message also announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. DELANEY of Maryland, Ms. ADAMS of North Carolina, and Mr. BEYER of Virginia.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:14 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 240. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

H.R. 431. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Foot Soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the final Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March in March of 1965, which served as a catalyst for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 625. A bill to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–814. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Cattle Fever Tick; Importation Requirements for Ruminants From Mexico'' ((RIN0579–AD91) (Docket No. APHIS–2012–0073)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 2, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–815. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''9-Octadecenoic Acid (9Z)-, Sulfonated, Oxidized and its Potassium and Sodium Salts; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9922–29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–816. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Metaldehyde; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9921–85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–817. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''2015 Report to Congress from the Intelligent Transportation Systems Program Advisory Committee'' ; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–818. A communication from the Vice President of Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, Amtrak's fiscal year 2016 General and Legislative Annual Report; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–819. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Establishing Transit Areas Through Walrus Protection Areas at Round Island and Cape Peirce, Northern Bristol Bay, Alaska; Amendment 107'' (RIN0648–BE24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–820. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Protection System Maintenance Reliability Standard'' (RIN1902–AE88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–821. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran'' ; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–822. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rule for Pentane, 1,1,1,2,3,3-hexafluoro-4-(1,1,2,3,3,3-hexafluoropropoxy)-'' ((RIN2070) (FRL No. 9922–30)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–823. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Tennessee; Emissions Statement Requirement for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 9923–94–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–824. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9924–16–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–825. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Mississippi: New Source Review - Prevention of Significance Deterioration'' (FRL No. 9923–92–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–826. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Arkansas; Revisions for the Regulation and Permitting of Fine Particulate Matter'' (FRL No. 9923–77–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–827. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Approval of Substitution for Transportation Control Measures'' (FRL No. 9923–80–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–828. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Georgia; Redesignation of the Rome, Georgia, 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment Area to Attainment; Correction'' (FRL No. 9923–89–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–829. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; State Boards Requirements; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Ozone, 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide, and 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9924–02–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–830. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9923–79–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–831. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation Request and Associated Maintenance Plan for the Reading, Pennsylvania Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard, and 2007 Base Year Inventory'' (FRL No. 9923–11–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–832. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants, and Operating Permits Program; State of Missouri'' (FRL No. 9923–68–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–833. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Approval and Promulgation: Missouri; St. Louis Inspection and Maintenance Program'' (FRL No. 9923–66–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–834. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Round 2 of Section 48A Phase III Program under the Qualifying Advanced Coal Project Program'' (Notice 2015–14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2015; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–835. A communication from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2015 Trade Policy Agenda and 2014 Annual Report of the President of the United States on the Trade Agreements Program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–836. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office's audit of the United States government's fiscal years 2014 and 2013 consolidated financial statements; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–837. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Financial Report of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–838. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans; Supplemental Final Rule'' (RIN3133–AE21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate

on March 2, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–839. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans'' (RIN3133–AE04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 2, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–840. A communication from the Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Implementation of Executive Order 13672 Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity by Contractors and Subcontractors'' (RIN1250–AA07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 2, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–841. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medical Device Reporting: Electronic Submission Requirements; Correcting Amendments'' ((RIN0910–AF86) (Docket No. FDA–2008–N–0393)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor , and Pensions.

EC–842. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–068); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–843. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–131); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–844. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14–150); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–845. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2015–0018–2015–0025); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–846. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking (OSS–2015–0220); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–847. A communication from the Deputy Associate Director for Management and Administration and Designated Reporting Official, Office on National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of National Drug Control Policy, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 27, 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–7. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan supporting scientifically-based state management of gray wolves and calling for legislative action by the U.S. Congress in an effort to remove the Western Great Lakes gray wolf population from the endangered and threatened species list; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, On December 19, 2014, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia returned the Western Great Lakes population of gray wolves to the federal endangered and threatened species list. This is the third time in the last decade that federal courts have disregarded the judgment of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service scientists and overturned a delisting of the gray wolf in the Great Lakes regions; and

Whereas, Based on objective scientific criteria, gray wolves have made a remarkable recovery from near extinction and are no and longer endangered in Michigan. Michigan's gray wolf population exceeds by more than three times the number or wolves biologists consider necessary to maintain a healthy population and has grown steadily for more than a decade. Michigan's wolf population has met all federal recovery goals for delisting, both in terms of the number of wolves and the stability of those numbers; and

Whereas, The extreme protection afforded gray wolves under the federal Endangered Species Act prevents sound management of this species in Michigan. Gray wolves increasingly endanger people and domestic animals as they encroach more and more on developed areas, and they also impact other wildlife. In 2014, deadly wolf attacks on livestock and dogs increased 75 percent in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. As a result of the court's decision, Michigan's laws allowing citizens to protect their valuable livestock and dogs from wolves have been invalidated. The federal law was designed to bring back species from the brink of extinction, not manage the complicated interactions between people and an increasingly large and expanding predator population; and

Whereas, Michigan is well-prepared to manage gray wolves. The state of Michigan has developed a scientifically-based management plan that will continue to maintain a healthy gray wolf population while allowing for more flexibility when conflicts between people and wolves arise. This plan will allow the state to meets its obligations under sections 51 and 52 of the Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963 to protect the public health and natural resources in the interest of the general welfare of the people; and

Whereas, Michigan cannot properly manage the gray wolf population until gray wolves are removed from the federal endangered and threatened species list in the Great Lakes region. The federal courts' continued interference infringes on this state's rights under the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and the U.S. District Court's ruling must be overturned or the fundamental flaws in the federal Endangered Species Act corrected so that science and reason can prevail; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we support scientifically-based state management of gray wolves by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and be it further

Resolved, That to achieve that end, we support federal legislation to lift federal protections on the Western Great Lakes gray wolf population so they are no longer considered endangered, and we call on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to appeal the recent federal court ruling that returned gray wolves in the Great Lakes region to the federal endangered and threatened species list; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the director of the US. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, and the director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 648. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve formulary requirements for prescription drug plans and MA–PD plans with respect to certain categories or classes of drugs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 649. A bill to amend the eligibility requirements for funding under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. NELSON):

S. 650. A bill to extend the positive train control system implementation deadline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 651. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain land in Martinez, California, for inclusion in the John Muir National Historic Site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 652. A bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to provide for the more accurate and complete enumeration of members of the Armed Forces in any tabulation of total population by the Secretary of Commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 653. A bill to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under that Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 654. A bill to exempt certain class A CDL drivers from the requirement to obtain a hazardous material endorsement while operating a service vehicle with a fuel tank containing 3,785 liters (1,000 gallons) or less of diesel fuel; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 655. A bill to prohibit the use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to make a final determination on the listing of the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 656. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to enable

State child protective services systems to improve the identification and assessment of child victims of sex trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 657. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to all veterans with a serious service-connected injury eligibility to participate in the family caregiver services program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 658. A bill to reauthorize the impact aid program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 659. A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 660. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a credit for married couples who are both employed and have young children; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 661. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the dependent care tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. CORKER):

S. 662. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to ensure fairness in the establishment of certain rates and fees under sections 114 and 115 of such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 663. A bill to repeal the violation of sovereign nations' laws and privacy matters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 664. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a tax credit for foster families; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COONS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BROWN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 665. A bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRANKEN:

S. 666. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the treatment of medical evidence provided by non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical professionals in support of claims for disability compensation under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. LEE, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 667. A bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 668. A bill to require data brokers to establish procedures to ensure the accuracy of collected personal information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 669. A bill to provide for consideration of legislation to respond to a violation by Iran of an arrangement relating to its nuclear program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 670. A bill to provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register certain firearms in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 671. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen elementary and secondary computer science education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 672. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to support a reduction in school suspension and expulsions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SASSE:

S. 673. A bill to provide a transition plan for those individuals who may be affected by ObamaCare's unlawful implementation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 674. A bill to expand programs with respect to women's health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. Res. 96. A resolution condemning the murder of Boris Nemtsov, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KIRK, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 97. A resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 98. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Con. Res. 8. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative stamp honoring the 50th anniversary of the three civil rights marches from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama that took place over the course of several weeks in March 1965; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. COATS)):

S. Con. Res. 9. A concurrent resolution honoring the life and memory of Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 125

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 125, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 166

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 166, a bill to stop exploitation through trafficking.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 178, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 256, a bill to amend the definition of ''homeless person'' under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to include certain homeless children and youth, and for other purposes.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 262

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 262, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 299

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 299, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 322

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.

S. 332

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent the extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 338, a bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 352

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 423, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 441

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 441, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 474

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 474, a bill to require State educational agencies that receive funding under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to have in effect policies and procedures on background checks for school employees.

S. 498

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 498, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 511

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 511, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require that genetically engineered food and foods that contain genetically engineered ingredients to be labeled accordingly.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 539, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 552

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 552, a bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 568

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 568, a bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 586, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the chronic diseases and conditions that result from diabetes.

S. 588

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 588, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a consumer product safety standard for liquid detergent packets to protect children under the age of five from injury or illness, and for other purposes.

S. 595

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 595, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to prohibit baiting exemptions on certain land.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 638, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to exceptional event demonstrations, and for other purposes.

S. 639

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 639, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to include in any proposed rule that limits greenhouse gas emissions and imposes increased costs on other Federal agencies an offset from funds available to the Administrator for all projected increased costs that the proposed rule would impose on other Federal agencies.

S. 640

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 640, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to delay the review and revision of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders.

S. RES. 93

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 93, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the courageous work and life of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, and calling for a swift and transparent

investigation into his tragic murder in Moscow on February 27, 2015.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 653. A bill to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under that Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Water Resources Research Amendments Act. First authorized in 1964, the Water Resources Research Act established 54 Water Resources Research Institutes at top land grant universities in each of the 50 States and the U.S. territories. These institutes created a grant program and provided opportunities for applied water supply research. The bill I introduce today would reauthorize the grant program for the next 5 years and would add a program focused on research and development of green infrastructure.

Water and the availability thereof is a defining characteristic of U.S. landscape, culture, wealth, and security. Clean water is a relatively rare and invaluable resource. Last year's funded projects included research into the impacts of climate change on water supply lakes, the development of better detection methods for pathogens in drinking water, and the impacts of drought on farm supply chains. In my own State, some of the tools we use for restoration of the Chesapeake Bay were products of these same grants in previous years. WRRA Researchers across the Mid-Atlantic States have developed ways to keep the Chesapeake waters cleaner through urban stormwater treatment, improved roadway design, and eco-friendly poultry farming practices. WRRA-funded projects develop innovative and cost-effective solutions for similar water resources issues across the country. Undoubtedly, funding WRRA is an intelligent and necessary investment in the future of our water resources.

WRRA authorizes two types of annual grants. First, it supplies grants to each Water Resources Research Institute for research that fosters improvements in water supply reliability, explores new ways to address water problems, encourages dissemination of research to water managers and the public, and encourages the entry of new scientists, engineers and technicians into the water resources field. Second, WRRA authorizes a national competitive grant program to address regional water issues. All WRRA grants leverage non-federal dollars at a minimum ratio of 2 to 1, but often far beyond that level, as high as 5 to 1.

The Water Resources Research Act was most recently reauthorized in 2006, in PL 109–471. In that period, the program was authorized at $12,000,000 per year, providing $6,000,000 each to state and competitive project grants. Authorization for these grants expired in fiscal year 2011. Today's bill would reauthorize both grant programs for an additional 5 years by providing $7,500,000 for institutional grants and $1,500,000 for national competitive grants. This lower authorization level reflects our efforts to adjust for present fiscal limitations. The proposed authorization maximizes the economic efficiency of the program without compromising its efficacy. An independent review panel has judged that the Water Resources Research Institutes command significant funding leverage for the modest amount of appropriations required to support it. Thus, we can be sure that we are supporting top-notch science while maximizing cost-effectiveness. Moreover, by funding this network of institutes we are investing in our future. The Water Resources Research Institutes are the country's single largest training program for water scientists, technicians, and engineers.

Today, floods, droughts, and water degradation issues pervade the nation. Simultaneously, water resources are increasingly critical for production of resources, economic stability, and the health and well-being of the citizenry. WRRA grants provide us with improved understanding of water-related issues and better technology to address them. Nearly half a century after the Water Resources Research grant program was first put in place, this program is relevant, critical, and deserving of our support.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 653

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Water Resources Research Amendments Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.—Section 102 of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10301) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively;

(2) in paragraph (8) (as so redesignated), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) additional research is required into increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of new and existing treatment works through alternative approaches, including—

''(A) nonstructural alternatives;

''(B) decentralized approaches;

''(C) energy use efficiency;

''(D) water use efficiency; and

''(E) actions to extract energy from wastewater;''.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—Section 104(b)(1) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking ''water-related phenomena'' and inserting ''water resources''; and

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''.

(c) COMPLIANCE REPORT.—Section 104(c) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(c) From the'' and inserting the following:

''(c) GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—From the''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives a report regarding the compliance of each funding recipient with this subsection for the immediately preceding fiscal year.''.

(d) EVALUATION OF WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 104 of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303) is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) EVALUATION OF WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a careful and detailed evaluation of each institute at least once every 3 years to determine—

''(A) the quality and relevance of the water resources research of the institute;

''(B) the effectiveness of the institute at producing measured results and applied water supply research; and

''(C) whether the effectiveness of the institute as an institution for planning, conducting, and arranging for research warrants continued support under this section.

''(2) PROHIBITION ON FURTHER SUPPORT.—If, as a result of an evaluation under paragraph (1), the Secretary determines that an institute does not qualify for further support under this section, no further grants to the institute may be provided until the qualifications of the institute are reestablished to the satisfaction of the Secretary.''.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 104(f)(1) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(f)(1)) is amended by striking ''$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011'' and inserting ''$7,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020''.

(f) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS WHERE RESEARCH FOCUSED ON WATER PROBLEMS OF INTERSTATE NATURE.—Section 104(g)(1) of the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10303(g)(1)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011'' and inserting ''$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2020''.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 657. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to all veterans with a serious service-connected injury eligibility to participate in the family caregiver services program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce a bill today along with Senator BALDWIN that will help veterans and the men and women who care for them. Called the Caregivers

Expansion and Improvement Act, it would open the VA Family Caregivers Program to all eligible veterans who were severely injured while serving our country.

I introduced legislation creating the Family Caregiver Program in 2009 so caregivers of severely injured veterans could take care of our heroes at home. The program provides home health training, peer support, and a small financial stipend to caregivers of severely injured veterans. The caregivers also have access to mental health support and enrollment in the VA's Civilian Health and Mental Program, if they are not already eligible.

When the Caregivers Program was created, we had to limit eligibility for the program to post–9/11 veterans. It has been wildly successful. Twenty thousand veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan participate in the program today. This is more than five times the number the VA originally estimated would sign up. The program helps caregivers, who shoulder the cost of homecare, know they are not alone.

Since introducing the Caregivers Program 6 years ago, I have gotten to know many caregivers in my State. One family who lives in Chicago, Dan and Trish Sylvester, made a lasting impression on me. Trish, a veteran of the Iraq war, is 100 percent disabled due to severe PTSD. It can be triggered by anything from a backfiring car to simply a bad thought running through her head. Dan, who is a veteran himself, graduated from DePaul Law School last year and now practices law part time.

Today, as he did all through law school, Dan takes care of Trish, making sure she stays on top of all her medications and going with her to counseling appointments. Trish's symptoms first took hold in February 2011, and she was hospitalized multiple times.

The Sylvesters' found out about the Family Caregiver Program shortly after it was launched and applied with the help of a Jesse Brown VA employee named Erica. They use the Caregivers stipend to pay for counseling services that are not provided by the VA. The money also helped them avoid having to take out more in student loans than they had to and kept Dan from having to add a part-time job to his already full plate when he was a student. Dan says the resources available to him through the program are lifesavers.

Both Trish and Dan showed courage in serving our country. Their sacrifice didn't end after their deployments. They continue to show great courage every day that they work together on Trish's recovery.

The bill Senator BALDWIN and I are introducing today would allow eligible veterans from all wars to apply for the VA Family Caregivers Program. The VA has estimated that as many as 88,000 additional veteran caregivers could qualify for the program under this bill.

Not only does the program allow veterans to stay in their homes with their families, it is a money-saver for taxpayers. The VA spends an average of $332,000 per veteran per year in VA nursing homes. It spends an average of $88,000 per veteran per year in community nursing homes. It also spends about $45,000 a year in per diem payments to veterans in State Veterans Homes. Through the Caregivers Program, the VA cost per veteran per year is about $36,000. This includes the stipend, which averages between $600 and $2,250 a month, based on the level of care and the geographic location, and services provided to the caregiver. It is an enormous savings to the VA, when you consider the cost of the alternative, full-time, institutional care. And it's a tremendous comfort to the veterans and the caregivers who look after them.

I commend each of the caregivers who have made the decision to care for our heroes. These veterans sacrificed their health and well-being for their country, and their caregivers have sacrificed much of their own lives, careers, school, retirement, to care for them upon their return home. We owe each and every one of them a great debt of gratitude. We want to make sure all qualified family caregivers are enrolled in this program.

With this bill, we are on the way to helping many families in need. We can finally provide assistance to the caregivers of Veterans of all eras on an equal basis.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 657

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION TO ALL VETERANS WITH A SERIOUS SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM.

Section 1720G(a)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''on or after September 11, 2001''.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 660. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a credit for married couples who are both employed and have young children; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to join my colleagues in taking a step back from the partisan bills on the floor this week to talk about the ways we should be able to work together to grow the economy and help our working families.

Democrats have an economic theory that we are pretty confident about. We believe that real, long-term economic growth is built from the middle out, not from the top down. We believe that government does have a role to play in investing in our working families and making sure they have the opportunity to work hard and succeed, offering a hand up to those who want to climb the economic ladder and provide a better life for themselves and their families. We believe our government and our economy should be working for all families, not just the wealthiest few.

Thankfully we have had the opportunity to put some policies in place over the past few years that have pulled our economy back from the brink and have started moving it in the right direction. We are not there yet, but across the country businesses have added almost 12 million new jobs. We have had over 59 straight months of job growth, including almost 1 million manufacturing jobs. The unemployment rate is now under 6 percent. Health care costs are growing at their lowest rate in almost 50 years, while millions more families now have access to affordable coverage. The Federal budget deficit has been reduced by over two-thirds since President Obama took office.

Although many Republicans seem to keep threatening to bring us back, we have been able to move away from the constant tea party-driven crises and uncertainty that were really destroying jobs and holding back our economy.

We are headed in a good direction. I am proud of the policies that we fought for that helped us to get here, but we do have a whole lot more to do.

The economy has changed over the past few decades, and our Tax Code has not kept up. Working families have seen their incomes stagnate while the cost of living, health care, and education has continued to go up. More and more families have two workers in the workforce, which is a good thing for so many women but brings additional expenses, such as childcare and transportation and the increased marginal tax rate paid by the second worker in the family. That is why I am very proud to introduce two middle-class tax cut bills today that will put money in the pockets of working families and update our Tax Code for the 21st-century economy.

My 21st Century Worker Tax Cut Act would create a new 10-percent credit on up to $10,000 of the income of the second earner in a family. In other words, qualifying working families can reduce their income taxes by up to $1,000, which can go a long way toward offsetting some of the additional costs these families bear as they go back to work. That tax cut rewards families for more work, and it would especially help women who want to rejoin the workforce today.

The second bill I am introducing today is the Helping Working Families

Afford Child Care Act. This bill will update and reform the outdated child independent tax credit to help more working families. It would increase the tax credit to keep up with the rising costs of quality childcare and would make sure that the credit actually keeps up with the times by indexing it to inflation.

I am very proud to introduce these two bills today, but I am even more proud that my bills are just two of the bills Democrats are introducing today that will help working families by putting more money in their pockets and helping them access more opportunity. My colleagues are going to be talking about the bills they wrote, but our package of bills also includes, besides what I just talked about, an earned-income and childcare tax credit expansion and expansion of the American opportunity tax credit to help middle-class families afford childcare so they can get back on the job and help them pay for college so they can work hard and invest in themselves and their careers.

We know Republicans like to talk about cutting taxes. Well, with these bills we are giving everyone a chance to do exactly that—and not with more tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations. Republicans have given that trickle-down theory a try, and it failed. Our approach is tax cuts for the middle class, for the workers who need it the most, to help them afford the costs they are faced with, such as childcare, putting food on the table, getting back on the job, and to give them the opportunity to work hard and succeed.

We want to grow the economy from the middle out, not the top down, and we think these middle-class tax cut bills are a very strong step in the right direction. We hope Republicans will join us to get these done.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COONS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BROWN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 665. A bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer's official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015.

Every day, more than 900,000 Federal, State and local law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe. Unfortunately these officers can become targets for criminals and those seeking to evade our justice system, and we must make sure our officers have all the tools they need to protect themselves and each other.

Each year thousands of law enforcement officers are assaulted while performing their duties and many suffer serious injuries or even lose their lives. In December 2014, New York City Police Department officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu were assassinated while sitting in their marked police patrol car in Brooklyn. This legislation is named after those officers in honor of the ultimate sacrifice that they made to serve and protect their fellow citizens.

According to preliminary data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, law enforcement fatalities in the U.S. rose 24 percent in 2014, reversing what had been two years of dramatic declines in line of duty deaths. The report indicates that 126 federal, state, local, tribal and territorial officers were killed in the line of duty this year, compared to 102 in 2013. Ambush-style attacks such as those that took the lives of officers Ramos and Liu were the number one cause of felonious officer deaths for the fifth year in a row. Fifteen officers nationwide were killed in ambush assaults in 2014, matching 2012 for the highest total since 1995.

I thank my original cosponsors who have joined me in introducing this legislation, including my lead co-sponsor Senator GRAHAM.

The rapid dissemination of critical, time-sensitive information about suspected criminals is essential to keeping our communities safe. This legislation would encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert programs through the United States. The Attorney General would establish a national Blue Alert communications network within the Department of Justice. The Blue Alert system could be used when a law enforcement officer is: seriously injured or killed in the line of duty; missing in connection with the officer's official duties; or an imminent or credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury of death of a law enforcement officer is received.

The Blue Alert system could be used when the suspect has not been apprehended, and where there is sufficient descriptive information of the suspect and any vehicles involved, if applicable. This information can be used by local law enforcement, the public and the media to help facilitate capture of such offenders and ultimately reduce the risk they pose to our communities and law enforcement officers.

Currently there is no national alert system that provides immediate information to other law enforcement agencies, the media or the public at large. Many states have created a state Blue Alert system in an effort to better inform their local communities. The State of Maryland, under the leadership of former Governor Martin O'Malley, created their Blue Alert system in 2008 after the murder of Maryland State Trooper Wesley Brown. Blue Alert programs have been created in 20 states to date, with a growing number of states considering establishing Blue Alert programs.

The purpose of our National Blue Alert legislation is to keep our law enforcement officers and our communities safe. And based on the success of the AMBER Alert and the SILVER Alert, I believe this BLUE Alert will be equally successful in helping to apprehend criminal suspects who have seriously injured or killed our law enforcement officers.

I am also pleased to say this legislation has the endorsement of the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department, and many other law enforcement associations. Passing this legislation can help us live up to our commitment to help better protect those who serve us. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 96—CONDEMNING THE MURDER OF BORIS NEMTSOV, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 96

Whereas, on February 27, 2015, Russian opposition leader and former deputy prime minister Boris Nemtsov was brutally murdered in the shadow of the Kremlin in Russia's capitol city Moscow;

Whereas Mr. Nemtsov was a man of conviction and principle who dedicated his life to the fight against corruption in Russia and sought to advance democracy, human rights, free speech, free market reforms, and the rule of law throughout his life;

Whereas, in December 2011, Mr. Nemtsov helped mobilize the largest anti-Kremlin demonstrations since the early 1990's, leading tens of thousands of Russians to march in protest of widespread fraud and corruption in the parliamentary elections;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation responded by passing a series of harsh laws that vastly expanded the definition of treason, increased government control over the media, and limited the scope and activities of opposition parties and civil society organizations;

Whereas Russian authorities exploit these laws for their own political ends and use them to intimidate members of the opposition, human rights activists, and others with whom they disagree;

Whereas Mr. Nemtsov strongly opposed these and other repressive measures, and expressed concerns that President Vladimir Putin's policies were threatening democracy and rule of law in Russia;

Whereas Mr. Nemtsov strongly criticized Russia's annexation of Crimea and military

activities in eastern Ukraine, blaming President Putin for a ''mad, aggressive and deadly policy of war against Ukraine'' and lying to the Russian people about this policy;

Whereas Mr. Nemtsov had been investigating Russia's role in Ukraine and was preparing to release an investigative report conclusively proving the participation of the Russian Armed Forces in the invasion of Ukraine and revealing the extent to which the Government of the Russian Federation was involved;

Whereas, prior to his death, Mr. Nemtsov planned to lead a Spring March on March 1, 2015, to protest the Russian military's presence in Ukraine;

Whereas, on February 28, 2015, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko stated that he believed Mr. Nemtsov had been murdered because he planned to disclose this evidence of Russia's involvement in Ukraine;

Whereas President Putin called critics of his government ''a fifth column'' and ''national traitors'', inviting violent attacks upon them and sponsoring a campaign of hatred, intimidation, and aggression;

Whereas, on February 20, 2015, a new movement called Anti-Maidan marched freely through Moscow calling for violence against this ''fifth column'', with signs naming Mr. Nemtsov as an enemy of Russia;

Whereas Mr. Nemtsov's colleagues stated that he was under state surveillance shortly before his murder and he was murdered in one of the most heavily-secured areas of Moscow, suggesting the Government of Russia's culpability;

Whereas other prominent figures in Russia who have criticized President Putin and his government have also been assassinated, including Vladimir Golovlyov, Yuri Shchekochikhin, Anna Politkovskaya, Alexander Litvinenko, Magomed Yevloyev, Stanslav Markelov, and Natalia Estermirova;

Whereas none of the individuals responsible for these assassinations have been brought to justice, raising serious questions about the ability of Russian authorities to conduct a credible investigation into Mr. Nemtsov's murder;

Whereas a culture of impunity and lack of accountability prevail in Putin's Russia, with law enforcement, judicial, and investigative bodies often used to target political opponents and civil society, and thus lacking credibility to conduct an investigation themselves;

Whereas the Russia Investigative Committee released a list of motives for Mr. Nemtsov's murder which do not take into account his role as a prominent government critic, surveillance cameras were allegedly turned off for maintenance during the time of his murder, and Kremlin-sponsored channels are inciting fear and hatred by propagating conspiracy theories that blame the United States for his assassination;

Whereas these continuing assassinations are intended to intimidate the people of Russia and undermine political and social reform in the Russian Federation; and

Whereas support for rule of law and human rights in the Russian Federation will help ensure its future as a free, strong, and vibrant society and enduring stability in the Russian Federation will come from an active civil society in which democracy flourishes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the courageous work of Boris Nemtsov, a tireless advocate for reform and human rights who sacrificed his life in the fight for freedom and democracy in the Russian Federation;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Mr. Nemtsov, as well as to all the people of Russia;

(3) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the murder of Boris Nemtsov on February 27, 2015, as well as the assassinations of numerous other human rights and democracy activists in the Russian Federation since President Vladimir Putin came to office;

(4) urges the President to seek a United Nations Security Council resolution that establishes an independent investigation into the assassination;

(5) calls upon the Government of Russia to support and facilitate an independent inquiry into the murder of Mr. Nemtsov;

(6) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to release all political prisoners and to end the ongoing harassment of political opponents, human rights activists, and journalists;

(7) calls for the restoration of an independent judiciary and the rule of law in the Russian Federation, and an end to all restrictions on the media and freedom of speech;

(8) urges the President to add the names of persons that Mr. Nemtsov requested be added to the visa ban list as provided for under the Sergei Manitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112–208) and continue to sanction human rights violators in the Russian Federation;

(9) urges the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to obtain, examine, and publish the investigative report Mr. Nemtsov planned to release as part of the OSCE observer role in eastern Ukraine to demonstrate the inability of the Government of the Russian Federation to suppress the truth Mr. Nemtsov represented; and

(10) urges the President to significantly increase United States Government support to like-minded partners and human rights activists in the Russian Federation to create a more vibrant civil society and open media environment in which democracy can flourish.

SENATE RESOLUTION 97—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KIRK, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 97

Whereas there are more than 3,500,000,000 women in the world today;

Whereas women around the world have fundamental human rights, participate in the political, social, and economic life of their communities, play a critical role in providing and caring for their families, contribute substantially to the growth of economies and the prevention of conflict, and, as farmers and caregivers, play an important role in advancing food security for their communities;

Whereas the advancement of women around the world is a foreign policy priority for the United States;

Whereas on September 24, 2014, President Barack Obama highlighted the United States support for the advancement of women, noting: ''Where women are full participants in a country's politics or economy, societies are more likely to succeed. And that's why we support the participation of women in parliaments and peace processes, schools, and the economy.'';

Whereas women remain underrepresented in conflict prevention and conflict resolution efforts, despite proven success by women in conflict-affected regions in moderating violent extremism, countering terrorism, resolving disputes through nonviolent mediation and negotiation, and stabilizing societies by improving access to peace and security services, institutions, and decisionmaking venues;

Whereas on December 19, 2011, the Obama Administration launched the first United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (referred to in this preamble as the ''National Action Plan'') that includes a comprehensive set of national commitments to advance the active participation of women in decisionmaking relating to matters of war and peace;

Whereas the National Action Plan states the following: ''Deadly conflicts can be more effectively avoided, and peace can be best forged and sustained, when women become equal partners in all aspects of peace-building and conflict prevention, when their lives are protected, their experiences considered, and their voices heard.'';

Whereas the National Action Plan requires the National Security Council staff to coordinate a comprehensive review of, and update to, the National Action Plan in 2015 with consultation from international partners and civil society organizations;

Whereas according to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State, women's full and meaningful participation in security forces vastly enhances their effectiveness;

Whereas the ability of women and girls to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a country to achieve strong and lasting economic growth and political and social stability;

Whereas according to the International Monetary Fund, ''focusing on the needs and empowerment of women is one of the keys to human development'';

Whereas according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, two-thirds of the 781,000,000 illiterate people in the world are female;

Whereas according to the United States Agency for International Development, compared to uneducated women, ''educated women are less likely to marry early and more likely to have smaller and healthier families. They are also more likely to get a job and earn a higher wage.'';

Whereas according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the majority of women living in rural areas of the developing world are heavily engaged in agricultural labor, yet they receive less credit, land, agricultural inputs, and training than their male counterparts;

Whereas according to the United Nations Population Fund, women have access to fewer income-earning opportunities and are more likely to manage the household and engage in agricultural work, making women more vulnerable to economic insecurity caused by natural disasters and long-term changes in weather patterns;

Whereas according to the World Bank, women own or partly own more than one-third of small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, and 40 percent of the global workforce is female, yet, women entrepreneurs and employers have disproportionately less access to capital and other financial services compared to men;

Whereas despite strides in recent decades, women around the world continue to face significant obstacles in all aspects of their lives, including underrepresentation in all aspects of public life, denial of basic human rights, and discrimination;

Whereas despite achievements by individual female leaders, women around the world are still vastly underrepresented in high-level positions and in national and local legislatures and governments and, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, women account for only 21.9 percent of national parliamentarians;

Whereas 1 in 3 women around the world has experienced some form of gender-based violence, and 1 in 4 women has suffered abuse during pregnancy;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization, approximately 800 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth every day, with 99 percent of all maternal deaths occurring in developing countries;

Whereas according to the United Nations Population Fund, more than 200,000,000 women and girls around the world would like to access family planning services but are unable to do so;

Whereas according to data from the World Bank, women between the ages of 15 and 44 are at a greater risk of rape and domestic violence than cancer, war, traffic accidents, and malaria combined;

Whereas on August 10, 2012, President Barack Obama announced the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally, the first interagency strategy to address gender-based violence around the world;

Whereas violence against women and girls impedes progress in meeting many international global development goals, including efforts to stem maternal mortality and the spread of HIV/AIDS;

Whereas on October 11, 2013, President Barack Obama stated that the practice of child marriage was a ''threat to fundamental human rights'';

Whereas according to the International Center for Research on Women, one-third of girls worldwide are married before the age of 18 and 1 in 9 girls are married before the age of 15;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization, suicide is the leading cause of death for girls ages 15 to 19, followed by complications from pregnancy and childbirth;

Whereas it is imperative to alleviate violence and discrimination against women and afford women every opportunity to be full and productive members of their communities;

Whereas 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, where 189 countries committed to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to integrate gender equality into all dimensions of society;

Whereas 2015 marks the deadline for meeting the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, and progress towards meeting the targets for gender equality and women's empowerment remains uneven; and

Whereas March 8 is recognized each year as International Women's Day, a global day to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future, and to recognize the obstacles that women still face in the struggle for equal rights and opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of International Women's Day;

(2) recognizes that the empowerment of women is inextricably linked to the potential of countries to generate economic growth, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security;

(3) recognizes and honors individuals in the United States and around the world, including women who are human rights defenders, who have worked throughout history to ensure that women are guaranteed equality and basic human rights;

(4) reaffirms the commitment to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, to pursuing policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls worldwide, and to promoting meaningful and significant participation of women in all aspects of their societies and communities;

(5) supports international calls for a ''Post-2015 Development Agenda'' to include a stand-alone goal to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment; and

(6) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 98—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 98

Whereas multiple sclerosis (referred to in this preamble as ''MS'') can impact people of all ages, races, and ethnicities, but is at least 2 to 3 times more common in women than in men;

Whereas there are approximately 2,300,000 people worldwide who have been diagnosed with MS;

Whereas MS is typically diagnosed in individuals between the ages of 20 and 50, however it is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 children and adolescents are living with MS in the United States;

Whereas MS is an unpredictable neurological disease that interrupts the flow of information both within the brain and between the brain and the rest of the body;

Whereas symptoms of MS range from numbness and tingling in the extremities to blindness and paralysis, and the progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted;

Whereas there is no laboratory test available that can definitively diagnose MS;

Whereas while MS is not directly inherited, studies show that there are genetic and, probably, environmental factors that make certain individuals, such as Caucasians of Northern European ancestry, more susceptible to the disease than others;

Whereas the exact cause of MS is still unknown and there is no cure;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, a national network of independent MS organizations dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life for all those affected by MS, recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

Whereas the mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition is to increase opportunities for cooperation among MS organizations and provide greater opportunity for the effective use and development of resources for the benefit of individuals and families affected by MS;

Whereas the United States plays a critical role in coordinating MS research globally and amplifies the impact of research in the United States through which results are delivered to MS patients;

Whereas in 2012, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society of the United States was a founding member of the Progressive MS Alliance, which coordinates research to accelerate the development of treatments for progressive MS by removing international scientific and technological barriers, and which now includes MS societies from 11 countries;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week during March of every calendar year;

Whereas the goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week are to invite people to join the movement to end MS, encourage everyone to do something to demonstrate their commitment to moving toward a world free of MS, and to acknowledge those who have dedicated their time and talent to help promote MS research and programs; and

Whereas this year, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week is recognized during the week of March 2, 2015, through March 8, 2015: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(2) encourages States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by issuing proclamations designating Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(3) encourages media organizations to participate in Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week and help provide education to the public about multiple sclerosis;

(4) commends the efforts of States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(5) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to ending multiple sclerosis by—

(A) promoting awareness about individuals that are affected by multiple sclerosis; and

(B) supporting multiple sclerosis research and education programs;

(6) recognizes all individuals in the United States living with multiple sclerosis;

(7) expresses gratitude to the family members and friends of individuals living with multiple sclerosis, who are a source of love and encouragement to those individuals; and

(8) salutes the health care professionals and medical researchers who—

(A) provide assistance to individuals affected by multiple sclerosis; and

(B) continue to work to find ways to stop the progression of the disease, restore nerve function, and end multiple sclerosis forever.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE THREE CIVIL RIGHTS MARCHES FROM SELMA, ALABAMA TO MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA THAT TOOK PLACE OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL WEEKS IN MARCH 1965

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 8

Whereas on March 7, 1965 ''Bloody Sunday'', approximately 600 civil rights marchers, led by now-Representative John Lewis of

the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and Reverend Hosea Williams of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, headed east out of Selma, Alabama to the State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama;

Whereas the civil rights activists sought to protest discriminatory voter registration practices, and the shooting of Jimmie Lee Jackson, who was shot after protecting his mother and grandfather in a civil rights demonstration on February 18, 1965, in a restaurant in Marion, Alabama, and died eight days later on February 26, 1965;

Whereas the nonviolent marchers were met and attacked with clubs, whips, police dogs, and tear gas carried by State troopers, local lawmen, and townspeople at the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they were leaving Selma;

Whereas dozens of peaceful marchers were injured in the forced retreat by State troopers, local lawmen, and townspeople;

Whereas images of innocent protestors brutally beaten and severely injured on March 7, 1965, remembered as ''Bloody Sunday'', were depicted in television screens and in newspaper articles across the country;

Whereas Bloody Sunday galvanized a generation of civil rights activists, and heightened support and awareness for the civil rights movement;

Whereas on March 9, 1965, two days later, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. led a nonviolent protest reportedly as many as 2,500 people before turning around after crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge due to a barricade of State troopers;

Whereas on March 15, 1965, despite pressure from political figures, U.S. District Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., issued an injunction allowing the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery to proceed, overturning then-Alabama Governor George Wallace's prohibition of the protest;

Whereas on March 21, 1965, with the protection of U.S. Army troops and the Alabama National Guard, more than 3,000 people, led by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., set out from Selma to Montgomery, a 54-mile journey, marching an average of twelve miles a day along Route 80 and sleeping in fields;

Whereas the nonviolent protestors safely reached the steps of the Alabama State Capitol on March 25, 1965, by which point their numbers had grown to 25,000, including many religious and community leaders of all denominations, races, and backgrounds;

Whereas during these pivotal weeks, on March 17, 1965, and with the Selma protestors at the forefront, President Lyndon Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress, calling for Federal voting rights legislation to protect African Americans from barriers that prevented them from voting;

Whereas with the Nation captivated by the courage and conviction displayed by the civil rights activists, the United States Congress passed and President Lyndon B. Johnson enacted into law the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 on August 6, 1965; and

Whereas issuing a postage stamp honoring the fiftieth anniversary of the civil rights marches is fitting and proper because the marches united our country and helped affirm the principle that all Americans shall be treated equally at the voting booths as guaranteed under the United States Constitution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Postmaster General should issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring the 50th anniversary of the three civil rights marches from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama; and

(2) such stamp should—

(A) be issued in the denomination used for first-class mail up to 1 ounce in weight;

(B) bear such illustration or picture as the Postmaster General determines; and

(C) be placed in sale at such time and for such period as the Postmaster General determines.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 9—HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF REVEREND THEODORE M. HESBURGH, C.S.C., PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Mr. REID of Nevada (for Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. COATS)) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 9

Whereas Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., was born on May 25, 1917, in Syracuse, New York, ordained a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross on June 24, 1943, in South Bend, Indiana, and served as president of the University of Notre Dame from 1952 to 1987;

Whereas during his tenure, the University of Notre Dame welcomed female students for the first time and embraced the spirit of open intellectual inquiry and moral engagement that defines the University today;

Whereas Father Hesburgh held a variety of appointed positions under 4 popes and 9 presidential administrations;

Whereas throughout decades of public service, Father Hesburgh proudly championed the civil rights of African Americans, the duty of society to the poor, and the fundamental human dignity of all persons;

Whereas in pursuit of those ideals, Father Hesburgh held a variety of influential public roles, including terms as a founding member and chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, chair of the Overseas Development Council, chair of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, and permanent representative of the Holy See to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna from 1956 to 1970;

Whereas in pursuit of global social justice, Father Hesburgh reaffirmed the commitment of the University of Notre Dame to human rights by helping to found the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University as well as the Center for Civil and Human Rights at the University of Notre Dame Law School;

Whereas Father Hesburgh was a longtime advocate for the responsible stewardship of atomic energy and gracefully brought together scientists, scholars, and spiritual leaders to work toward an end to nuclear conflict;

Whereas Father Hesburgh served as ambassador to the 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the first Catholic priest to formally hold a diplomatic position for the United States Government;

Whereas Father Hesburgh received both the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian awards of the United States, as well as more than 150 honorary degrees, the most ever awarded to a single individual; and

Whereas Father Hesburgh passed away on Thursday, February 26, 2015, but remains very much alive in the hearts of all who knew him and in the University that he loved: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commemorates the life and achievements of Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., who throughout his life displayed extraordinary commitment to social justice and the improvement of higher education; and

(2) honors Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., for a lifetime of selfless dedication to God, Country, and Notre Dame.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SR–253 of the Russell Senate Office Building, a subcommittee hearing entitled ''Surface Transportation Reauthorization-Oversight and Reform of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Oversight Hearing: The President's FY 2016 Budget Request for the Environmental Protection Agency.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2015, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 4, 2015, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 4, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Whistleblower Retaliation at the FBI: Improving Protections and Oversight.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of

the Senate, on March 4, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD–G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 4, 2015, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Russian Aggression in Eastern Europe: Where does Putin Go Next after Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova?''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 4, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 4, 2015, at 3:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Jessica Clarke of my staff for the duration of today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern Jackman Wilson be allowed privileges of the floor for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I request unanimous consent that Cale Clingenpeel, an intern on my staff, be granted privileges of the floor for the duration of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, March 9, at 5 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar No. 15, Calendar No. 22, Calendar No. 49, and Calendar No. 50; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that following disposition of the nominations, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that following the disposition of the Tonsager nomination, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 98, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 98) supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 98) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 6 AND MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Friday, March 6, for a pro forma session with no business being conducted; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, March 6, it next convene at 2 p.m., Monday, March 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m. and that Senators be permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided in the usual form; finally, at 5 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senators should expect a rollcall vote on the Marti nomination at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, with the other nominations in the stack going by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2015, AT 9:30 A.M.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:02 p.m., adjourned until Friday, March 6, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOHN CONGER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE MICHAEL J. MCCORD, RESIGNED.

PETER LEVINE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VICE ELIZABETH A. MCGRATH.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GREGORY T. DELAWIE, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO.

PERRY L. HOLLOWAY, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CO–OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

SUNIL SABHARWAL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE DOUGLAS A. REDIKER, RESIGNED.

MARK SOBEL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE MARGRETHE LUNDSAGER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ERICKA M. MILLER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE EDUARDO M. OCHOA.

MICHAEL KEITH YUDIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE ALEXA E. POSNY.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BURKE W. WHITMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL F. FAHEY III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. CRAIG C. CRENSHAW
BRIG. GEN. JOHN K. LOVE
BRIG. GEN. NIEL E. NELSON
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN R. RUDDER
BRIG. GEN. CRAIG Q. TIMBERLAKE

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

CHRISTOPHER M. ABBOTT

CHRISTIAN M. ABODEELY
ANDREW MICHAEL ACKLES
CHRISTOPHER A. ADAMS
JOSEPH M. ADAMS
ISAAC E. ADCOCK
JIMMY T. ADDISON
JESSICA L. ADKINS
JONATHAN A. AEVERMANN
ANIBAL AGUIRRE, JR.
CLINTON R. ALBAUGH
JUSTIN S. ALBERICO
JARED K. ALDEN
EARL J. ALEXANDER II
TOMAS D. ALFORD
DANIEL C. ALIX
BRADLEY R. ALLEN
BRIAN G. ALLEN
DARCY M. ALLEN
JEREMY L. ALLEN
JOSHUA J. ALLEN
NATHAN J. ALLEN
RYAN DALE ALLEN
TERRANCE S. ALLEN
ADAM ALM
GABRIEL ALMODOVAR
ACHILLE HENRY PAUL ALOISI
DAVID ALEXANDER ALPAR
JOHN G. ALSBROOKS
PETER J. AMARAL
RUI F. AMARAL
PHILIP ALAN AMIRAULT
JESSICA L. AMUNDSON
BRIAN A. AN
JAYSON D. ANDERSEN
CHRISTIAN T. ANDERSON
JACOB ANDERSON
JESSE ANDERSON
KEVIN S. ANDERSON
PAUL F. ANDERSON
RYAN B. ANDERSON
SCOTT L. ANDERSON
WESLY S. ANDERSON
JAMES MAYBERRY ANDREWS, JR.
JAMIE LEE ANDREWS
MATTHEW ANDREWS
JEREMY ANKRUM
JAMES R. ANTONE
ROBERT A. ARENA
COLBY K. ARENDS
JOSHUA M. ARENS
KARYN ARGUETA
MICHAEL R. ARMBRUSTER, JR.
MARK B. ARMSTRONG
SEAN M. ARMSTRONG
THOMAS F. ARMSTRONG
CHRISTOPHER L. ARNOTT
EMILY M. ARTHUR
AARON L. ARTING
RAPHAEL C. ASHE
JEFFREY M. AUBRY
MARC C. AURILIO
MARC C. AUSTIN
ISHAN B. AVILA
NOAH F. AYERS
MATTHEW T. BABER
STACY M. BABER
RANDY BACKLEY
VERONICA E. BAEZ
CHRISTOPHER F. BAILEY
MICHAEL W. BAIN
CINDY BAKER
CRAIG P. BAKER
DAWN A. BAKER
JONATHAN L. BAKER
KATHLEEN M. BAKER
MICHAEL C. BAKER
PAUL J. BAKER
ALFREDO BALDERAS
BRIAN BALES
JUSTIN P. BALLINGER
CHRISTIAN Y. BALMACEDA
CHRISTOPHER BALSTERS
REBECCA W. BAN
ADAM B. BANDUCCI
AARON N. BANDY
TIMOTHY R. BANKS, JR.
MAGINA BAONGA
ERIC W. BARADA
LAILA S. BARASHA
BRANDON ARTHUR BARD
TIFFANY L. BARES
DANIEL BARKER
RICHARD T. BARKER
JESSE N. BARNES
JOHN M. BARRETT
JUSTIN R. BARRETT
GREGORY CHARLES BARRY
IAN ROBERT BARTA
DANIEL J. BARTLEY
RYAN L. BARTON
DENNIS R. BATAC
YURI A. BATTEN
KATHERINE A. BATTERTON
NICHOLAS J. BATTLE
AARON C. BAUM
FRANK ANDREW BAUMANN IV
LEIGH A. BAUMBAUGH
JARNO BAUR MATHEWS
NICHOLAS J. BEAMER
SEAN R. BEASLEY
DERRYL L. BEAUDOIN
MATHEW J. BECK
BRADLEY D. BECKWITH
JARROD N. BEERS
CHRISTOPHER A. BEHRENS
BRYAN M. BELL
NATHANIEL J. BELL
CARLOS M. BENITEZ
MICHAEL WILLIAM BENITEZ
DEREK R. BENKOSKI
BENJAMIN MONT BENNETT
CHRISTOPHER M. BENNETT
DAVID JAMES BENNETT
DAVID W. BENNETT
BRYCE J. BENSON
BROOK I. BENTLEY
DONALD J. BENZING III
CHRISTOPHER W. BERARDI
EDWARD G. BERGELAND
JEREMY BERGMANN
ANTHONY JOSEPH BERNARDI
BRANDON J. BERNARDONI
JAMES R. BERNINGHAUSEN
CLEMENTE A. BERRIOS
BRIAN T. BERRY
CARLOS R. BERSABE
BRANDON D. BERT
IAN S. BERTRAM
JEREMIAH NATHANAEL BETZ
JOSHUA D. BIBB
JON A. BILLMAN
ANTOINE L. BILLS
DANIEL B. BIRGE
MATTHEW WILLIAM BIRKENHIER
BOBBY D. BIRRER
JARED L. BISHOP
JESSICA L. BISHOP
JESSE G. BJURBACK
BRANDON M. BLACK
TRAVIS A. BLACK
JEFFERY MICHAEL BLACKRICK
CHRISTOPHER A. BLAKE
RYAN C. BLAKE
JONATHAN DAVID BLANCO
NICOLE J. BLECHA
TAYLOR A. BLEVINS
ADAM J. BLOCK
BEAU A. BLOCK
DANIEL G. BLOOM
RICHARD M. BLOOM
SARAH E. BLOUGH
ARMIN A. BLUEGGEL
BRENDA E. BLUEGGEL
TODD L. BLUM
THOMAS D. BOCKRATH
ROLAND BODENHEIM
KATHARINE T. BOEING
BRIAN T. BOHAN
DANIEL H. BOLIN
SAMANTHA C. BOLIN
CHRISTINE L. BOLTON
VINCENT I. BONGIOANNI
SCOTT A. BOOTH
WILLIAM F. BOOTH II
NICOLLETTE BORGSTROM
PAUL BORIACK
NICHOLAS S. BOSIAK
JESSICA LEE BOSS
JOSHUA A. BOUCHER
ROBERT F. BOUFFARD
JASON R. BOURGOIN
JONATHAN BOWE
ZACHARY L. BOWEN
SARAH E. BOWLES
PAMELA A. BOYARSKI
ADAM B. BOYD
WILLIAM M. BOYLES
DOUGLAS A. BOYTIM
DIANA K. BRADFIELD
BLAKE S. BRADFORD
ROBERT T. BRADLEY
DAVID J. BRAITHWAITE
MARY E. BRAUN
MATTHEW G. BRAUND
DAVID T. BREDESEN
TIMOTHY W. BREITBACH
KYLE J. BREMHOLM
NICHOLAS W. BRENCE
ERICK D. BRENDSEL
EDWARD N. BRENNAN
JUSTINE J. BRENT
ADAM R. BRESHOCK
GARRETT R. BRIDGES
MATTHEW D. BRILL
ERIN BRILLA
NICHOLAS J. BRINEY
SERENA V. BRIONES
STEVE C. BRIONES
BRADFORD J. BRIZEK
JOSHUA C. BROCK
JUSTIN M. BROCKHOFF
KEVIN M. BROCKLER
ZACHARY P. BRODEUR
ADAM L. BROOKS
CHRISTOPHER S. BROOKS
STEVEN B. BROOKS
AUSTIN C. BROWN
GABRIEL P. BROWN
IVAN D. BROWN
JASON T. BROWN
JONAH R. BROWN
STANTON P. BROWN
NICHOLAS S. BROWNHEIM
MARK S. BROWNING
CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH BRUMFIELD
PETER J. BRUNKE
TRAVIS R. BRYCE
MARSHALL BUCK
RICHARD A. BUCKLEY
ROBERT H. BUCKLEY
ERIC M. BUDD
JEFFREY L. BUDIS
EMILY P. BULGER
CHRISTOPHER BULLA
KEVIN A. BULLEY
CONINGSBY J. BURDON
JOSHUA A. BURGER
ERIC L. BURKE
JEFFREY A. BURKE
IDA LEE BURKEY
DUSTIN K. BURLESON
MARK R. BURLEY
BRANDON E. BURNS
TRAVIS J. BURNS
JOSEPH L. BURNSED
JARED M. BURRIS
WILLIAM B. BURROUS
RYAN LEWIS BUSBEY
BRIAN C. BUSCH
WILLIAM L. BUSCH
ERIC A. BUSCHELMAN
CHRISTOPHER BUSH
ADAM M. BUSHORE
BENJAMIN JOHN BUSLER
MICHAEL J. BUSSE
ANTHONY L. BUTLER
BRYAN E. BUTLER
MICHAEL J. BUTLER
MICHAEL J. BUTLER
TREVOR A. BUTLER
BENJAMIN B. BUXTON
JEREMY BUXTON
JONATHAN M. BYARD
DEREK CADA
BRANDY M. CAFFEE
ERIC THOMAS L. CAGURANGAN
DOMINIC S. CALDERON
CLIFFORD A. CALDWELL
AARON P. CALHOON
JESSE D. CALLAND
CHRISTOPHER D. CALLAWAY
PAUL E. CAMERON IV
VINCENT R. CAMMARANO
TODD A. CAMPBELL
DAVID P. CANCEL
GEORGE E. CANNON III
ANTHONY J. CANNONE
JASON T. CARANTA
MARIA E. CARDONA
JOHN F. CAREW, JR.
SCOTT MICHAEL CARLIN
BENJAMIN CARLSON
JEREMIAH B. CARLSON
MICHAEL M. CARLSON
SEAN CARLSON
JOSHUA C. CARMER
DENNIS JOHN CARMODY
RYAN W. CARR
JAMES M. CARRABBIA
RAPHAEL N. CARRANZA
BRENT M. CARROLL
DANIEL R. CARROLL
KEITH CARSON
JOHN B. CARTER
JOSHUA CARTER
JOSHUA A. CARTER
MATHEW K. CARTER
JOHN W. CARTY II
JARED D. CASEBOLT
BRYAN J. CASEY
PATRICK CASEY
ELIZABETH C. CASKEY
CAROLINE D. CASSIDY
ALBERTO CASTANEDA
MATT C. CASTANEDA
YURIZA J. CASTILLOAGUIRRE
BRETT C. CASTLE
STEPHEN M. CASTLEN
NEAL CATRON
AARON B. CAVAZOS
AARON W. CELAYA
NICHOLAS A. CENCI
LISA M. CEPERO
ERIC J. CERCONE
MICHAEL B. CESAR
MATHEW R. CHAMBERLAIN
ALBERT J. CHANG
JENNIFER H. CHANG
NATHAN K. CHANG
PHILLIP A. CHAPMAN
JOHN E. CHAPPELLE, JR.
ERIC J. CHAREST
CHRISTOPHER A. CHARRON
JESSA A. CHARRON
JOHN M. CHEEK
WYATT C. CHEEK
KUAN HSUN CHEN
PEISHIUE CHEN
SAMUEL C. CHIPMAN
DEVIN J. CHIRINSKY
DANIEL J. CHISOLM
NICOLE T. CHMIELEWSKI
DAE BOK CHO
JAMES CHO
JAMES A. CHONGRIS
JOSHUA C. CHRISTOPHER
MATTHEW C. CICHOWSKI
CORY A. CILIA
TYLER L. CISNEROS
CODY W. CLARK
DANIEL ALLEN CLARK
NATHAN MICHAEL CLARK
ROSS E. CLARK
ZACHARY R. CLARKE
ERICK J. CLAYSON
JASON S. CLAYTON
MATTHEW E. CLAYTON
ERIC CLEMENTS
APRIL H. CLEMMENSEN
RANDAL W. CLER
JUSTIN L. CLEVELAND

ADAM CLIFT
JON A. CLINGERBREWSTER
MONICA CLODWICK
NICHOLAS J. CLOSSMAN
ELIZABETH U. CO
ANDREW J. COBB
NICHOLAS A. COBLIO
ZACHARY L. COBURN
NICHOLAS J. COCCIA
CHRISTOPHER F. COFFMAN
JEREMY R. COFFMAN
LEROY A. COHEN
ADAM C. COLE
DEREK A. COLE
PAUL A. COLELLA
DANIEL R. COLEMAN
JASON L. COLEMAN
MICHAEL L. COLEMAN
TIMOTHY C. COLES
NATHAN AARON COLESTOCK
PEDRO J. COLLAZO
KELLY R. COLLIER
CHRISTOPHER L. COLLINS
JESSICA R. COLMAN
CARLOS M. COLON, JR.
JARVIS W. COMBS
CHRISTOPHER M. CONANT
JACOB CONGER
JOHN PAUL CONNER
DANIEL J. CONNORS
ANDREW C. CONWELL
BRANDON C. CONYERS
EBONY S. COOK
JUSTIN D. COOK
SARAH L. COOK
ZACHARY COOK
DIAMOND D. COOKSON
DANIEL W. COOMBS
RONNIE AUGUST COOPER, JR.
DAVID AMOS CORDER
CARLO S. CORDERO
GABRIEL G. CORRALES
BRIAN J. COTE
DANIEL D. COUGHLIN
ALEXANDER A. COURTNEY III
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GREGORY R. WALSH
JOSEPH M. WALTERS
TRAVIS H. WALTERS
LURIE L. WALTON, JR.
CLAYTON WARD
MICHAEL L. WARREN
STEVEN M. WARRINGTON
ADAM E. WASINGER
DAVID M. WASSMUTH
JEFFREY THOMAS WATERMAN
ROBERT T. WATKINS
DANIEL L. WAY
CHRISTOPHER H. WEAVER
JAY L. WEAVER
MATTHEW W. WEAVER
OESA A. WEAVER
KANESHA A. WEBBER
JAMES RICHARD WEBER
KELLY R. WEBER
ANDREW P. WEBSTER
DANIEL R. WEBSTER
PRESTON E. WEBSTER
CURTIS EUGENE WEDDLE IV
BENJAMIN ANTHONY WEDEKEMPER
MARK A. WEEMS
MATTHEW D. WEINMAN
JENNIFER E. WELLER
JONATHAN R. WELLMAN
MICHAEL W. WELLS
LARRY J. WENDT, JR.
BENJAMIN J. WERNER
WILLIAM H. WESTENDORF
GABRIEL C. WETLESEN
LISA R. WHALING
PAUL R. WHITE
JAKE D. WHITLOCK
ROBERT J. WIBLE
BLAIR T. WIGHT
VANESSA C. WILCOX
STEPHEN M. WILEY
MICHAEL WILKES
JORDAN P. WILKIE
ANDREW C. WILKINS
ANDREW B. WILLIAMS
BRIAN E. WILLIAMS
DEREK J. WILLIAMS
JARED M. WILLIAMS
JASON WILLIAMS
JASON PATTON WILLIAMS
JESSICA R. WILLIAMS
JONATHAN S. WILLIAMS
JOVON A. WILLIAMS
VERONICA REYES WILLIAMS
BRIAN L. WILLIS
RYAN S. WILLIS
ROBERT A. WILLOUGHBY
CARY W. WILSON
JAMES A. WILSON IV
JOHN W. WILSON
ROBERT L. WILSON III
CAROLYN L. WINN
JOHN SCOTT WISECUP
RICHARD N. WISEMAN
BRANDEN M. WITT
BRIAN J. WITTHOEFT
MATTHEW K. WOERTH II
CASSANDRA L. WOJTASZEK
GARTH W. WOLBER
TRIGG R. WOLD
ERIC M. WOLF
SCOTT ALAN WOLVERTON
CHRISTOPHER C. WONG
WESLEY E. WOOD
BIANCA C. WOODARD
JASON M. WOODLEY
MATTHEW G. WOODRUFF
SHAMIKA N. WOODRUFF
JOHN H. WOODS V
DARREN C. WOODSIDE
CHRISTOPHER L. WOOLARD
BRIAN M. WOOLLEY
ANDREW J. WORKMAN
ANTHONY J. WRIGHT
JASON RICHARD WRIGHT
JOHN C. WRIGHT
KEITH W. WRIGHT, JR.
NICHOLAS F. WRIGHT
STEVEN P. WRIGHT
JACOB D. WYGANT
JOSHUA M. WYGANT
JASON E. WYMAN
DANIEL C. WYNN
PATRICK A. YANEZ
JARED E. YANKECH
DANIEL A. YAWN
JEVON P. YERETZIAN
JOHN CHANG WON YI
YUE YIN
DAVID J. YOUD
MATTHEW E. YOUMANS
AARON R. YOUNG
ADAM B. YOUNG
PAIGE H. YOUNG
RYAN E. YOUNG
TYLER G. YOUNG
TYLER J. YOUNG
KEVIN M. YOUNGMEYER
EMILY A. YTURRALDE

HARRY JOHN P. ZABALA
NATHAN J. ZAHN
NICOLE C. ZAYAS
CARRIE A. ZEDERKOF
MATTHEW J. ZEIGLER
DAVID C. ZESINGER
STEPHEN P. ZIEGENFUSS
BRADLEY R. ZIMMERMAN
MATTHEW P. ZIMMERMAN
MICHAEL S. ZINKGRAF
ADRIAN ALEXANDER ZINNERMAN
JOHN ZIRKLE
ELITHE E. ZOGLMAN
ADRIAN ARTHUR ZOLLINGER
JAROSLAW ZRODLOWSKI
TERRI L. ZUBER
MATHEW ZULAUF
CHRISTOPHER G. ZUMMO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

NICOLE H. ARMITAGE
DAWN B. BROOKS
MARY T. CARLISLE
KRISTIN L. CARLSON
ZINA M. CRUMP
BEATRICE T. DOLIHITE
SUSAN F. DUKES
KATHLEEN T. FOULK
PATRICIA I. JOHN
CHRISTINE A. KRESS
DEEANN M. LEES
LESTER P. LORETO
BRADLEY D. NIELSEN
JULIE R. OSTRAND
REGINA R. PADEN
JERRY D. RUMBACH
RICKY JAY SEXTON
MICHELE Y. SHELTON
MARCIA R. SMITH
PENNY E. SPAID
KATHERINE S. SPENCE
SHANNON G. WOMBLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JAMES D. BRANTINGHAM
JOSEPH DEICHERT
KENNETH A. REYES
G. LLOYD WOODBURY, JR.
GEORGE T. YOUSTRA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

RANDALL E. ACKERMAN
JEFFREY D. ALEXANDER
ANDREW L. ALLEN
JACK E. ALLEN
JAYSON L. ALLEN
HEATHER J. ANDERSON
TODD W. ANDRE
WILLIAM S. ANGERMAN
STANLEY B. ARANT
DAVID M. ASHLEY
ISREAL L. ASKEW, JR.
ANTHONY D. BABCOCK
JASON E. BAILEY
DANIELLE L. BARNES
CATHERINE V. BARRINGTON
JASON E. BARTOLOMEI
JOHN T. BEATTIE
VICTOR W. BEELER
JASON H. BEERS
TREVOR B. BENITONE
DAVID W. BERG
TODD D. BERGMAN
WILLIAM D. BETTS
ROBERT L. BILLINGS
PAUL R. BIRCH
BENJAMIN W. BISHOP
JOHN C. BLACKWELL
RYAN D. BLAKE
DANIEL D. BLEVINS
THOMAS A. BONGIOVI
MATTHEW A. BOSCHERT
JOHN W. BOSONE
ERIK T. BOVASSO
JACQUELINE D. BREEDEN
AUGUSTIN P. BRIGUET
BERNARD C. BRINING
SCOTT W. BROKAW
THOMAS H. BROWN, JR.
COREY A. BRUNSON
DAVID W. BRYNTESON
GREG D. BUCKNER
TRAVIS A. BURDINE
DERREN P. BURRELL
WILLIAM C. BUSCHUR
CHRISTOPHER J. CALLIS
JOSEPH L. CAMPO
THOMAS L. CANTRELL
RITA C. CAREY
PATRICK J. CARLEY
RICHARD A. CARRELL
DAVID S. CHACE
JAMES W. CHAPPELEAR III
JOHN W. CHASTAIN III
TIMOTHY W. CHILDRESS
BRYAN J. CHOI
JOHN C. CHONG
SARAH J. CHRIST
JORDON T. COCHRAN
CHRISTOPHER L. COLCORD
TIMOTHY C. COLE
BRADFORD D. COLEY
RICHARD I. COLLINS
MICHAEL E. CONLEY
JASON W. COSTELLO
PEDRO A. COTTOPEREZ
YANCEY S. COWEN
ADRIAN M. CROWLEY
PATRICIA A. CSANK
CARY N. CULBERTSON
TIMOTHY M. CULLEN
MELISSA S. CUNNINGHAM
PATRICK C. DALEY
DANNY E. DAVIS
JAMES E. DAVIS
OSCAR DELGADO
MARK E. DELORY
DAVID W. DENGLER
BRIAN R. DENMAN
JOHN J. DERESKY
RICHARD R. DICKENS
MATTHEW E. DILLOW
JOSEPH M. DINGMAN
ANDREW S. DIPPOLITO
JEFFREY W. DONNITHORNE
TOBY G. DORAN
GARY J. DORMAN
SHANE A. DOUGHERTY
AARON D. DRAKE
DAVID R. DUNKLEE
JON A. EBERLAN
DOUGLAS C. EDWARDS
CHRISTOPHER L. ELLIS
JOSEPH A. ENGELBRECHT III
JEFFREY P. ENGELKER
ROBERT H. EPSTEIN
MICHAEL W. ERHARDT
MICHAEL S. ERICKSON
CHAD J. ERSPAMER
JUPE A. ETHERIDGE
ROCKY A. FAVORITO
ANITA A. FEUGATE OPPERMAN
PAUL G. FILCEK
KARL C. FISCHBACH
ERICKA R. FLANIGAN
RICHARD L. FLETCHER
ARTHUR P. FORD IV
DAVID M. FRANKLIN
MARK S. FUHRMANN
DANE F. FULLER
JACK D. FULMER II
DANIEL C. FURLEIGH
FRANCISCO M. GALLEI
ANTHONY S. GAMBOA
ALEJANDRO R. GANSTER
SOLOMON M. GARRETT IV
CHRISTOFF T. GAUB
LEE G. GENTILE, JR.
JEFFREY T. GERAGHTY
ANGELA P. GIDDINGS
BRIDGET V. GIGLIOTTI
JASON N. GINGRICH
NICOLA P. GISMONDI
DAWN M. GITHENS
KENNETH D. GJONE
GREGORY J. GOAR
EDWARD G. GOEBEL, JR.
ROBERT J. GOMEZ
JOHN F. GONZALES
AENEAS R. GOODING
TIMOTHY A. GOODROE
ERIC C. GRACE
ROBERT S. GRAINGER
BRYAN C. GREEN
MICHAEL S. GREMILLION
STEPHEN C. GROTJOHN
SCOTT A. GROVER
JOHN M. GROVES
MATTHEW S. GUENTHER
AARON GUILL
DANIEL A. GUINAN
GARRY A. HAASE
TYLER N. HAGUE
DEDE S. HALFHILL
JAMES C. HALL
MICHELLE L. HALL
LOUIS W. HANSEN
DAVID G. HANSON
CRAIG M. HARMON
MICHAEL J. HARNER
SHAUN D. HARRADEN
GLENN T. HARRIS
LARRY R. HARRIS
BRIAN S. HARTLESS
SHANE C. HAUGHIAN
GARY T. HAYWARD
TREVOR D. HAZEN
KEVIN D. HECKLE
TIMOTHY J. HEINTZELMAN
ROBERT L. HENDERSON
SHANE M. HENDERSON
TAMARA J. HENDERSON
TROY C. HENDERSON
BRIAN A. HENSON
DALE E. HETKE
SCOTT G. HEYLER
TRAVIS J. HILL
DAVID L. HILLMAN
BRIAN A. HINSVARK
LANCE A. HOBSON
GEORGE A. HOLLAND III
SLOAN L. HOLLIS
RYAN D. HOLLMAN
ERIC W. HOOK
TODD M. HOOVER
ROBERT A. HOSKINS
JAMES C. HOWARD
FREDERICK A. HUNT, JR.
SCOTT W. HURRELBRINK
DALE E. HYBL
MICHAEL D. INGERSOLL
ZIGMUND W. JACKIM
BRIAN A. JACKSON
ROBERT D. JACKSON
MATTHEW P. JEFSON
GARY S. JOHNSON
MATTHEW C. JOHNSON
STEPHAN K. JOHNSON
KENNETH M. JONES
MICHAEL C. JONES
SEAN S. JONES
KEVIN G. JUDD
CRAIG E. JUNEAU
HAROLD M. KAHLER
EDWARD A. KAPLAN
MITCHELL A. KATOSIC
DEE J. KATZER
RYAN P. KEENEY
BRIAN T. KEHL
JOSEPH P. KENDALL
PAUL D. KIRMIS
JOHN T. KNACK
ERIC W. KNAPP
DANIEL J. KNIGHT
JASON L. KNIGHT
MONTI L. KNODE
RICHARD T. KOCH
TROY D. KOEPNICK
JEREMY D. KOKENES
PAUL KOPECKI
NICHOLAS T. KOZDRAS
TIMOTHY A. KRAUSS
JEFFREY T. KRONEWITTER
JASON B. LAMB
RICHARD L. LAND III
SHAWN D. LARCHER
STAN D. LAWRIE
JOHN W. LECLAIR, JR.
CHRISTOPHER D. LEMANSKI
DANIEL W. LEMON
BRIAN D. LEWIS
GARRY M. LITTLE
JAMES E. LONG
CRAIG R. LUCEY
DAVID C. LYONS
CHRISTOPHER A. MACAULAY
BRETT J. MACHOVINA
DEBORAH L. MACKAY
CURTIS J. MADELEY
NICOLE M. E. MALACHOWSKI
MICHAEL E. MALLEY
MICHAEL T. MANOR
DANIEL J. MARKHAM
WILLIAM L. MARSHALL
JEFFREY S. MARTIN
JOHN R. MARTIN
FERNANDO MARTINEZ
WILLIAM G. MAXWELL
PAUL J. MAYKISH
BRADLEY M. MCALPINE
SHAWN B. MCCAMISH
CRAIG A. MCCARTY
MATTHEW S. MCCONNELL
CHARLES A. MCELVAINE
SEAN A. MCKAY
RICHARD A. MCKEE
SEAN C. MCLAY
JEFFREY S. MCLEMORE
ROBERT J. MCMURRY
JOHN S. MEITER
JEFFREY T. MENASCO
KURT A. MENCKE
DAMON L. MENENDEZ
JEFFREY A. MERCHANT
CARLOS R. MESSER, JR.
AARON J. MEYERS
MICHAEL T. MILES
GREGORY J. MILLER
MICHAEL S. MILLER
PATRICK G. MILLER
THOMAS G. MINER, JR.
ALEXANDER MIRAVITE, JR.
LAWRENCE W. MITCHELL
MARK L. MITCHEM
JAMES C. MOCK
ROBERT G. MOOSE
GREGORY M. MOSELEY
TIMOTHY J. MOSER
JAMES V. MOTT
MICHAEL W. MOYLES
ANDREW J. MUSER
HENRY MYERS, JR.
JOSEPH E. NANCE
JEFFREY W. NELSON
JESSICA D. NICHOL
RODNEY H. NICHOLS
DAWN A. NICKELL
KRISTOPHER T. NORWOOD
GREGORY E. NOWAK
CHRISTOPHER P. NUTTING
THOMAS J. OCONNELL, JR.
DONALD R. OHLEMACHER
DAVID W. OLANDER
DEREK J. OMALLEY
TRACY L. ONUFER
MARK D. OREILLY
CHRISTOPHER J. OUELLETTE
JOHN P. PANTLEO
ROBERT L. PATA
JASON PATLA

WILLIAM T. PATRICK
JEFFERY S. PATTON
MAX E. PEARSON
PAUL E. PENDLETON
JOHN C. PETERSON
IAN D. PHILLIPS
WILLIAM M. C. PHILLIPS
SHANE T. PRATER
KERRY J. PROULX
JEFFREY A. PRUSS
MICHELS D. PRYOR
RILEY F. PYLES
HUGH M. RAGLAND III
BRIAN E. RALSTON
ROBERT G. RAMIREZ
COREY M. RAMSBY
DANIEL E. RAUCH
CLIFTON D. REED
BOB A. REEVES
JAY B. REEVES
LAURA A. REGAN
MARK D. REIMANN
ROBERT S. RENFRO II
ANTHONY G. RETKA
DOUGLAS P. RICE
LAURIE K. RICHTER
MICHAEL G. RIDER
SUSAN M. RIORDANSMITH
FRANCISCO RIVERA
TODD A. ROBBINS
CHARLES P. ROBERTS
ANGENENE L. ROBERTSON
SEAN W. ROBERTSON
QUENTON L. RODGERS
STEVEN M. ROSS
SCOTT A. ROTH
SCOTT A. ROTHERMEL
PAUL C. ROUNSAVALL
SEAN C. ROUTIER
ROBERT D. ROY
JASON M. RUESCHHOFF
TIMOTHY R. RYAN
DEREK M. SALMI
MARC J. SANDS
ANTHONY J. SANSANO
LANCE E. SCHMIDT
KARL R. SCHRADER
CHAD W. SCHRECENGOST
TODD S. SCHUG
THOMAS W. SEEKER
HARRY L. SEIBERT, JR.
BRETT S. SEILING
JOHN D. SEUELL
GLEN R. SHILLAND
THOMAS C. SHRUM
MICHAEL J. SIERCO
SANJIT SINGH
TIMOTHY A. SITES
PATRICH M. SKENDZIEL
JOHN P. SMAIL
BRADLEY K. SMITH
DOUGLAS D. SMITH
GARY T. SMITH
JAMES E. SMITH
MICHAEL S. SMITH
PAUL P. SMITH, JR.
STEPHEN P. SNELSON
MARK K. SNOW
MARK SOTALLARO
ERIC J. SOTO
BRADLEY L. SPEARS
YVONNE S. SPENCER
KIRK N. STAHLBAUM
DAVID L. STANFIELD
DEVIN STATHAM
RICHARD V. STEELE
DAVID E. STONE
TODD R. STRATTON
ANTHONY C. STROUP
JOSE E. SUMANGIL
DUSTIN G. SUTTON
ROBERT A. SYLVESTER
DREW R. TAYLOR
MARY R. TEETER
MERRYL TENGESDAL
ALLEN L. THIBEAUX
JEREMY L. THIEL
ROBERT S. THOMPSON
SHAWN C. THOMPSON
ROBERT T. TIBBETTS
DAYMEN L. TIFFANY
VASAGA TILO, JR.
KIMBERLY A. TOOMAN
WILLIAM D. TRAUTMANN
JACOB TRIGLER
JOHN E. TRYON
KELLY C. TUCKER
TEERA TONY TUNYAVONGS
WALLACE R. TURNBULL III
UDUAK I. UDOAKA
KENNETH R. UHLER
DAVID M. VACLAVIK
DENNIS R. VEENEMAN
JOSEPH L. VEIT
MATTHEW C. VILLELLA
JOHN C. VINCENT
KEVIN P. WADE
KEVIN P. WALKER
KARILYNNE WALLACE
DEMETRIUS WALTERS
JENIFER B. E. WARREN
TRACY R. WATKINS
MICHAEL T. WEAVER
SAMANTHA WEEKS
HEWETT S. WELLS
JOSEPH H. WENCKUS
KURT A. WENDT
TREVOR A. WENTLANDT
SCOTT A. WESTON
PATRICK J. WHITE
LANCE D. WHITFILL
DOUGLAS P. WICKERT
LANCE A. WILKINS
DONALD S. WILSON
JAMES S. WILSON
REGINA S. WINCHESTER
JOHN W. WINKLER
THOMAS Q. WOFFORD
GREGORY R. WOOD
JONATHAN L. WRIGHT
MICHAEL A. WULFESTIEG
DONN C. YATES
SANG H. YOO
JOHN P. ZAPATA
ZACHARY B. ZEINER
DEAN E. ZEZEUS
JAMES J. ZIRKEL
STEVEN M. ZUBOWICZ
MICHAEL J. ZUHLSDORF
CLINTON R. ZUMBRUNNEN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

THOMAS M. CHEREPKO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

RODNEY E. GARFIELD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

MARK A. ENDSLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JACOB A. JOHNSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

PATRICK MASCARENHAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

DEBRA MAYERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ENLISTED MEMBER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

DWAIPAYAN CHAKRABORTI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

ERIC B. HINTZ
DANIEL R. KLINGER
RORY J. PETTEYS
BART D. WILKISON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

KATHRYN A. SPLETSTOSER

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER-MINISTER:

JUDY R. REINKE, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED:

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION INTO AND WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

BRIAN C. BRISSON, OF FLORIDA
MICHAEL L. MCGEE, OF FLORIDA
ANDREW P. WYLEGALA, OF WASHINGTON

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

SANDILLO N. BANERJEE, OF VIRGINIA
MITCHELL GREGORY LARSEN, OF CALIFORNIA
DAVID MCNEILL, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTOPHER R. QUINLIVAN, OF WASHINGTON
CAMERON S. WERKER, OF VIRGINIA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

BARBARA FARRAR, OF VIRGINIA
EVERETT G. WAKAI, OF CALIFORNIA
JANELLE WEYEK, OF WISCONSIN

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

TIMOTHY C. CANNON, OF COLORADO
BRIDGETTE CLARK, OF ALABAMA
JOSHUA HALPERN, OF NEW YORK
DOUGLAS JACOBSON, OF MINNESOTA
YOUQING MA, OF OREGON
DEAN R. MATLACK, OF MINNESOTA
JOEL REYNOSO, OF NEW YORK
REBECCA TORRES, OF FLORIDA
TERRI TYMINSKI, OF CALIFORNIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

KAREN ALLEN, OF ARIZONA
KAREN BALLARD, OF IDAHO
BRITTANY BANTA, OF NEW YORK
SAMUEL L. BATEMAN, OF COLORADO
MICHAEL A. CALVERT, OF WASHINGTON
JULIE ANN CARDUCCI, OF ILLINOIS
WELLINGTON CHU, OF PENNSYLVANIA
CAROLINE CHUNG, OF VIRGINIA
JAMES PRESTON CURTIS, OF MINNESOTA
LANCE B. ENCE, OF VIRGINIA
SHAKIR Y. FARSAKH, OF NEW YORK
PAUL FROST, OF TEXAS
JEFFREY ALLEN GEIGER, OF VIRGINIA
TYLER GRANT HACKING, OF WISCONSIN
MINDI B. HERTZOG, OF FLORIDA
DAVID B. KINCAID, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ERICK V. KISH, OF WASHINGTON
DANIEL SUNG-DOK LEW, OF CALIFORNIA
ARLENE MASUE MAYEDA, OF VIRGINIA
MELISSA MCINNIS, OF COLORADO
THOMAS J. MEADE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ALLISON HILLARY MELLO, OF CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL A. MIDDLETON, OF VERMONT
RANDOLPH T. MOORE, OF VIRGINIA
TAMARIND E. MURRIETTA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MICHAEL K. MUTH, OF FLORIDA
GEOFFREY PARISH, OF TEXAS
CHARLES M. PHILLIPS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
NEIL PAUL PICKETT, OF ILLINOIS
MATTHEW POOLE, OF ILLINOIS
GARY F. RAND II, OF MARYLAND
RHONDA M. SINKFIELD, OF GEORGIA
MICHELE RENEE SMITH, OF VIRGINIA
KENNIA J. SOMERVILLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JONATHAN T. WARD, OF WASHINGTON
CATHERINE M. WERNER, OF PENNSYLVANIA

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on March 4, 2015 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

GILBERTO DE JESUS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, VICE WINSLOW LORENZO SARGEANT, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 8, 2015.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING BERLINDA TYLER-JAMISON ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend Berlinda Tyler-Jamison on her retirement from UnityPoint Health-Trinity after 28 years. During her time at UnityPoint she created programs like ''Stylin' Against Breast Cancer'' and the ''Trinity Golf Tournament,'' which annually raise tens of thousands of dollars for their important causes.

Berlinda's hard work has extended beyond her professional career. She dedicates her time to the Rock Island community as the president of the county branch of the NAACP and has served on the Rock Island Planning Commission as well as on the boards for MetroLINK and Arrowhead Ranch.

Over the years, Berlinda's commitment to creating a more diverse and welcoming community has never faltered. Even now as she prepares for this next part of her life, she plans to remain active and involved in bettering our community in Rock Island County. Her passion for serving others is truly outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Berlinda for everything she has given the Rock Island community and congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement. I have faith that her future endeavors will be successful.

THE SONGS OF THE FLAG ORGANIZATION (SOTF)—A RESOURCE FOR BURN SURVIVORS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of THE SONS OF THE FLAG organization, which was founded in Dallas, Texas by Ryan ''Birdman'' Parrot in 2012. Parrot, a Navy SEAL who served 8 years as a member of SEAL Team 7 completed 3 tours in Iraq before being assigned to advanced Training Command. While riding in a Humvee, he and his team were hit by an IED with most of his crew sustaining life threatening burn injuries. Upon retirement he moved to Dallas, Texas, and was inspired by Ret. Capt Sam Brown's strength and courage despite all his debilitating scarring. Not happy with the advancements in treatment for burns compared to the advancement of prosthetics he founded this organization to help: military, first responders, and civilian burn survivors. SOTF is bringing together community leaders, renowned burn surgeons, experienced military, dedicated first responders, and purposeful citizens to complete our mission. We partnered with Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

SO PROUDLY WE WAVE

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

This is war
There's another battle to be waged
There are so many magnificent heroes who need our help this day
And just like them,
the words no surrender we all say
As so proudly to them we wave
On this very day
So high up above
All in their love
For all of those and what they gave
Whether, on battlefields of honor bright
Or First Responders and Fire Fighters who into infernos go this night
And all of those citizens so left to fight
The scars of a Burn Survivor's plight
For beauty is but skin deep
As it's all in our souls where we so keep
All of our faith and courage,
that we all so need to find the will to dig in deep
Is that but not the beauty we all seek?
To so fight for their cause
The eyes of Texas are upon us,
and we shall not pause
Carried all in our hearts,
for this Old Red, White, and Blue so very deep
Taking the charge
For advancements,
for all of those heroes who lives now loom so very large
Who upon battlefields of honor bright
Or rushing into burning buildings with hearts of courage full to bring their light
Who are in the business of saving lives
Whether for our brothers and sisters to their left,
to their right
Or in burning buildings oh what heroic sights
To somehow repay them for all of their sacrifice
For we will help champion your battle for your victory,
over this fight
And help you one and all,
to get on with your most magnificent of all lives
Where you go
We go
We've got your six,
for this is all that you need to know
Just like the American flag,
you too should be treated with such honor so
They Gave,
now its time for us To Give
Just like The American flag,
you too so proudly wave in all you did
And remember no matter how dark the night,
The Sons of Flag have got your six,
for all you heroes whose hearts burn bright

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA CARMODY

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Virginia Carmody to the community of Onondaga County, New York. A resident of Onondaga Hill, Mrs. Carmody has served as the Executive Director of the Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County for over 6 years. In her role as Executive Director, Mrs. Carmody has established and led expansive literacy programs in Onondaga County, working towards the goal of complete literacy in the County.

In 2010, Mrs. Carmody oversaw the implementation of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program in the City of Syracuse, New York. The program has provided over 68,000 free books to over 4,500 children in the city. In addition, Mrs. Carmody manages adult literacy initiatives, such as an adult literacy database.

Due to the work of the Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County promoting early reading, spearheaded by Mrs. Carmody, the National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading recognized Syracuse as one of 38 municipalities across the country, as a 2013 Pacesetter.

Mrs. Carmody previously served for over 26 years in the Congressional offices of three New York Representatives. Mrs. Carmody serves on the boards of Syracuse 20/20, the Onondaga Citizens League, Visions for Change, and is a member of the Rotary Club of Syracuse. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from American University and a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree in Elementary Education from the College of St. Rose. She is supported by her husband, Mitch and two children, Riley and Christina.

Virginia Carmody has worked fervently to improve literacy in Onondaga County through community engagement. I am proud to congratulate Mrs. Carmody in her deserving receipt of the Women Who Make America Award.

RECOGNIZING KIDNEY DAY AT THE MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Kidney Day at the Missouri State Capitol on Thursday, March 5, 2015. This important day is supported by the Missouri Kidney Program and the National Kidney Foundation.

The mission of the Missouri Kidney Program is to help meet the educational needs, and to promote the physical and mental well-being of

● 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.

eligible Missouri residents with Chronic Kidney Disease. The National Kidney Foundation participates in research that is helping advance knowledge about chronic kidney disease, treatment, and patient outcomes.

The Missouri Kidney Program and the National Kidney Foundation should both be commended for highlighting three major areas of kidney disease: awareness, prevention, and treatment. The Missouri Kidney Program strives to increase public awareness of the need for organ donation and to encourage kidney donations for transplantation. The goal of the National Kidney Foundation is to reach those at risk before kidney disease occurs, and impact those in earliest stages so that progression to later-stage disease is no longer inevitable.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing the dedication of the Missouri Kidney Program and the National Kidney Foundation.

STANDING WITH ISRAEL

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, before a joint session of Congress, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke of the threat of an Iran with nuclear weapons capability.

Prime Minister Netanyahu is absolutely right to be concerned. The world cannot tolerate a nuclear Iranian regime. The Obama administration is signaling it will support temporarily restricting, not eliminating, Iran's potential to produce nuclear weapons, but I believe it is critical that we act to ensure Iran does not obtain nuclear capabilities. Further, any deal reached by the State Department and Iran regarding their nuclear program needs to include Congressional involvement.

As a strong supporter of Israel, I am concerned about the instability and the animosity that exists toward one of our strongest allies. Though there may be widespread ignorance in the international community about the conflict between Israel and those who seek its destruction, the simple truth is that throughout history Israel has made numerous concessions in the pursuit of peace while seeking only the right to exist and defend itself from all threats.

A strong Israel is key to stability and security in the Middle East, and I will continue to stand with our friend and ally.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER GUAM SPEAKER FRANKLIN J.A. QUITUGUA, PH.D.

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend Franklin J.A. Quitugua, Ph.D. Dr. Quitugua was an educator and leader in our community. He served as the head of the Guam Department of Education for many years and was a Guam Senator in the 14th to the 20th Guam Legislatures. Dr. Quitugua passed away on February 26, 2015 at the age of 81.

Franklin was born on November 6, 1933 to Ignacio Perez Quitugua and Rosa Santos Arceo Quitugua. He graduated from George Washington High School in 1952, and went on to attend Northern Arizona University. He graduated in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

Upon graduating from college, Franklin returned to Guam and taught at George Washington High School. He then went back to Northern Arizona University where he earned his Master of Arts degree in 1962. Franklin again returned home to serve his island community. He became the principal of George Washington Junior High School then was appointed the administrative assistant to the Director of Education in 1968. Franklin was subsequently promoted to Deputy Director of Education before being appointed the Director of Education in 1969.

As Director of Education, Franklin worked tirelessly to improve Guam's public school system. He implemented training for central office staff, administrators, and school employees while developing core curriculum department-wide. Franklin took a short break as Director of Education from 1972 to 1975 to pursue a Ph.D at the University of Oregon. Upon receiving his Ph.D., he returned as Director of Education until running for the Guam Legislature.

In 1976, Dr. Quitugua was elected to the 14th Guam Legislature and he went on to serve seven terms as a Guam Senator. He chaired the Committee on Education and was chosen by his colleagues as the Speaker of the 19th Guam Legislature. I was privileged to serve as a Senator alongside Speaker Quitugua during the 16th, 19th, and 20th Guam Legislatures, and I remember him fondly as being a strong advocate on many issues and a leader who always worked across party lines to build bipartisan support for many legislative initiatives.

Speaker Quitugua not only continued his legacy as a staunch advocate for education during his time as Senator, but for the entire island community. He improved access to education for Guam's students and enhanced facilities and educational resources available on island. He fought for increased funding to sustain a growing student population and promoted alternative educational programs to meet the increased demands on the public school system.

After his last term in the 20th Guam Legislature, Dr. Quitugua returned as Director of Education until he retired in 1993. He served the people of Guam faithfully and humbly for nearly 40 years, and he enjoyed spending his retirement years with his family.

I join the people of Guam in mourning the loss of Speaker Franklin J.A. Quitugua. I had the distinct honor of serving with him in the Legislature, and his passion for our island's issues will be remembered. Franklin was a true public servant who fought for our children and their right to education. I extend my sincere condolences to his children and loved ones on their loss. I commend Speaker Quitugua for his years of service to the island as a public servant and dedicated guardian of education. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time. He will be deeply missed.

HONORING DR. LOUIS CHARLES ROUDANEZ

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Louis Charles Roudanez, founder and publisher of the first daily African American newspaper in the United States, on the 125th anniversary of his death.

Dr. Roudanez, a free man of color and native Louisianian from St. James Parish, founded the New Orleans Tribune to serve as an outspoken voice for the interests of African Americans during a period of turmoil and uncertainty during the final year of the Civil War and early Reconstruction. The Tribune aggressively advocated for civil rights, black suffrage, desegregated public education, and better wages and working conditions for freed slaves. It operated under the radical philosophy that ''freedom without equality before the law and at the ballot box is impossible.'' Although primarily a lens to conditions in Louisiana, the paper worked towards reforming all of Southern society by sending a copy of each issue to every Member of Congress. It quickly received national recognition, and its editorials were often read here on the floor of Congress.

Though the Tribune ceased publishing in 1870, its spirit of advocacy, justice, fairness and uncompromising purpose was invoked in 1985 by Dr. Dwight and Beverly Stanton McKenna, when they began their newspaper and named it in honor of Dr. Roudanez's Tribune. The modern-day Tribune continues to offer an invaluable voice on issues affecting the Black community in New Orleans and around the country.

To honor Dr. Roudanez, I would like to share part of the Tribune's mission statement, published in July 1864 on the front page of its first issue: ''Under the above title we publish a new paper devoted to the principles heretofore defended by the Union. Convinced that a newspaper, under the present circumstances, representing the principles and interest which we propose to defend and advocate was much needed in New Orleans, we shall spare no means at our command to render the Tribune worthy of public confidence and respect.'' Today we recognize the fulfillment of Dr. Roudanez's mission. In commemoration of his life and achievements, a monument has been dedicated to Dr. Roudanez at the building that housed the Tribune.

CONGRATULATING FRED WHITESIDE ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fred Whiteside on his retirement from serving as Augustana College's women's cross country and track coach. Fred is rightfully being honored by Augustana, his alma mater, for his longstanding dedication to the Augustana community.

Fred served a total of 61 seasons as a head coach of Vikings' athletic teams. He has led

the Vikings to 12 CCIW track and field titles and 7 CCIW cross country titles during his tenure. Throughout his years at Augustana College, Fred has worked in various capacities including director of off-campus housing, director of custodial services, director of intramurals and associate athletic director.

Fred has enriched the lives of all those around him, students, faculty and other community members, and is a true leader. Fred has had a wonderful 33 year career at Augustana College, and I know he will be greatly missed as he enters retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Fred for his commitment to the Augustana Community, and I congratulate him again on his well-earned retirement and wish him luck with his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JAMES JENDRUSINA ON THE OCCASION OF EARNING THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Jendrusina, of Bessemer, Michigan and his achievement in earning the Congressional Award. The Congressional Award recognizes four avenues of individual growth—community service, physical fitness, exploration, and personal development—and how the fulfillment of these goals forms balanced and promising young citizens. In their pursuit of these goals, recipients of the Congressional Awards have gained new skills and greater confidence.

In earning his Congressional Award, James volunteered over 200 hours of service through the Boy Scouts, where he focused on teaching younger scouts about service opportunities and how they are able to enrich the communities in which they live. He was also able to introduce bats to the Little Girls Campground to try to control the mosquito population.

For his personal development, James dedicated his time to learn about agriculture by planting and taking care of his own garden. Through this experience he learned how to control pests, preserve vegetables and eventually harvest the fruits of his labor.

For his Physical Education, James chose to focus on healthy eating and working out. By running and adding a weight routine to his exercises, he was able to achieve an understanding of what is needed to ensure a healthy lifestyle.

For his Expedition, James traveled to Alaska and visited the Kenai Peninsula to learn how to fish using varying techniques.

I believe the projects undertaken by James will be the cornerstone for future achievements and a commitment to bettering one's self and their community. Please join me in congratulating James for his accomplishments and for success in the future.

200,000 MILES DRIVEN AND NO PLAN TO RETIRE

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, last week I was deeply honored to welcome James Price and his wife Ellen into our D.C. office. They were in town representing the Disabled American Veterans and shared with me about how they serve our Kansas Veterans. For over twenty years Jim and Ellen have generously coordinated transportation services for our Veterans to the closest Veteran Affairs Medical Center in either Topeka or Wichita.

Four days a week for over two decades, this couple has helped transport our rural Veterans in the greater Salina area who cannot get the necessary health care services at the local Community Based Outpatient Clinic. I want to commend their dedication and selfless sacrifice; they have made a very tangible difference in the lives of so many Kansas Veterans.

Up until just a few years ago, Ellen coordinated with the Salina VA clinic and set up weekly transportation schedules for all the medical appointments for local veterans traveling to Wichita and Topeka. And Jim did much of the driving. In fact, during my conversation with Mr. Price, he reported that since he started driving vans for the VA over twenty years ago, he has logged over 200,000 miles as a volunteer. And at over eighty years old, he has no plans to retire.

Jim and Ellen Price are shining examples of the many men and women who served us in the military and go beyond the call of duty to serve long after they leave the military. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Price, for your selfless dedication and commitment—and to the thousands of others across the First District of Kansas—who do so much to serve our Veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF DE PERE, WISCONSIN ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of De Pere, Wisconsin as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.

Father Claude-Jean Allouez, a Jesuit missionary and explorer, is credited with founding this community when he established the St. Francis Xavier mission in 1671. The name was derived from rapids on the Fox River with settlers referring to this area as Rapides Des Peres.

The historic Fox River has always been part of the fabric of this community; dividing it between east and west for many years. In 1890, the communities of West De Pere and De Pere merged, and as a result the unified City of De Pere continues to thrive and grow. Today, the city boasts around 24,000 residents, and has several buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places such as the De Pere Lock and Dam Historic District, the North Broadway Street Historic District, Main Hall on the St. Norbert College campus, and several other wonderful places.

St. Norbert College is a major institution of higher learning inside the city that is home to more than 2,000 students pursuing a wide variety of degrees, and to this day vigorously pursues their motto "To teach by word and example." It is my great honor to recognize the City of De Pere, the city leaders past and present, and the residents who have contributed so greatly toward the community as it stands today. I extend my congratulations and all the best in the next 125 years!

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, let us honor and recognize the 10th Mountain Division on their 30th anniversary for their service to Fort Drum, the 21st District of New York, our North Country community and our nation. For the past thirty years, the brave men and women of the 10th Mountain Division have stood in harm's way to protect and defend our country. Since September 11th, 2001, the 10th Mountain Division has been the most actively deployed division to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Too many of our nation's service members have made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives while in service. We cannot repay the debt we owe these service men and women and their families, but we can work to honor their legacy and recognize what they have done for us. We must protect the promises that we have made to these brave individuals and strengthen our nation's commitment to helping them as they return home from combat. As leaders in Congress we have an obligation to serve our constituents and members of our armed forces.

I am honored to serve on the House Armed Services Committee and as the Vice-Chair for the Subcommittee on Readiness and as a member of the Subcommittees on Personnel and Emerging Threats and Capabilities. As a member of these subcommittees I will fight to ensure the Defense Department, our troops and Fort Drum have the necessary tools and resources they require to defend our nation from those that wish to do us harm.

On this 30th anniversary, let us honor and reflect all that the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum has done for our community and our nation, and let us pledge to work together to preserve and strengthen this institution for many years to come. Thank you to the soldiers and your loved ones for keeping our nation safe.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LARRY SCANLON

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Larry Scanlon, who was

taken from us tragically on February 27th, 2015, after over 40 years of dedicated service to our nation's hardworking families.

Mr. Scanlon served as the longtime Political Director for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). In this role, he fought to raise the minimum wage, protect Social Security, and add a voice for middle class families in our government and national discussion.

Larry recognized that our country's success is tied to the economic health of the middle class. In this vein, he sought to make this country greater by fighting to give families the fair shot that they deserve at the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Larry's contributions as a fighter for the middle class, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

HONORING THE JERICHO PROJECT FOR ITS RECEIPT OF THE 2015 INNOVATION IN JUSTICE AWARD

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Jericho Project for its receipt of the 2015 Innovations in Justice Award for approaching criminal justice challenges in a new and effective way. The Innovations in Justice Award recipients were selected by the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Center for Court Innovation.

The Jericho Project was launched more than a decade ago by the Shelby County Public Defender's Office to better serve people living with serious mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders who have been cycling through the criminal justice system. The main architect, Shelby County Chief Public Defender Stephen Bush, my constituent, developed the initiative while working as an Assistant Public Defender, a position he held for almost 20 years before being appointed as Shelby County's 10th Public Defender in 2010.

Mr. Bush has overseen the development of community linkage plans that are presented to courts in support of community-based, alternative forms of sentencing. Recovery Support Specialists on the team support clients for four months after they are released from prison and help them transition to life back in the community. I am proud to say that nearly 60 percent of those participating in the Jericho Project have successfully completed their recovery plans and have avoided further cycling through the criminal justice system.

What began as a grant-funded experiment has matured into a permanent part of Shelby County's efforts to address the needs of some of its most vulnerable citizens. The Jericho Project's success has made it a national model for how criminal justice systems can better serve those struggling to survive with serious mental illnesses.

The Jericho Project has been changing lives for more than a decade, and this recognition is well deserved. I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Jericho Project for receiving the 2015 Innovations in Justice Award.

AUTHORIZING SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO RECOUP BONUSES AND AWARDS

SPEECH OF

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 280, legislation authorizing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recoup bonuses and awards paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I would like to commend Chairman MILLER for his continued leadership on this issue. I also want to express my gratitude to the House Veterans Affairs Committee for their hard work on this bill, and for its work last year on the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.

Last year, reports by the VA Office of Inspector General revealed widespread mismanagement, inadequate standards of care, and unnecessary delays for appointments in VA facilities across the country, including facilities in both Atlanta and Augusta, Georgia where veterans in my home district seek care. The appalling lack of responsible oversight at certain facilities led to the placement of veterans on secret waiting lists created to manipulate data in order to cover up long wait times. This was an inexcusable practice that prevented our nation's heroes from receiving the timely care that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, those responsible for overseeing those VA facilities were clearly failing at their jobs. Yet, in Fiscal Year 2013, VA issued over $380,000 in bonuses to employees at hospitals under investigation by the VA Inspector General for falsifying records. This is unacceptable. Under no circumstances should VA employees receive a 'performance award' for purposefully fostering an environment of negligence. H.R. 280 provides the authority to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to order VA employees to pay back their bonuses so that no employee will remain rewarded for their misconduct.

We owe our veterans a great debt of gratitude, and one small way of repaying that debt is to ensure that our veterans receive the best possible care. This commonsense legislation will bring much-needed accountability to the VA system and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 280.

COMMENDING LOCAL BROADCASTERS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, every day, our nation's broadcasters serve communities across the country by providing the news and entertainment we rely on to get through our day. Whether it is an update on what is happening in the world, educational programming, or a review of the movies opening that weekend, most Americans turn to broadcasters for news on issues big and small.

This is especially true for local broadcasters. These broadcasters provide the public with the news that is most important, and most useful for them, because it is the news from their own communities. This is true in Sacramento and across the nation. Our broadcasters play an integral role in Sacramentans day-to-day lives, informing all of us about everything from local traffic to an in-depth look at local political issues.

Local broadcasters play a particularly important role in times of an emergency. In Sacramento, we continue to experience drought-like weather conditions, as well as heavy rains that bring with them the threat of flooding. Unfortunately, the entire state of California is susceptible to a number of natural disasters, including earthquakes, wildfires, and—of course—flooding. It is essential that residents have access to local emergency broadcasts, so that they have the public safety information they need when a disaster strikes.

And the role of broadcasters goes beyond disseminating information to the public. They have also played an important part in growing and investing in our nation's airwaves. The spectrum sharing agreement that the broadcasters entered into with the Department of Defense helped solidify the Federal Communications Commission's recent record breaking spectrum auction of the AWS–3 band. This spectrum auction generated nearly $45 billion in revenue, enough to fully fund FirstNet, the nationwide interoperability network for America's first responders and public safety officials.

Broadcasters play an important role in our country. I want to applaud the work of broadcasters, particularly those in Sacramento, for working diligently to cover and provide local news programming to our communities, and for being strong community partners.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize International Women's Day. This day is celebrated across the world in different ways to honor the role of women throughout history. Here in the United States, we celebrate this day during Women's History Month. Since 1913, March 8 has been marked as a day to honor the economic, political, and social achievements of women.

International Women's Day serves as a reminder of the steps we have made towards equality in the United States and internationally, and honors the women who worked to make these steps possible. As a Member of Congress from the only state in the country to have had an all-female delegation, I am proud of how far our country has come towards equality for women. But we cannot recognize these accomplishments without also mentioning the work that still needs to be done.

While we have come so far, women still face political and economic obstacles. Women are still not equally represented in small business ownership or in the technology sector. I have been working to build support and encouragement for more women small business leaders and women in technology. A few weeks ago, I had the privilege to congratulate

eighteen female high school students on completing the BAE Systems Women in Technology Program, which encourages young women to consider pursuing careers in technology. As a country we need more programs like this to encourage our young women to pursue their interests and become future leaders, and to discourage them from thinking that certain careers are strictly for men.

In New Hampshire, women make up half of the state's population and about a quarter of our businesses are owned by women. It is clear that the success of women in business is vitally important to New Hampshire's future, and the same can be said for the rest of our country. On International Women's Day, I ask my colleagues to recognize not just the progress we have made, but also how much work remains to be done. As a country we must promote the success of women.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in recognizing International Women's Day and the women who are continuing the fight to ensure there is equal opportunity for women in the present and future.

THE FIRST AND FINEST

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Port of Houston Authority for successfully completing its certification process for International Organization for Standardization 14001 Environmental Management Systems. This tri-annual process certifies the ports' Central Maintenance facility and the Bayport and Barbours Cut container terminals.

International Organization for Standardization 14001 certification is one of the hardest to achieve in the environmental industry. Of the 360 seaports in the United States, only 10 are certified. This also marks the fifth consecutive successful certification for the Port of Houston Authority. In 2002, it became the first port in the United States to achieve ISO 14001 status.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Port of Houston Authority for receiving this critical certification. The Port of Houston is an important asset for Houston, Texas and the nation. Best wishes on your continued success.

WELCOMING THE KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER TO WASHINGTON

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Mr. Chung Ui-Hwa, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly, to Washington. Speaker Chung—a neurosurgeon by training—is a distinguished member of the National Assembly, having served five consecutive terms since 1996. Last year, in his capacity as President of the Korea-U.S. Inter-Parliamentary Council, he led a delegation and paid a visit to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where I hosted a legislative exchange. I'm honored to welcome him back to Washington and in his new capacity as Speaker.

For over 60 years, the U.S.-South Korea relationship has been a linchpin of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2013, I welcomed President Park Geun-hye, the Republic of Korea's first female president, to Southern California where she addressed the Korean-American community to discuss the 60th anniversary of the U.S.-South Korean alliance. As a former Chairman of the U.S.-Republic of Korea Inter-Parliamentary Exchange, I have been proud to help enhance the alliance, including by upgrading Korea's Foreign Military Sales status to NATO+4, passing the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement and securing an extension of the U.S.-Korea Civilian Nuclear Energy Agreement.

As North Korea continues to threaten the United States and our close allies with its nuclear, missile, and now cyber capabilities, I introduced legislation, together with Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, to step up the targeting of those financial institutions in Asia and beyond that are supporting this brutal and dangerous regime. By shutting down North Korea's illicit activities, we deprive the Kim regime of the money it needs to pay the generals and to conduct nuclear weapons research. I appreciate that humanitarian groups around the world are strongly supporting this bipartisan legislation.

The United States and the Republic of Korea are strengthening their combined defense posture on the Korean Peninsula. Together, we are working toward a shared goal of a Korean Peninsula that is free of nuclear weapons and peacefully reunited on the basis of democratic and market principles and as articulated in President Park's Dresden address last year.

Mr. Speaker, I am again pleased to welcome my friend, Speaker Chung Ui-Hwa, to Washington and to the Congress. We are at critical juncture in the U.S.-Korea alliance, but our relationship has never been better. I look forward to working with Speaker Chung on the issues of mutual concern. I further urge my colleagues to do the same and to offer their own expressions of best wishes and support.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 23rd anniversary of a terrible event in the history of Azerbaijan: the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly in what was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Khojaly, which is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. That was before Armenian armed forces descended on the town on February 26, 1992, killing over 600 people—including 106 women and 83 children. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than one hundred children lost one of their parents, and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were completely wiped out.

More than two decades after a ceasefire went into effect, more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, remains occupied and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis remain displaced from their homes. Ongoing violence along the line of contact surrounding occupied Azerbaijani territory reinforces the urgency of robust American participation in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group as it works towards a peaceful resolution of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

Azerbaijan is the only country that borders both Russia and Iran, and yet Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies in security and energy matters. This has included: enforcing sanctions against Iran; providing troops that served shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit for 40 percent of all non-lethal equipment used by NATO forces in Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy that will provide Europe with an alternative source to Russian energy; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil.

I ask my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the devastation of Khojaly twenty-three years ago. As Azerbaijanis around the world recall this massacre and mourn the loss of loved ones, let us remember our support of peaceful efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and reforms that promote stability throughout the Southern Caucasus region.

HONORING BMO HARRIS BANK

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce in congratulating BMO Harris Bank as it is honored at the 39th Annual Salute to Accomplishment Dinner.

For over a century, BMO Harris Bank has invested in Joliet, where it currently has five branches employing 61 people. Partnering with community organizations and local governments, BMO Harris Bank has worked on a number of initiatives to improve the quality of life throughout the community including investing in health care research and community service projects.

Additionally, many BMO Harris Bank employees serve on boards and committees, and are members of various local non-profit organizations, including the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet, the Greater Joliet Area YMCA, the Will County Council on Economic Development, and the Joliet Park District.

Again, I would like to congratulate BMO Harris Bank and thank its employees for being a driving force of change in our community.

GOD, FAMILY & COUNTRY: BOB WILKINSON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, God, family and country. Those three words are a life motto for one of my constituents, Robert ''Bob'' Lee Wilkinson. Bob is a God-fearing father, grandfather and veteran, who will be celebrating his 80th Birthday this March.

After graduating from Shawnee High School in Shawnee, Oklahoma in 1954, Bob joined the US Army. He was just 19 years old. His love of country drove him to the armed forces.

For three years Bob served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps where he was stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. He became a Specialist 2nd Class with top security clearance.

Upon receiving an Honorable Discharge, utilizing the GI Bill, Bob attended Oklahoma Baptist University. He graduated with a degree in business administration. He embarked on a successful 38 year career in Human Resources as a Human Resources Executive. Bob met and married his wife, DeLora, shortly after returning to Shawnee from the Army.

Bob began his HR career while still in college, working part time at Oklahoma Gas and Electric. After graduation, he became the HR manager for Wonder Bread and Hostess Cakes in Oklahoma City. Bob was recruited to Dallas to join a startup company, Texas Instruments. At Texas Instruments, he became World Wide HR Director, which transferred him all to different cities all over the Lone Star State. One of these cities being Houston, where Bob lives today.

After 19 years with Texas Instruments, Bob went to work for Compaq Computer, serving as their HR Director for 17 years. From there he went with Drake, Beam Morin, and a Human Recourse Outsourcing Firm. Bob's contribution to HR was quite the journey and it thankfully led him to the Promised Land, Texas, and we are so glad it did. Texas and Oklahoma are grateful for Bob's passion in HR and his willingness to help others.

Bob and DeLora spend their free time traveling to the plains of Montana to visit family. They have two daughters and three grandchildren. You can find them involved in the community and political activities.

2015 will be quite the year for Bob Wilkinson. He celebrates his 80th Birthday on March 13 and this coming May, Bob and DeLora will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary. Congrats to a life and marriage well spent. It is obvious that God, family and country really have been the driving forces in your life, Bob.

I am proud to have you as one of my many neighbors in Houston. I thank you for your service to our great country. I join not only your friends and family, but the entire community when I say, Happy Birthday Bob!

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SENATE SHOULD RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the sense of the House of Representatives that the Senate should ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). I am proud to be joined in this effort by my friend and colleague Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY.

This year we also recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, where the United States along with over 189 governments, adopted the ''Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.'' Since 1995, those commitments have ushered in enormous improvements in the lives of women across the world. It is in the spirit of this inspirational anniversary that we urge the United States to ratify the most comprehensive international agreement on women's rights, CEDAW.

CEDAW is a landmark international agreement that calls on governments to take appropriate measures to end discrimination against women in all areas of life. The Convention seeks to develop women's equality in legal status, human rights, political participation, employment, education and healthcare, while committing countries to change or eradicate discriminatory laws, customs, and practices.

Despite 187 countries ratifying CEDAW, the United States is the only industrialized country in the world that has not ratified the treaty, even though its fundamental principles of equality and nondiscrimination are paramount to the ideals of our nation. Other nations that have not ratified CEDAW include Somalia and Iran.

Most importantly, CEDAW is not self-executing, meaning that any legislation the United States might adopt to comply with the treaty would have to go through the normal Congressional process.

Ratification of CEDAW would continue our nation's proud bipartisan tradition of promoting and protecting human rights. The Senate's ratification of CEDAW would strengthen our standing as a global leader for the rights of women and girls. As we recognize International Women's Day next week, I hope my colleagues will cosponsor this important resolution that will benefit women around the world.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO GPO

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 4, 1861, the Government Printing Office (GPO), as it was then known, opened its doors and began fulfilling an essential mission for the American people. On March 4, 2015, 154 years later, the newly renamed Government Publishing Office continues to perform that mission: producing and disseminating the official documents of this Congress and the executive and judicial branches to keep America informed. This is not merely my opinion as a proud supporter of the GPO and its talented workforce, but also the conclusion of a 2013 report of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) requested by Congress.

As I noted in the House Administration Committee's activities report for 2014 (H. Rept. 113–721), I was pleased that Congress honored the request of Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks, first made to the Committee in 2013, for statutory redesignation of GPO as the Government Publishing Office. This long-overdue change rightly proclaims to the American people how Congress and the President view the agency.

The proud men and women of GPO do not fulfill their mission solely by applying ink to paper. For decades GPO's employees have been in the vanguard of the Government's shift toward electronic publishing. The agency's former name, focused on the technological limits available at its birth, no longer reflected the breadth of its abilities and importance. GPO's work publishing and distributing information in multiple formats assures Americans perpetual access to the documents of our democracy. This change gives GPO and its employees the recognition they have earned.

During 2014 GPO has continued making significant strides under the stewardship of Ms. Vance-Cooks, who has now become the first Director of the Government Publishing Office. Evidence of the Director's strong management and sound judgment abounds there.

For example, the Partnership for Public Service listed GPO as one of the Best Places to Work and among the top 10 most innovative mid-sized federal agencies. The Partnership compiled its list based on the results of the OPM Federal Viewpoint Survey for 2013. Along a similar vein, a survey of over 500 customer agencies found 90% are generally satisfied with the goods and services GPO provides.

GPO's improved electronic gateway to the growing expanse of Government information, the Federal Digital System, or ''FDsys'', has recorded its one-billionth document retrieval. FDsys users can now browse among over one million titles as routine as daily editions of the Federal Register and as historic as President Nixon's Watergate grand-jury testimony. GPO is already taking steps to create the next generation FDsys with improved search and retrieval capabilities. GPO is also collaborating with the Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, the Library of Congress and others to make legislative data available to users in bulk form.

Although the Director and her management team have much to be proud of, challenges remain. The Director has embraced the NAPA report, especially its recommendation that GPO increase revenues through lease of surplus space. GPO has redoubled efforts to attract office tenants, including Legislative agencies for which proximity to the Congress offers a premium. With the support of the Joint Committee on Printing, GPO solicited the private

sector's input with a Request for Information on how to make better use of several acres of land now devoted to parking. The Director successfully completed a new round of wage agreements with GPO's employee unions, prudently setting future wage increases at the rate proposed by the President and Congress for all other federal civil-service employees. In addition, a successful employee buy-out conducted last year will improve the agency's financial condition. I am greatly encouraged by the Director's eagerness to work constructively with her earnest and talented Inspector General, Michael Raponi, and to incorporate his valuable recommendations into her strategic planning.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join in congratulating the Government Publishing Office on the agency's 154th birthday. I thank Director Vance-Cooks and her dedicated workforce for their extraordinary service to this country and wish them well in the years ahead.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEXAGON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 60th anniversary of Hexagon, the only original musical satirical comedy revue in the nation's capital. With its multiple honors, Hexagon continues to serve the District of Columbia, both with entertainment and service by donating the proceeds of each show to a different charity in the District each year.

Hexagon was founded in 1955 by a group of young Washingtonians seeking a way to have ''pure fun and nonsense.'' The group started out writing songs and parodies for the show ''Meet the Beep,'' which ran for five performances at the Holton-Arms School in the spring of 1956. The comedy troupe started earning a profit and earned $3,500, which they donated to local charities. Even though the group was not founded as a charitable organization, it has donated $3.5 million to more than 40 organizations since its inception. Due to a lack of funds in 2008, Hexagon, unfortunately, had to move out of the District into a venue nearby in Montgomery County, Maryland, but I am proud to say that after seven years, Hexagon is back in the District, and will be performing at Wilson High School in Tenleytown.

Hexagon has been honored with a number of distinguished awards, including the Presidential Medal of ''Distinguished Service'' from President Ronald Reagan in 1987. In 1992, Hexagon was given the honor of becoming Washingtonian of the Year for its contributions to the community and area charities. Hexagon was one of the first organizations to be recognized with this award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 60th anniversary of Hexagon, and in wishing the group success in continuing its proud legacy in the nation's capital.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LT. COLONEL GERALD K. CARMAN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this moment to celebrate the life, and note the passing of Lt. Colonel Gerald K. Carman of the United States Air Force.

Lt. Colonel Carman passed away surrounded by his family in Duluth, Georgia on August 7, 2014 at the age of 51. Lt. Colonel Carman is survived by his wife of 25 years, Dawn Murto Carman and his two sons: Bradly and Alexander.

Lt. Colonel Carman is a fellow graduate from Tates Creek High School in Lexington, Kentucky. He earned his Bachelor's from the University of Kentucky and his Master's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Soon after graduating, Lt. Colonel Carman joined the military and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force. He later became a member of 962d Airborne Air Control Squadron (AACS) based at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, Alaska as an Instructor Pilot flying the E–3 Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft.

Lt. Colonel Carman then joined the 168th Air Refueling Wing based in Eielson AFB, Fairbanks, Alaska as an Instructor Pilot flying the KC–135 Stratotanker with the Alaska Air National Guard. He served a total of 26 years as an officer with our nation's Armed Services.

Lt. Colonel Carman's passion for flying and love for aviation continued well past his Air Force career. He was a successful commercial pilot for two of our nation's major airlines: Northwest and Delta.

We grieve the loss of this great American, but we also celebrate and honor his life and his service. Lt. Colonel Carman embodied the best of America's ideals, values, and work ethic. He also personified what it meant to be free by pursuing his dreams and teaching others the art and love of American aviation.

Because of Lt. Colonel Carman's service to our nation, American freedoms are protected for future generations. He was truly an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF RICHARD MILLER

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Miller of Cheshire, Connecticut.

On February 26, 2015, Mr. Miller received the Special Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce.

He is 102 years old, and he has literally devoted a lifetime to the Cheshire community.

As a young man, Mr. Miller began his service in World War II. After four years in the Army, he was discharged with the rank of major.

When he returned to Cheshire, Mr. Miller's service did not cease. He served on various municipal boards including the Cheshire School Board, the Police Commission, the Senior Center Board of Directors, and the Beatification Commission.

Mr. Miller also volunteered with numerous civic organizations such as the Rotary Club where he was a member for almost 70 years. He established the Cheshire Food Drive, and raised funds for countless charitable organizations.

He also headed the town commission that designed, funded, and constructed a Veterans Memorial Plaza in front of Cheshire's Town Hall.

For all of these contributions and more, Mr. Miller will receive the Special Lifetime Achievement Award at the Cheshire Chamber's annual awards dinner. I wish to offer my congratulations to him for this impressive achievement and my thanks for all he has done for my hometown of Cheshire.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 109, I was absent attending Auditor Tom Schweich's funeral in the State of Missouri. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay.''

KAYCE WELCH

HON. JOHN RATCLIFFE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Kayce Welch of Texarkana has just been named one of the top honorees in Texas by the 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Kayce Welch is being recognized for creating the ''One of a Kind'' project to help raise funds and awareness of juvenile diabetes, the disease she was diagnosed with at age 11, and so far raised $3,000 through a charity walk to support a summer camp for children with diabetes. Ms. Welch is currently planning a ''One of a Kind Gala for Diabetes,'' to be held in the spring of 2015, which she hopes will raise at least $30,000 to help fund research into a cure.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions that these young citizens have made. Youth volunteers like Ms. Welch are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other

young people to follow their example. Over the past 20 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Ms. Welch should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Ms. Welch for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future. Congratulations.

IN RECOGNITION OF GLORIA BLANDINA FOR A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO OTHERS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gloria Blandina. Ms. Blandina is to receive the 2014 Joseph Saporito, Sr. Lifetime of Service Award, presented by the Greater Pittston Sunday Dispatch for her lifelong dedication to the development of young children.

Born and raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania, she received a degree in early childhood education from West Virginia University in 1971. Ms. Blandina went on to receive her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Marywood University in Scranton. She spent several years working at a day care center and teaching early childhood education at Penn State University before her appointment to the Children's Trust Fund by Governor Tom Ridge in 1998. In addition to her numerous professional accomplishments, Ms. Blandina is an active member of her community. She volunteers with the Social Justice Committee to deliver food to individuals in need. She has served on the board of directors of Luzerne County Head Start, the Pittston YMCA, the Family Enhancement Center, and as the President of the St. Mary's Assumption Home School Association for the Education of Young Children.

Ms. Blandina is currently the director of the Pittston Care and Concern Free Health Clinic, which offers a range of medical services to individuals without health insurance. The clinic has served over 3,500 patients under Ms. Blandina's leadership. She, like the doctors, nurses, social workers, and others who keep the clinic running, volunteers her time to this worthy cause that has helped so many in northeastern Pennsylvania.

I congratulate Ms. Blandina on receiving the Joseph Saporito, Sr. Lifetime of Service Award, and I commend her for all the selfless work she has done for the Greater Pittston Area.

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO ENSURE ''THE BORINQUENEERS'' RECEIVE THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 2014, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, an all-volunteer Puerto Rican unit known as ''the Borinqueneers.'' Today, I rise to urge the President to expedite the designing and delivery of this medal, before more of these brave Borinqueneers pass away.

More than 100,000 brave Borinqueneers served honorably in World War I, World War II and the Korean War. Puerto Ricans have fought for the United States as far back as the American Revolution, and continue to do so honorably to this day. Thousands have given their lives defending our values of freedom, justice, and equality, despite enduring decades of segregation and second-class treatment.

The Borinqueneers have been recognized with 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, more than 250 Silver Stars, over 600 Bronze Stars, and nearly 3,000 Purple Hearts. However, it was not until last year that the first member of the Borinqueneers, Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, following a congressionally ordered review of cases involving veterans deserving of recognition who had been overlooked due to prejudice.

Today, hundreds of Borinqueneers have made Central Florida their home. On March 7, I will host an event to honor their legacy, and thank them for their service.

It is my goal and my honor, as their representative, to ensure that they receive this long overdue recognition. Puerto Rican veterans should not have to wait any longer to receive the equal treatment they deserve. Today I ask the President to ensure that the Borinqueneers receive their Congressional Gold Medal as soon as possible.

CONGRATULATING CATHERINE ZINN ON RECEIVING WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Catherine Zinn, who tomorrow will be honored by Legal Momentum as a Woman of Achievement at its 10th Annual Women of Achievement Awards Dinner.

Born in Berkeley, California, Catherine graduated from Hamilton College with a bachelor of arts degree in economics and public policy. She also was a terrific athlete there, receiving varsity letters in three sports. Since then she has established herself as a skilled business leader.

For many years she has worked in client development and relations at DLA Piper, the world's largest law firm. In her role as Senior National Relationships Executive, she has had great success in bringing in new clients and ensuring current clients remain satisfied with the firm. Before DLA Piper, Catherine worked as National Director of Business Development and National Director of Class Action Settlement at JAMS, which provides arbitration and mediation services.

Catherine has given back to her community as well, helping many organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. For example, she serves on the boards of Bay Area Cancer Connections, helping women with ovarian and breast cancer, and Tomorrow Youth Repertory, which provides youth theater education.

Catherine also looks for ways to support women in business. She gives of herself to empower women and help them succeed.

In fact, she participated in an event I held last year, Women's Business Empowerment Day, which was organized to help women succeed in the workforce. She gave insightful and tangible advice to attendees about how to negotiate for higher wages and career advancement. I want to thank her for her contributions.

Catherine is well deserving of her recognition from Legal Momentum. I want to offer her my most heartfelt congratulations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STRENGTHENING FISHING COMMUNITIES AND INCREASING FLEXIBILITY IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act. The bill would amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act)—the premier law governing commercial and recreational fishing in U.S. federal waters. The Magnuson-Stevens Act was first enacted in 1976 and was last reauthorized in 2006.

I worked on the 2006 reauthorization with my friend and Senator, Ted Stevens. Ted Stevens was a champion for Alaska and the law bears his name as recognition of his dedication to supporting and protecting Alaska fishermen and the importance of fishery resources to coastal communities. I will miss working with my friend during this next reauthorization, but will remember him fondly as the legislation moves through Congress.

Over the last two Congresses, I worked with the former Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, Doc Hastings, to develop the text of the bill. The Committee on Natural Resources held 10 hearings, receiving comments and suggestions from over 100 witnesses representing Members of Congress, the administration, state governments, regional fishery management councils, marine fisheries commissions, commercial and recreational (including for-hire charter) fishing groups, processors, academics, and environmental groups. Due to this in-depth review of the Act and the need to keep the process going forward to reform the law, I am introducing the bill the Committee reported to the House floor in the 113th Congress.

The bill we developed in the 113th Congress would not have been possible without the knowledge and dedicated work of Mr. David Whaley, who retired from the Committee after twenty years of working on fisheries issues. I would like to acknowledge and thank Dave for his hard work and dedication over the years. I hired Dave in 1994 as my fisheries staffer for the Committee on Resources and he continued to handle Alaskan, national and international fishery issues, as well as marine mammal and ocean issues over his career on the Committee. Dave has been an invaluable resource to me and other members of the Committee during his twenty years of service on the Committee and we will miss his expertise and experience as we move this bill forward.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act allows for regional management of fisheries. The law gives guidance through its National Standards and specifies the process through which the Councils develop their fishery management plans. While the Secretary of Commerce has final approval of fishery management plans, the Magnuson-Stevens Act provides for a regional approach where the Councils, hearing from its local constituency groups, can develop fishery management plans that best suit their fisheries and fishermen. This is critical for the protection of coastal economies and for allowing the stakeholders to be a part of the management of their fisheries.

The Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act would update the Magnuson-Stevens Act to implement common sense reforms. The 2006 amendments were said to apply the 'Alaska Model' of fisheries management to other regions of the country. The premise of this reform was good. The 'Alaska Model' worked in Alaska due to stock assessments providing up-to-date fisheries data to allow the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to use adaptive management, providing optimal use of fishery resources to fishermen. The problem with trying to implement the 'Alaska Model' in other regions was that these regions did not have adequate science—due to infrequent or out dated stock assessments—to support that type of management system. Instead of providing optimal use of the resource for fishermen, the implementation of the 'Alaska Model' resulted in fisheries being restricted in regions that were considered 'data poor' due to multiple levels of precautionary measures being applied because of inadequate scientific data.

I believe the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act will allow for increased fisheries management flexibility and transparency, provide for improved data collection, create jobs, and—what I believe is very important—create predictability and certainty for the coastal communities that depend on stable fishing activities.

The Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act would reauthorize and strengthen the Magnuson-Stevens Act to ensure a proper balance between the biological needs of fish stocks and the economic needs of fishermen and coastal communities. The bill would make a number of improvements to the Act: provide flexibility for fishery managers when rebuilding depleted fisheries; provide flexibility for fishery managers when setting annual catch levels; provide more transparency for fishermen and others in both science and management; provide a schedule for obtaining better fishery dependent and fishery independent data especially for data poor fisheries; provide greater protection for confidential information submitted to regulatory agencies; encourage and promote cooperative research projects where scientists work with fishermen to develop sound scientific information; allow fishery managers to take the economic impact of their decisions into account when setting harvest levels; allow fishery managers to take environmental conditions into account when establishing harvest levels; allow fishermen in regions where catch share programs have been controversial to have a vote to determine whether a new catch share program will be implemented and to be provided better information when considering such a program; require NOAA to provide better accountability on how fees are collected and used; clarify the role of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in relationship to other federal statutes; and authorize appropriations for an additional five fiscal years at current authorized funding levels.

As I've learned over the years as a legislator, laws are not written in stone. Congress's job is to review them, listen to constituents and modify the laws as needed. Laws that are stagnant do not help anyone. Times change and laws need to reflect new information and the needs of Americans.

Constituency groups were influential in developing the 2006 amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Key aspects of the 2006 amendments were the goal to end overfishing through the requirement that annual catch limits not exceed scientific recommendations and accountability measures were instituted. Changes in the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act were also developed by listening to constituency groups at committee hearings, fishery managers at fishery council meetings and at national conferences, and reviewing recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences. Even the National Marine Fisheries Service recognizes the need for reforms and has proposed revisions to its advisory guidelines for National Standards 1, 3 and 7 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. These proposed revisions recommend changes that would allow for increased flexibility in rebuilding programs, clarify guidance on which stocks require conservation and management and defines depleted stocks, among other items. These changes are similar to changes included in the bill I am introducing today.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the new Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, ROB BISHOP, as a cosponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with him as the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act moves through Committee and the House. I also am pleased to have Representatives BRADLEY BYRNE and AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN as original cosponsors on the bill. I look forward to working with any Member of the House that is interested in reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This is an important piece of legislation and I urge Members to support its movement through the House of Representatives and 114th Congress.

REINTRODUCING THE SERVICES FOR ENDING LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act. Homelessness continues to be a troubling issue facing our nation. In 2014, studies show that anywhere from 700,000 to 2 million children, families, and veterans found themselves homeless.

Nationally, on any given night, there are approximately 84,291 people who are experiencing chronic homelessness. Chronically homeless people often live in shelters or on the streets for years at a time, experience repeated episodes of homelessness without achieving housing stability, or cycle between homelessness, jails, mental health facilities, and hospitals. These individuals are all too often confronted with, or a combination of, mental illness, substance addiction, life-threatening illness or other serious health problems that make it impossible to maintain or access shelter. Fortunately, this bill presents us with the opportunity to address this national issue by ending long-term homelessness in America.

Studies have demonstrated that supportive services are a practical and a guaranteed investment of public and private resources to end long-term homelessness. These programs result in a 39% reduction in total cost of services from pre- to post-supportive housing with an overall savings of $854,477. Furthermore, residents were significantly less likely to return to hospitals, nursing homes or prisons and there was an overall positive shift in mental and physical well-being.

The Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act does three key things:

It requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), acting through the Administrator of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to design a national strategy for providing services in supportive housing that will assist in ending chronic homelessness and to implement programs that address chronic homelessness.

It calls for the HHS Secretary to make multi-year, renewable grants based on performance criteria, including the outcome of ending long-term homelessness matching the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants to eligible entities in order to provide services promoting recovery and self-sufficiency. Furthermore, it addresses barriers to housing stability for chronically homeless individuals and families in, or who are scheduled to become residents of, permanent supportive housing. This will also apply to other individuals and families who have voluntarily chosen to seek other housing opportunities after a period of tenancy in supportive housing.

It directs the HHS Secretary to require grantees to report data regarding the performance outcomes of projects carried out under this Act, which shall include measuring and reporting specific performance outcomes related to the long-term goals of: (1) increasing stability within the community for individuals and families who have been chronically homeless; and (2) decreasing recurrence of periods of homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we take a stand to put an end to long-term homelessness in America. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this critically important bill, so that we can end homelessness across this nation, because no person deserves to live without a home or to be on the streets.

OUTSTANDING CIVIC LEADERSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sgt. Matt Levan of the Sugar Land Police Department for being named the 2014 Officer of the Year. This award reflects his exceptional contributions to our community and his outstanding civic leadership.

Sgt. Levan began his service for the Sugar Land Police Department 19 years ago and continues to display leadership and commitment to his job. As a member of the Houston Metro Internet Crimes against Children Task Force, he has taken a special interest in the welfare of children in Sugar Land. Always going a step further, he makes a practice of sharing his experience and insights to empower the public to better defend themselves from criminal threats. Thanks to officers like Sgt. Levan, residents of Sugar Land can sleep better at night knowing that our police officers are dedicated to serving our community and keeping us safe.

I commend Sgt. Levan for his outstanding leadership and service to our community at the Sugar Land Police Department. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sgt. Matt Levan on being named the 2014 Officer of the Year.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL TYLER SCOTT BREWER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life, and note the passing of Tyler Scott Brewer of Stanton, Kentucky, whom passed away on January 24, 2015 at the young age of 23.

According to his friends and family, Tyler lived a life of adventure, compassion, servitude and the natural ability to touch lives. His love for his family, friends, music, and his Kentucky home was sincere and eternal. Tyler was an absolute joy to be around, a true free spirit, and had a network of friends that stretched from coast to coast.

As a child, Tyler loved playing outside. He was especially fond of the days spent on Cave Run Lake with his family He attended Bowen Elementary School and was praised by his teachers for being an excellent student and an extremely caring person; even at an early age he was an advocate for those who were different or less fortunate. It was in elementary school where Tyler was introduced to one of his passions, Powell County Pirate football.

Tyler started playing football in 5th grade and played all the way through his senior season of high school. He was a four-year starter on the varsity team while playing middle linebacker on defense and full back on offense. In addition to being an outstanding football player, he was also awarded the honor of Academic All State all four seasons of high school. Tyler graduated with honors from Powell County High School in 2010 and enrolled at The University of Kentucky (UK).

While at UK, Tyler decided to join the Marine Corps. He left for Paris Island, South Carolina in March 2011 to embark on the most rigorous training regimen required by any branch of the military; training that molds a recruit into a Marine. His proudest moment was his successful completion of the rite of passage known as The Crucible. Along with being a model Marine, Tyler earned the rank of Corporal in less than 3 and half years. Tyler served one tour in Afghanistan, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, where he earned the Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal.

Tyler left the Marine Corps in September 2014 to return to life as a civilian. Upon returning to Kentucky, Tyler enrolled in the welding program at Maysville Community and Technical College. He was extremely excited about the school but unfortunately he would never fulfill his goal of completing the program.

Tragically, on January 24, 2015, the bright light known as Tyler Scott Brewer was taken in an automobile accident. Over 1,000 mourners visited Tyler. The outpouring of love from people all across the nation was historic for his small Powell County community and a testament to the amount of lives he touched and affected in such a short amount of time.

Tyler was buried with full military honors and laid to rest at the Donnie G. Randall Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Stanton, Kentucky.

Tyler Scott Brewer was a son, brother, grandson, great grandson, nephew, cousin, Marine, and a true friend to all. His kind and loving spirit will be missed, but his legacy will not be forgotten.

McCOY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAMED A 2014 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate McCoy Elementary School in Carrollton, Texas, for earning the distinction of being named one of the nation's most successful schools through the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

In 1982, the Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize schools for their high or significantly improved achievement. The program's goal is to identify the methods of thriving American schools to inspire others to imitate their successful practices.

In October of 2014, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan named McCoy Elementary School as a 2014 Blue Ribbon School. Schools selected for national honors reflect high standards and accountability to their students and community alike. McCoy Elementary School remains committed to enhancing the quality of learning for its students. The tireless work of the school's educators and families cannot go unnoticed, commensurate with the hard work of the students who helped earn this award.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating McCoy Elementary School on its accomplishment as a National Blue Ribbon School.

HONORING ALAMEDA COUNTY ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOHN JAY ON RETIREMENT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Alameda County Assistant District Attorney John Jay on his upcoming retirement.

John has devoted his career to achieving justice for the residents of Alameda County and to keeping them safe. Following law school he served as a law clerk in the Alameda County Assistant District Attorney's Office and then, in December 1979, was appointed to be a deputy district attorney.

Over his 35 year career, John has played a positive role in nearly every part of the District Attorney's Office. Early on he tackled some of the most serious felony cases in the county, proving to be an excellent trial attorney.

John first took on a management position in 1998 when he became head of the Alameda Branch. Later he became a preliminary examination team leader in the Wiley Manuel Branch and the Assistant in Charge of the Fremont Branch, a position he holds today.

John has been a terrific mentor to the many young prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office, including myself. He also taught outside the office as well, serving as a criminal law and evidence professor at Chabot College and Las Positas College. And, he worked with police officers to help them understand what a prosecutor looks for when presenting a case.

John has well earned his retirement. He looks forward to spending time with his wife Corrine and enjoying his interests in carpentry, travel and the outdoors.

I want to thank John for his years of dedicated service. I also want to wish him a very enjoyable retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 108, I was absent attending Auditor Tom Schweich's funeral in the State of Missouri. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea''.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY KIGHT

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Kight of Waterbury, Connecticut.

Mary Kight, an extraordinary woman, exhibits remarkable strength, courage, and patriotism. Her son, Michael Aaron Kight served as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army and was killed in action on May 19, 1967 while trying to evacuate injured soldiers in South Vietnam.

Shortly after her son's death, Mrs. Kight joined the Gold Star Mothers and dedicated her time to helping families and communities remember her son and all those who sacrificed their lives for our country.

Mrs. Kight went on to serve as Connecticut Department Chair of the American Gold Star Mothers for many years. She was instrumental in acquiring the beautiful Gold Star Mothers Statue that is proudly displayed in Waterbury City Hall.

While Mrs. Kight is no longer the department chair of the Gold Star Mothers, she is still an active member of the organization. She is also involved in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee. She proudly wears her white uniform at all of the local veterans' ceremonies to honor and remember her son.

This evening, as part of the Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemoration program, the Daughters of the American Revolution will present Mrs. Kight with a certificate recognizing her for her service and sacrifice.

I congratulate Mrs. Kight on this honor, and thank her for all that she does for the City of Waterbury, State of Connecticut, and United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO JOE HOGAN

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a long-time friend and a resident of my home town of Levittown, Joe Hogan. Joe was named to be the grand marshal of the 2015 Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Parade because of his lifetime of service to the veteran's community. I have known Joe for many years and over that time he has exemplified how a committed community servant should live his life. A combat wounded Marine, Joe has served as a post-commander for his local VFW, member of the Disabled American Veterans and presently serves as the president of the Guardians of the National Cemetery, an all-volunteer support organization for the Washington Crossing National Cemetery. Joe has also served as an adult leader for Boy Scout Troop 123 and has remained active with coaching youth sports including his grandson's baseball team for the last three decades. I am fortunate to call him my friend and I look forward to seeing many more years of his involvement in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA SCHIANDRA FOR HER EFFORTS IN PITTSTON, PENNSYLVANIA ON BEHALF OF BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Schiandra who is to be named Person of the Year by the Greater Pittston Sunday Dispatch. In October 2014 Ms. Schiandra organized one of the biggest fundraisers in the history of Pittston, Pennsylvania. Over the course of four days, Ms. Schiandra raised both awareness of breast cancer's toll and the importance of its prevention and $30,000 for breast cancer research—all during the first annual and very successful Paint Pittston Pink event.

It was Ms. Schiandra's own experience that led to this remarkable achievement. She was pregnant with her youngest son when she discovered her own cancer. At only 34 years old she was diagnosed with a highly aggressive type of cancer with a high recurrence rate. After she began chemotherapy, she learned that she qualified for a clinical trial of a vaccine at the University of Pennsylvania sponsored by the Pennies in Action Fund, the eventual beneficiary of her community work.

Initially, the plan for Paint Pittston Pink was to utilize breast cancer awareness flags to line Pittston's Main Street during the month of October. Paint Pittston Pink quickly grew into a much larger event, attracting hundreds of people and a host of local businesses. The ColorMePink 5K and Caped CURE-Sader Family Fun Walk drew over 500 participants to Downtown Pittston. At the end of the four days, Barbara and her team presented a check for $30,000 to the University of Pennsylvania Pennies in Action Fund to support its cancer research. Greater Pittston, and all those affected by cancer, were highly moved by her efforts.

I congratulate Ms. Schiandra on being named Person of the Year by the Greater Pittston Sunday Dispatch, and I applaud both her inspirational personal courage and her heroic efforts to fight cancer. With efforts like Barbara's, we will one day fully beat this disease.

HONORING THE 11TH ANNUAL SENEY VETERANS SNOWMOBILE RIDE

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 11th annual Seney Veterans Snowmobile Ride, which will occur on Saturday, March 14, 2015 in Seney, Michigan.

I had the privilege of participating last year with over 300 fellow riders as we honored and remembered the sacrifices and service of all that have served our nation.

Founded by Don and Diane Reed, veterans and owners of the Fox River Motel and sponsored by the Seney Snowmobile Association, the event has grown every year since it was first established building on their motto of "be a Vet, bring a Vet, thank a Vet."

Please join me in recognizing all the veterans and supporters participating in the Seney Veterans Snowmobile Ride. We must never forget our veterans and their contribution to the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING FRAUD ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation with my colleague Rep. TED POE.

In March of 1931 the infamous gangster, Al Capone, was indicted for tax fraud. Today the IRS Criminal Investigations division continues to play a vital role in proving criminal activity and fraud, and I believe they can play an even stronger role in cracking down on human trafficking and prostitution.

This bill is meant to enhance the Internal Revenue Service's ability to crack down on sex trafficking by authorizing $4 million to establish an office within the IRS to prosecute sex traffickers for violations of tax laws. The office would focus on the willful failure of traffickers to file returns, supply information, or pay tax where the taxpayer is an "aggravated" non-filer. In addition, the office would coordinate closely with existing task forces focused on sex trafficking offenders in the Department of Justice.

The bill also amends the Internal Revenue Code to increase criminal monetary and other penalties for attempts to: evade or defeat tax, willful failure to file a tax return, supply information, or pay tax, aggravated failure to file tax returns, fraud and false statements, and underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud. This offense will carry a maximum sentence of 10 years and a maximum fine of $50,000.00.

The Human Trafficking Fraud Enforcement Act of 2015 also establishes a new felony offense for an aggravated failure to file to include failure to file with respect to income or payments derived from activity which is criminal under Federal or State law. This will target conduct committed by those involved in the promotion of commercial sex acts—pimps and traffickers—and not conduct of exploited persons in prostitution.

Last, this bill directly benefits those that are victimized by the traffickers by revising current IRS Whistleblower provisions so that women and girls who choose to participate in the investigation will be eligible to participate in the whistleblower program and may ultimately be granted up to 15% of any fines levied against the trafficker.

While important strides have been made to address trafficking, we must still use every tool possible to take down the traffickers. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING LOUIS GRIESEMER, SPRINGFIELD UNDERGROUND PRESIDENT, ON RECEIVING JAMES CHRISTIE SAFETY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Louis Griesemer, president of Springfield Underground, on receiving the 2014 James Christie Safety and Health Professional of the Year Award presented by the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA).

The James Christie Safety and Health Professional of the Year Award recognizes those that contribute generous efforts towards maintaining proficient health and safety standards at their workplace. The award was created in 1987 in recognition of James Christie, who challenged the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to focus on the safety practices of workers and not just the facility.

In addition to his duties as president of Springfield Underground, Louis Griesemer has been an active member of the NSSGA. He served as the association's chairman of the board in 2007.

Louis Griesemer understands that in order for American business to succeed, we need employers to act responsibly in protecting workers from safety and health hazards. The fact that Louis has been certified by the MSHA as a safety instructor stands as just one illustration of his commitment to this important goal. Further, our nation is strengthened when business leaders like Louis go ''the extra mile'' to bolster understanding both of and by the regulator and the regulated community. His leadership on the MSHA-NSSGA Alliance for education and training has achieved substantial results in this effort.

I am honored to recognize Louis Griesemer, and I congratulate him on receiving the 2014 James Christie Safety and Health Professional of the Year Award.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $18,153,537,817,364.77. We've added $7,526,660,768,451.69 to our debt in 6 years. This is over $7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING DR. JAMES CAPOLUPO

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. James Capolupo of Springfield, Pennsylvania for being named the Superintendent of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators.

Dr. Capolupo began his career as a music teacher and band director before rising to serve as an administrator in the Springfield Township School District. His talents and dedication to his students led him to be named the district's superintendent in 2005. Under his leadership, the district has become a model for innovative and effective instruction. His reputation has spread beyond the district, with representatives from more than 120 other school districts having visited Springfield to learn more about Dr. Capolupo's methods.

Dr. Capolupo earned national recognition last year when he was named a finalist for National Superintendent of the Year by the National Association of School Superintendents. This distinction is awarded to five superintendents around the country who have created a ''model of uncompromising dedication to literacy and academic achievement.'' So it is no surprise to learn of his recognition as Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year.

I wish to congratulate Dr. Capolupo and the entire staff at Springfield School District for their hard work on our children's behalf.

HORSE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Horse Transportation Safety Act with Rep. WHITFIELD, my esteemed colleague from Kentucky. I believe that the way we treat animals is a reflection of who we are as human beings so I have introduced this bill to halt the transport of horses in double-deck trailers, a practice that is dangerous for the animals and considered inhumane by many animal welfare advocates. Horses transported in these trailers often endure long journeys in cramped positions and suffer serious injuries as a result. Upon enactment, the Horse Transportation Safety Act would outlaw the transportation of horses in these two-tiered trailers. Violators of the law would be subject to civil penalties.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important legislation.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION FOR THE LIFE OF DR. LOIS DAVIS GIBSON

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Lois Gibson. We are all saddened by the loss of this gentle and loving spirit, Lois Gibson, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, sister-in-law, educator, Delta Sigma Theta Soror, Director of Nursing Program/FCCJ, Dean of Health Services/FCCJ, loved one, friend and so much more. A very proud and spiritual lady who gave so much to so many at every level of her being. Dr. Gibson was warmly considered the ''Proverbial Woman'' as she would touch you in her special and endearing way. She gave us a sense of pride and accomplishment, and she inspired us to go beyond our potential through learning and sharing.

As a mother, she raised generations to be proud and use the past to make a better future. As an educator, she dared us to be more than ordinary, she encouraged and pushed us to be better than we even knew; and as a citizen of the world, she made us understand and appreciate our individual differences, and all that we hold in common. As a true believer, she simply made us believe by her example. Her standards were high, yet attainable; her truths were straightforward and without embellishment; her voice was strong with reason and reassurance; her directions were clear, simple and intended for keeping our feet on the right path; her love was great and powerful and shown brightly in her eyes and heart.

Though our hearts ache, our tears of pain are mixed with loving memories of her smile, her touch and that gleam in her eyes telling all who knew her, that she loved you and always will. And in her remembrance, we are drawn to the words of Paul, in the book of 2nd Timothy, ''For I am now ready to be offered, the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept my faith''. May the Lord bless and keep you now and forevermore and may the memory of my dear friend, Dr. Lois Davis Gibson remain with us for all times.

HONORING JOHN CORONA

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate fellow educator John Corona, as he retires after 36 years of devoted public service.

Mr. Corona has been a valued leader in Riverside classrooms since 1979. Whether it was teaching courses, chairing the Martin Luther King High School Social Studies department, or serving as head coach of the Track and Field team, Mr. Corona has been an invaluable resource for students in our community.

For the past decade and a half, Mr. Corona's oral history project called King High School Remembers has connected hundreds of students with veterans to learn about history from those who wrote it. This program helps preserve the legacy of these heroes. Because of its impact, King High School Remembers has received widespread acclaim and numerous awards, and is recognized as an exemplary educational program.

I want to thank Mr. Corona for his devotion to his students, colleagues, and our community over the years, and wish him all the best as he begins this new chapter in his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE MARTIN KANE, THE WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK MAN OF THE YEAR FOR 2015

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Martin Kane, Magisterial District Judge in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Judge Kane has been named the 2015 Man of the Year by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. He will receive this award at the Friendly Sons' annual banquet on March 13, 2015. Judge Kane has honorably served Luzerne County for 30 years.

Judge Kane is an Air Force veteran who served tours of duty in Vietnam and Thailand. He graduated from St. Mary's High School, Texas Christian University, and Wilson College, and is certified as a district judge. He has been married to his wife Kathryn for 40 years.

Elected in 1985, Judge Kane has presided over more than 300,000 cases in his career. Many of those cases were high-profile homicide and drug cases presented by the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office, Pennsylvania State Police, and the Wilkes-Barre Police Department.

Kane was appointed by Pennsylvania Chief Justices Ronald Castille and Steven Zappala to serve on the Legislative Committee, the Grievance and Bylaws Committee, and the Minor Rules Committee Intergovernmental Task Force of the Pennsylvania District Courts. Judge Kane is also special liaison to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board and special liaison to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for the District Judges of Pennsylvania. He previously served as the president of the District Judges Association of Pennsylvania.

Additionally, Judge Kane has served the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick as treasurer. He is also an active member of many community organizations, including the N.E. Slovak Club, the Triangle Club, the Wilkes-Barre Eagles Club, the American Legion, AMVETS, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Polish American Vets, the Knights of Columbus, and the Catholic War Vets. And Judge Kane serves as an officer of the Wyoming Valley Crime Clinic. This is quite a list.

It is a distinct privilege to honor Judge Kane on receiving the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons Man of the Year Award, and I commend him on his lifetime of public and community service.

CAMPUS ACCOUNTABILITY AND SAFETY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is time to further address the epidemic of sexual assaults at our nation's college and university campuses. During some of the most formative years of their lives, students across the country should not have to live in fear of being stalked or abused. That is why a bipartisan group have come together to introduce the Campus Accountability and Safety Act that will address ambiguities in the law, strengthen protections and enforcement, and improve reporting by universities.

Rape is a horrific crime that exacts a physical and psychological toll on survivors. Women trying to get an education should not have to worry that they might also be victimized by predators on their campuses. This legislation establishes new campus resources and support services for student survivors; ensures minimum training standards for on-campus personnel, creates new historic transparency requirements, requires a uniform discipline process and coordination with law enforcement, and establishes enforceable Title IX penalties and stiffer penalties for Clery Act violations.

I applaud the work of our colleagues in the Senate on their comprehensive and bipartisan bill, and thank my co-lead Rep. PATRICK MEEHAN for teaming up on this legislation. I am hopeful that the House will take up this effort in tandem with the Senate so that we can put a bill on the President's desk.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 05, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine venture exchanges and small-cap companies.

SD–538

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine tax complexity, compliance, and administration, focusing on the merits of simplification in tax reform.

SD–215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United States policy in Ukraine, focusing on countering Russia and driving reform.

SD–419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine continuing America's leadership in medical innovation for patients.

SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine the antitrust decrees that govern the market for music.

SD–226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Veterans Health Administration.

SD–124

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To receive a closed briefing on Iran's military and intelligence activities and impact on regional security.

SVC–217

3 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office.

SD–138

MARCH 11

9 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the National Nuclear Safety Administration.

SD–138

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

To hold hearings to examine Marine Corps ground modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR–222

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the President's request for authorization to use force against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), focusing on military and diplomatic efforts.

SD–419

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for Indian Health Service.

SD–124

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for

fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
SD–562

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine a nationwide public safety wireless broadband network.
SR–253

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine state regulators' perspectives on the clean power plan.
SD–406

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.
SD–226

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Army.
SD–192

Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine benefits of a balanced budget.
SD–608

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
To hold hearings to examine protecting religious freedom abroad.
SD–124

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
To hold hearings to examine military construction, environmental, energy, and base closure programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SH–216

MARCH 12

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 following the open session.
SD–G50

9:45 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Secretary of the Senate, the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and the Capitol Police.
SD–124

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marshals Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; to be followed by a closed session in SVC–217 at approximately 12:00 p.m.
SD–192

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 556, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting.
SD–366

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Visa Waiver Program, focusing on implications for United States national security.
SD–342

10:30 a.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine how prepared Americans are for retirement.
SD–562

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To receive a closed briefing on missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SVC–217

MARCH 17

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the state of technological innovation related to the electric grid.
SD–366

MARCH 18

10 a.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation from multiple veterans service organizations.
SD–G50

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission.
SR–253

MARCH 19

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Strategic Command, U.S. Transportation Command, and U.S. Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD–G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine U.S. crude oil export policy.
SD–366

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
To hold hearings to examine Air Force force structure and modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–222

MARCH 24

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine management reforms to improve forest health and socioeconomic opportunities on the nation's forest system.
SD–366

MARCH 25

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–222

MARCH 26

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review.
SD–366

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S.J. Res. 8, National Labor Relations Board.

Senate upon reconsideration rejected S. 1, Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act, the veto of the President was sustained.

See Final Résumé of Congressional Activity (including the History of Bills) for the Second Session of the 113th Congress.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1263–S1319

Measures Introduced: Twenty-seven bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 648–674, S. Res. 96–98, and S. Con. Res. 8–9. **Pages S1302–03**

Measures Passed:

National Labor Relations Board: By 53 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 67), Senate passed S.J. Res. 8, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures. **Pages S1264–74**

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 98, supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week. **Page S1311**

Measures Considered:

Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 625, to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program. **Page S1295**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Wednesday, March 4, 2015, a vote on cloture will occur one hour after the Senate convenes on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. **Page S1295**

Veto Messages:

Veto—Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act: By 62 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 68), two-thirds of the Senators voting not having voted in the affirmative, S. 1, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, upon reconsideration, was rejected, the veto of the President was sustained. **Pages S1274–85**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the veto message to accompany S. 1, be withdrawn. **Page S1274**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of funding for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget. (PM–10) **Page S1300**

Marti, Lee, Hall, and Tonsager Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 5 p.m., on Monday, March 9, 2015, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office, Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Jeffery S. Hall, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, and Dallas P. Tonsager, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the

nominations in the order listed; and that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations.

Page S1311

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

John Conger, of Maryland, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Peter Levine, of Maryland, to be Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

Gregory T. Delawie, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo.

Perry L. Holloway, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

Sunil Sabharwal, of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years.

Mark Sobel, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years.

Ericka M. Miller, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

Michael Keith Yudin, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

7 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Foreign Service. Pages S1311–19

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Gilberto de Jesus, of Maryland, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration, which was sent to the Senate on January 8, 2015.

Page S1319

Messages from the House: Page S1300

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Pages S1263, S1300

Executive Communications: Pages S1300–02

Petitions and Memorials: Page S1302

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S1303–05

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S1305–10

Additional Statements: Page S1300

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S1310–11

Privileges of the Floor: Page S1311

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—68) Pages S1274, S1284–85

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 6:02 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, March 6, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1311.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from Sally Jewell, Secretary, and Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary, both of the Department of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS: NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Navy and Marine Corps, after receiving testimony from Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, and General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after receiving testimony from Stephen G. Burns, Chairman, and Kristine L. Svinicki, William C. Ostendorff, and Jeff Baran, each a Commissioner, all of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine United States nuclear weapons policy, programs, and strategy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Frank Kendall III, Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Brian P. McKeon, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, Michael S. Elliott, Deputy Director for Strategic Stability, Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J–5), Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Cecil D. Haney, USN, Commander, United States Strategic Command, all of the Department of Defense; and Lieutenant General

Frank G. Klotz, USAF (Ret.), Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security, and Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine wasteful duplication in the Federal government, including opportunities to reduce fragmentation, overlap, duplication, and improper payments and achieve other financial benefits, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security concluded a hearing to examine surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on oversight and reform of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, including truck safety programs and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations, after receiving testimony from T. F. Scott Darling, III, Acting Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and Joseph W. Come, Deputy Principal Assistant Inspector General for Auditing and Evaluation, both of the Department of Transportation; Susan A. Fleming, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; and Christopher A. Hart, Acting Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY BUDGET

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Gina McCarthy, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Senators Vitter (Chair), Barrasso, Capito, Crapo, Boozman, Sessions, Wicker, Fischer, Inhofe (ex officio), Boxer, Carper, Cardin, Sanders, Whitehouse, Merkley, and Gillibrand.

Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety: Senators Capito (Chair), Vitter, Barrasso, Crapo, Sessions, Wicker, Fischer, Inhofe (ex officio), Carper, Cardin, Sanders, Whitehouse, Merkley, Markey, and Boxer (ex officio).

Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight: Senators Rounds (Chair), Vitter, Crapo, Boozman, Sullivan, Inhofe (ex officio), Markey, Carper, Merkley, Booker, and Boxer (ex officio).

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife: Senators Sullivan (Chair), Barrasso, Capito, Boozman, Sessions, Wicker, Fischer, Rounds, Inhofe (ex officio), Whitehouse, Carper, Cardin, Sanders, Gillibrand, Booker, Markey, and Boxer (ex officio).

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN EASTERN EUROPE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation concluded a hearing to examine Russian aggression in Eastern Europe, after receiving testimony from Mikheil Saakashvili, former President of Georgia, International Advisory Council on Reforms of the President of Ukraine, Kiev; Garry Kasparov, Human Rights Foundation, New York, New York; and Stephen Blank, American Foreign Policy Council, Damon M. Wilson, Atlantic Council, and Steven Pifer, The Brookings Institution, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 579, to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

H.R. 460, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to train Department of Homeland Security personnel how to effectively deter, detect, disrupt, and prevent human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities;

H.R. 615, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 614, to provide access to and use of information by Federal agencies in order to reduce improper payments, S. 558, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations;

S. 565, to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts;

S. 546, to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads;

S. 242, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide leave to any new Federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or more for purposes of undergoing medical treatment for such disability; and

S. 136, to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service.

IRRIGATE ACT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 438, to provide for the repair, replacement, and maintenance of certain Indian irrigation projects, including deferred maintenance and financial sustainability issues, after receiving testimony from Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs; Anne-Marie Fennell, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; Harry C. LaBonde Jr., Wyoming Water Development Commission, Cheyenne; Charles Headdress, Sr., Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation, Poplar, Montana; and Mitchel T. Cottenoir, Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes Office of the Tribal Water Engineer, Ft. Washakie, Wyoming.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine whistleblower retaliation at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, focusing on improving protections and oversight, including additional actions needed to improve Department of Justice's handling of FBI retaliation complaints, after receiving testimony from Kevin L. Perkins, Associate Deputy Director, and J. Richard Kiper, Special Agent, both of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, all of the Department of Justice; David Maurer, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office; Michael German, New York University Law School Brennan Center for Justice, New York, New York; and Stephen M. Kohn, National Whistleblowers Center, Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 105 public bills, H.R. 1232–1336; 1 private bill, H.R. 1337; and 8 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 23–24; and H. Res. 142–147 were introduced. **Pages H1609–14**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1618**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Carter (GA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1569**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:43 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015: The House passed H.R. 749, to reauthorize Federal support for passenger rail programs, by a yea-and-nay vote of 316 yeas to 101 nays, Roll No. 112. **Pages H1578–96, H1596–H1603**

Rejected the Sean Patrick Maloney (NY) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 184 ayes to 232 noes, Roll No. 111. **Pages H1600–02**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–9 shall be considered as read. **Page H1585**

Agreed to:

McNerney amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that ensures that socially and economically disadvantaged businesses request for proposals are considered for station development opportunities under Section 208 of the bill; **Page H1593**

Fitzpatrick amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that adds veteran-owned small businesses to the participation study required under Section 305; **Pages H1593–94**

Mica amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that proposes Northeast Corridor Express Service; **Pages H1594–95**

Brownley (CA) amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that requires each state to develop a grade crossing action plan, identifying specific solutions for improving safety at crossings, including

highway-rail grade crossing closures or grade separations; and focuses on crossings that have experienced recent grade crossing accidents or multiple accidents, or are at high risk for accidents; **Pages H1595–96**

Perlmutter amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to submit to Congress a report evaluating the effectiveness of the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) 2005 rule on the use of locomotive horns at rail crossings; and **Pages H1596–97**

Lipinski amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that clarifies that passengers using or transporting non-motorized transportation are to be considered in the Amtrak Office of Inspector General's report on boarding procedures in Section 211. **Pages H1599–H1600**

Rejected:

McClintock amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 114–36) that restricts operating subsidies for Amtrak. **Pages H1597–99, H1600**

H. Res. 134, the rule providing for consideration of (H.R. 749) was agreed to yesterday, March 3.

Office of Compliance Administrative and Technical Corrections Act of 2015: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass (H.R. 1213), to make administrative and technical corrections to the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995. **Page H1603**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 6th. **Page H1603**

House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards: Representative Miller (MI), Chairman; Representatives Latta and Rodney Davis (IL). **Page H1603**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Wilson (FL) wherein she resigned from the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. **Page H1603**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he designated funding for Overseas Contingency Operations and the Global War on Terrorism—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 114–15). **Pages H1606–07**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H1596 and H1604.

Senate Referral: S.J. Res. 8 was held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1600, H1601–02, H1602–03. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Department of Veterans Affairs budget. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Veterans Affairs officials: Robert A. McDonald, Secretary; Carolyn M. Clancy, Interim Under Secretary for Health; Allison A. Hickey, Under Secretary for Benefits; Stephen W. Warren, Executive in Charge for Information and Technology; Helen Tierney, Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer; and Glen R. Powers, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Programs.

APPROPRIATIONS—FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Food and Drug Administration budget. Testimony was heard from Margaret Hamburg, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration; Jay Tyler, Chief Financial Officer, Food and Drug Administration; and Norris Cochran, Director, Office of Budget, Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on Department of Defense budget. Testimony was heard from Ashton B. Carter, Secretary, Department of Defense; General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Mike McCord, Undersecretary of Defense, Comptroller.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education held a hearing on Department of Education budget. Testimony was heard from Arne Duncan, Secretary, Department of Education.

APPROPRIATIONS—NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a hearing on National Aeronautics and Space Administration budget. Testimony was heard from Charles F. Bolden, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a hearing on Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Weapons Activities budget. Testimony was heard from the following National Nuclear Security Administration officials: Lieutenant General Frank G. Klotz, USAF (Retired), Administrator; Don Cook, Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs; and Brigadier General Stephen ''S.L.'' Davis, Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Applications.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing on Department of the Treasury budget. Testimony was heard from Jacob J. Lew, Secretary, Department of the Treasury.

U.S. POLICY, STRATEGY, AND POSTURE IN AFGHANISTAN: POST-2014 TRANSITION, RISKS, AND LESSONS LEARNED

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''U.S. Policy, Strategy, and Posture in Afghanistan: Post-2014 Transition, Risks, and Lessons Learned''. Testimony was heard from General John Campbell, USA, Commander of Operation Resolute Support and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan.

AIR FORCE PROJECTION FORCES AVIATION PROGRAMS AND CAPABILITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a hearing entitled ''Air Force Projection Forces Aviation Programs and Capabilities for Fiscal Year 2016''. Testimony was heard from William A. LaPlante, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Acquisition; and Lieutenant General James M. ''Mike'' Holmes, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements.

CYBER OPERATIONS: IMPROVING THE MILITARY CYBER SECURITY POSTURE IN AN UNCERTAIN THREAT ENVIRONMENT

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a hearing entitled ''Cyber Operations: Improving the Military Cyber Security Posture in an Uncertain Threat Environment''. Testimony was heard from Admiral Michael Rogers, USN, Commander, U.S. Cyber Command; Lieutenant General Edward C. Cardon, USA, Commander, U.S. Army Cyber Command; Vice Admiral Jan Tighe, USN, Commander, Navy Fleet Cyber Command/10th Fleet (FCC/C10F); Major General Daniel J. O'Donohue, USMC, Commanding General, MARFORCYBER; and Major General Burke E. Wilson, USAF, Commander, 24th Air Force.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing on H.J. Res. 29, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to representation case procedures. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE 21ST CENTURY ELECTRICITY CHALLENGE: ENSURING A SECURE, RELIABLE, AND MODERN ELECTRICITY SYSTEM

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a hearing entitled ''The 21st Century Electricity Challenge: Ensuring a Secure, Reliable, and Modern Electricity System''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION: THE FCC'S FY 2016 BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled ''Reauthorization of the Federal Communications Commission: The FCC's FY 2016 Budget Request''. Testimony was heard from Jon Wilkins, Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission.

UKRAINE UNDER SIEGE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Ukraine Under Siege''. Testimony was heard from Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State.

THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP: PROSPECTS FOR GREATER U.S. TRADE

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing entitled "The Trans-Pacific Partnership: Prospects for Greater U.S. Trade". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES ON THE PRESIDENT'S CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION SHARING PROPOSAL

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies held a hearing entitled "Industry Perspectives on the President's Cybersecurity Information Sharing Proposal". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a markup on H. Res. 132, Omnibus Resolution for Committee Funding in the 114th Congress; committee res. 6, on Limitation on Allocation of Franked Mail; H.R. 195, the "Election Assistance Commission Termination Act"; and H.R. 412, to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns. Committee res. 6 was agreed to. The following legislation was ordered reported, with amendment: H. Res. 132, H.R. 195, and H.R. 412.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee continued a markup on H.R. 1147, the "Legal Workforce Act"; H.R. 1149, the "Protection of Children Act of 2015"; H.R. 1153, the "Asylum Reform and Border Protection Act of 2015"; and H.R. 1148, the "Michael Davis, Jr. in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act". H.R. 1147 and H.R. 1149 were ordered reported, without amendment.

REBUILDING THE CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD: FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE CSB'S GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Rebuilding the Chemical Safety Board: Finding a Solution to the CSB's Governance and Management Challenges". Testimony was heard from the following Chemical Safety Board officials: Rafael Moure-Eraso, Chairman; Manuel Ehrlich, Board Member; Rich Engler, Board Member; and Mark Griffon, Board Member; and Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Office of Inspector General, Environmental Protection Agency.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1119, the "Research and Development Efficiency Act"; H.R. 1156, the "International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2015"; H.R. 1162, the "Science Prize Competitions Act"; H.R. 1158, the "Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2015"; and H.R. 874, the "American Super Computing Leadership Act". The following bills were ordered reported, without amendment: H.R. 1156 and H.R. 874. The following bills were ordered reported, as amended: H.R. 1119, H.R. 1162, and H.R. 1158.

BUILDING AN OPPORTUNITY ECONOMY: THE STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Building an Opportunity Economy: The State of Small Business and Entrepreneurship". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

VFW LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, after receiving testimony from John W. Stroud, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine opportunities for the United States to build on its status as an Arctic nation for the betterment of the nation and those who live in the Arctic, 10 a.m., SD–366.

House

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Department of the Interior's Spending Priorities and the President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Proposal", 9 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Final Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3, 2014 through January 2, 2015

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in session	136	135	..
Time in session	908 hrs., 15′	704 hrs., 31′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	S6,941	H10,336	..
Extensions of Remarks	..	E1,857	..
Public bills enacted into law	61	163	224
Private bills enacted into law	..	..	..
Bills in conference	1	1	..
Measures passed, total	501	565	1,066
Senate bills	95	57	..
House bills	153	375	..
Senate joint resolutions	6	4	..
House joint resolutions	8	7	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	6	4	..
House concurrent resolutions	23	25	..
Simple resolutions	210	93	..
Measures reported, total	275	377	652
Senate bills	190	7	..
House bills	51	306	..
Senate joint resolutions	3	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	2	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	1	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	1	4	..
Simple resolutions	29	58	..
Special reports	12	34	..
Conference reports	3	3	..
Measures pending on calendar	414	127	..
Measures introduced, total	1,432	2,505	3,937
Bills	1,126	2,089	..
Joint resolutions	18	27	..
Concurrent resolutions	14	53	..
Simple resolutions	274	336	..
Quorum calls	1	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	366	** 248	..
Recorded votes	..	315	..
Bills vetoed	..	..	..
Vetoes overridden	..	..	..

* These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 192 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 414 reports have been filed in the House.

**Totals include Roll Call 275, which was vacated by unanimous consent on June 10, 2014.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3, 2014 through January 2, 2015

Civilian nominations, totaling 654 (including 2 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	474
Withdrawn	14
Returned to White House	166

Other Civilian nominations, totaling 3,585, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	2,602
Returned to White House	983

Air Force nominations, totaling 4,424, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	4,200
Withdrawn	1
Returned to White House	223

Army nominations, totaling 6,379, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	6,325
Withdrawn	1
Returned to White House	53

Navy nominations, totaling 3,877, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	3,875
Returned to White House	2

Marine Corps nominations, totaling 879, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	878
Returned to White House	1

Summary

Total nominations carried over from the First Session	2
Total nominations received this Session	19,796
Total confirmed	18,354
Total unconfirmed	0
Total withdrawn	16
Total returned to the White House	1,428

HISTORY OF BILLS ENACTED INTO PUBLIC LAW

(113th Cong., 2D Sess.)

BILLS ENACTED INTO PUBLIC LAW (113TH, 2D SESSION)

	Law No.
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S. 25	113–82
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S. 230	113–78
S. 231	113–165
S. 276	113–177
S. 309	113–108
S. 404	113–99
S. 476	113–178
S. 517	113–144
S. 540	113–83
S. 611	113–119
S. 653	113–161
S. 885	113–189
S. 898	113–190
S. 994	113–101
S. 1000	113–273
S. 1044	113–123
S. 1086	113–186
S. 1093	113–191
S. 1104	113–162
S. 1254	113–124
S. 1353	113–274
S. 1434	113–231
S. 1474	113–275
S. 1499	113–192
S. 1512	113–193
S. 1557	113–98
S. 1603	113–179
S. 1614	113–74
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S. 1683	113–276
S. 1691	113–277
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S. 2040	113–232
S. 2086	113–125
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H.R. 330	113–132
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H.R. 862	113–107
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H.R. 1209	113–106
H.R. 1216	113–138
H.R. 1228	113–111
H.R. 1233	113–187
H.R. 1281	113–240
H.R. 1376	113–139
H.R. 1378	113–241
H.R. 1391	113–207
H.R. 1447	113–242
H.R. 1451	113–112
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H.R. 1671	113–148
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H.R. 1726	113–120
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H.R. 2901	113–289
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H.R. 3957	113–218
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H.J. Res. 130	113–202
H.J. Res. 131	113–203

BILLS VETOED

Title	Bill No.	Date introduced	Committee		Date Reported		Report No.		Date of passage		Public Law	
			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 113–	Senate 113–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 113–
Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.	H.J. Res. 106	Jan. 10, 2014	App			.....	.....	.....	Jan. 14, 2014	Jan. 15, 2014	Jan. 15, 2014	73
To require Certificates of Citizenship and other Federal documents to reflect name and date of birth determinations made by a State court and for other purposes.	S. 1614	Oct. 30, 2013		Jud	.....		.....	.....	Dec. 23, 2013	Dec. 20, 2013	Jan. 16, 2014	74
To redesignate the Dryden Flight Research Center as the Neil A. Armstrong Flight Research Center and the Western Aeronautical Test Range as the Hugh L. Dryden Aeronautical Test Range.	H.R. 667	Feb. 13, 2013	SST	CST			.....	.....	Feb. 25, 2013	Jan. 8, 2014	Jan. 16, 2014	75
Making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3547	Nov. 20, 2013	SST			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 2, 2013	Dec. 12, 2013	Jan. 17, 2014	76
To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3527	Nov. 18, 2013	EC		Jan. 7, 2014	.....	321	.....	Jan. 8, 2014	Jan. 14, 2014	Jan. 24, 2014	77
To authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.	S. 230	Feb. 7, 2013	NR Bud	ENR		Apr. 22, 2013	.....	21	Jan. 13, 2014	June 19, 2013	Jan. 24, 2014	78
To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes.	H.R. 2642	July 10, 2013	Agr			.....	.....	.....	July 11, 2013	July 18, 2013	Feb. 7, 2014	79
To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that the Inspector General of the Office of Personnel Management may use amounts in the revolving fund of the Office to fund audits, investigations, and oversight activities, and for other purposes.	H.R. 2860	July 30, 2013	OGR		Nov. 15, 2013	.....	268	.....	Jan. 14, 2014	Jan. 29, 2014	Feb. 12, 2014	80
To authorize the President to extend the term of the nuclear energy agreement with the Republic of Korea until March 19, 2016.	S. 1901	Jan. 9, 2014		FR	.....	Jan. 15, 2014	.....	0	Jan. 28, 2014	Jan. 27, 2014	Feb. 12, 2014	81
To ensure that the reduced annual cost-of-living adjustment to the retired pay of members and former members of the Armed Forces under the age of 62 required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 will not apply to members or former members who first became members prior to January 1, 2014, and for other purposes.	S. 25	Jan. 22, 2013		ENR	.....	Apr. 22, 2013	.....	15	Feb. 11, 2014	June 19, 2013	Feb. 15, 2014	82
To temporarily extend the public debt limit, and for other purposes.	S. 540	Mar. 12, 2013	TI	CST			.....	.....	Feb. 11, 2014	Mar. 21, 2013	Feb. 15, 2014	83
Providing for the appointment of John Fahey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.	S.J. Res. 28	Dec. 11, 2013	HA	RAdm			.....	.....	Feb. 11, 2014	Jan. 29, 2014	Feb. 21, 2014	84
Providing for the appointment of Risa Lavizzo-Mourey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.	S.J. Res. 29	Dec. 11, 2013	HA	RAdm			.....	.....	Feb. 11, 2014	Jan. 29, 2014	Feb. 21, 2014	85
To reauthorize the National Integrated Drought Information System.	H.R. 2431	June 19, 2013	SST		Feb. 6, 2014	.....	348	.....	Feb. 10, 2014	Feb. 25, 2014	Mar. 6, 2014	86

Title	Bill No.	Date introduced	Committee		Date Reported		Report No.		Date of passage		Public Law	
			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 113–	Senate 113–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 113–
To designate as wilderness certain land and inland water within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in the State of Michigan, and for other purposes.	S. 23	Jan. 22, 2013	NR	ENR		Apr. 22, 2013	.....	14	Mar. 4, 2014	June 19, 2013	Mar. 13, 2014	87
To allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land.	H.R. 2650	July 10, 2013	NR	IA	Sept. 10, 2013		194	.....	Dec. 3, 2013	Mar. 13, 2014	Mar. 21, 2014	88
To delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3370	Oct. 29, 2013	FS R			.....	.....	.....	Mar. 4, 2014	Mar. 13, 2014	Mar. 21, 2014	89
To address shortages and interruptions in the availability of propane and other home heating fuels in the United States, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4076	Feb. 25, 2014	TI			.....	.....	.....	Mar. 4, 2014	Mar. 13, 2014	Mar. 21, 2014	90
Providing for the reappointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.	S.J. Res. 32	Mar. 4, 2014	HA	RAdm			.....	.....	Mar. 13, 2014	Mar. 11, 2014	Mar. 21, 2014	91
To accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.	H.R. 3771	Dec. 12, 2013	WM Bud			.....	.....	.....	Mar. 24, 2014	Mar. 25, 2014	Mar. 25, 2014	92
To amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4302	Mar. 26, 2014	EC WM Bud			.....	.....	.....	Mar. 27, 2014	Mar. 31, 2014	Apr. 1, 2014	93
To eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.	H.R. 2019	May 16, 2013	EC HA WM			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 11, 2013	Mar. 11, 2014	Apr. 3, 2014	94
To provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.	H.R. 4152	Mar. 5, 2014	App FA			.....	.....	.....	Mar. 6, 2014	Mar. 27, 2014	Apr. 3, 2014	95
Entitled "United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions".	S. 2183	Mar. 27, 2014			.....	.....	.....	.....	Apr. 1, 2014	Mar. 27, 2014	Apr. 3, 2014	96
To amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.	H.R. 4275	Mar. 18, 2014	E&W WM			.....	.....	.....	Mar. 24, 2014	Mar. 25, 2014	Apr. 7, 2014	97
To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.	S. 1557	Sept. 27, 2013	EC	HEL&P		Oct. 30, 2013	.....	0	Apr. 1, 2014	Nov. 12, 2013	Apr. 7, 2014	98
To preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.	S. 404	Feb. 28, 2013		ENR	.....	Mar. 31, 2014	.....	140	Apr. 7, 2014	Apr. 3, 2014	Apr. 15, 2014	99
To deny admission to the United States to any representative to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States and poses a threat to United States national security interests.	S. 2195	Apr. 1, 2014	Jud	Jud			.....	.....	Apr. 10, 2014	Apr. 7, 2014	Apr. 18, 2014	100

To expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.	S.	994	May 21, 2013		HS&GA	.....	Mar. 27, 2014	.....	139	Apr. 28, 2014	Apr. 10, 2014	May 9, 2014	101
To amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date.	H.R.	4120	Feb. 28, 2014	NR		Apr. 28, 2014	.....	421	.....	Apr. 28, 2014	May 5, 2014	May 16, 2014	102
To amend the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia" to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed.	H.R.	4192	Mar. 11, 2014	OGR		Apr. 28, 2014	.....	418	.....	Apr. 28, 2014	May 6, 2014	May 16, 2014	103
To require the Attorney General to report on State law penalties for certain child abusers, and for other purposes.	H.R.	3627	Dec. 2, 2013	Jud	Jud	Dec. 9, 2013		286	.....	Dec. 9, 2013	May 7, 2014	May 20, 2014	104
To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.	H.R.	685	Feb. 14, 2013	FS HA			.....	.....	.....	May 19, 2014	May 20, 2014	May 23, 2014	105
To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the "Doolittle Tokyo Raiders", for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.	H.R.	1209	Mar. 15, 2013	FS			.....	.....	.....	May 19, 2014	May 20, 2014	May 23, 2014	106
To authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960.	H.R.	862	Feb. 27, 2013	NR	ENR	May 17, 2013	Apr. 10, 2014	75	149	June 17, 2013	May 22, 2014	May 24, 2014	107
To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.	S.	309	Feb. 13, 2013		BHUA	.....		.....	.....	May 19, 2014	May 20, 2013	May 30, 2014	108
To amend the Clean Air Act to remove the requirement for dealer certification of new light-duty motor vehicles.	H.R.	724	Feb. 14, 2013	EC	EPW	Jan. 7, 2014	Apr. 1, 2014	320	144	Jan. 8, 2014	May 22, 2014	June 9, 2014	109
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Center Street West in Eatonville, Washington, as the "National Park Ranger Margaret Anderson Post Office".	H.R.	1036	Mar. 7, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		May 21, 2014	.....	0	Mar. 24, 2014	May 21, 2014	June 9, 2014	110
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building".	H.R.	1228	Mar. 15, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		May 21, 2014	.....	0	Mar. 26, 2014	May 21, 2014	June 9, 2014	111
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Main Street in Brockport, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Reid Post Office Building".	H.R.	1451	Apr. 9, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		May 21, 2014	.....	0	Mar. 24, 2014	May 21, 2014	June 9, 2014	112
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5323 Highway N in Cottleville, Missouri as the "Lance Corporal Phillip Vinnedge Post Office".	H.R.	2391	June 14, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		May 21, 2014	.....	0	Mar. 24, 2014	May 21, 2014	June 9, 2014	113
To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.	H.R.	2939	Aug. 1, 2013	FS			.....	.....	.....	May 19, 2014	May 20, 2014	June 9, 2014	114

Title	Bill No.	Date introduced	Committee		Date Reported		Report No.		Date of passage		Public Law	
			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 113–	Senate 113–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 113–
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 232 Southwest Johnson Avenue in Burleson, Texas, as the "Sergeant William Moody Post Office Building".	H.R. 3060	Aug. 2, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		May 21, 2014	.....	0	Mar. 24, 2014	May 21, 2014	June 9, 2014	115
To grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.	H.R. 3658	Dec. 5, 2013	FS HA			.....	.....	.....	May 19, 2014	May 20, 2014	June 9, 2014	116
To exempt from Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 certain water transfers by the North Texas Municipal Water District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4032	Feb. 11, 2014	NR Jud	EPW	Apr. 10, 2014		413	.....	Apr. 28, 2014	May 22, 2014	June 9, 2014	117
To make technical corrections to two bills enabling the presentation of congressional gold medals, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4488	Apr. 28, 2014	FS HA			.....	.....	.....	Apr. 29, 2014	May 22, 2014	June 9, 2014	118
To make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes.	S. 611	Mar. 19, 2013		IA	.....	Jan. 28, 2014	.....	136	May 28, 2014	Mar. 12, 2014	June 9, 2014	119
To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.	H.R. 1726	Apr. 25, 2013	FS HA			.....	.....	.....	May 19, 2014	May 22, 2014	June 10, 2014	120
To provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3080	Sept. 11, 2013	TI Bud WM NR		Oct. 21, 2013	.....	246	.....	Oct. 23, 2013	Oct. 31, 2013	June 10, 2014	121
To reinstate and transfer certain hydroelectric licenses and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects.	H.R. 316	Jan. 18, 2013	EC	ENR	Feb. 4, 2013	June 27, 2013	7	69	Feb. 12, 2013	May 22, 2014	June 30, 2014	122
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on D-Day, June 6, 1944.	S. 1044	May 23, 2013		ENR	.....	Mar. 31, 2014	.....	141	June 23, 2014	June 5, 2014	June 30, 2014	123
To amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.	S. 1254	June 27, 2013	SST NR	CST	June 5, 2014	Nov. 18, 2013	471	121	June 9, 2014	Feb. 12, 2014	June 30, 2014	124
To address current emergency shortages of propane and other home heating fuels and to provide greater flexibility and information for Governors to address such emergencies in the future.	S. 2086	Mar. 6, 2014	TI EC	CST		May 20, 2014	.....	162	June 23, 2014	May 21, 2014	June 30, 2014	125
To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.	S. 1681	Nov. 12, 2013		Int	.....	Nov. 12, 2013	.....	120	June 24, 2014	June 11, 2014	July 7, 2014	126

To take certain Federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes.	H.R.	2388	June 14, 2013	NR	IA	Sept. 10, 2013	June 24, 2014	195	197	Dec. 3, 2013	June 26, 2014	July 16, 2014	127
To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes.	H.R.	803	Feb. 25, 2013	E&W Jud Agr VA EC TI	HEL&P	Mar. 12, 2013		14	.....	Mar. 15, 2013	June 25, 2014	July 22, 2014	128
To amend certain definitions contained in the Provo River Project Transfer Act for purposes of clarifying certain property descriptions, and for other purposes.	H.R.	255	Jan. 15, 2013	NR		Sept. 10, 2013	.....	200	.....	Dec. 3, 2013	July 9, 2014	July 25, 2014	129
To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense joint outpatient clinic to be constructed in Marina, California, as the "Major General William H. Gourley VA-DOD Outpatient Clinic".	H.R.	272	Jan. 15, 2013	AS VA			.....	.....	.....	Nov. 18, 2013	July 9, 2014	July 25, 2014	130
To provide for the conveyance of certain cemeteries that are located on National Forest System land in Black Hills National Forest, South Dakota.	H.R.	291	Jan. 15, 2013	NR	ENR	Apr. 9, 2013		26	.....	May 6, 2013	July 9, 2014	July 25, 2014	131
To designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California.	H.R.	330	Jan. 22, 2013	NR		May 17, 2013	.....	79	.....	Oct. 29, 2013	July 9, 2014	July 25, 2014	132
To clarify authority granted under the Act entitled "An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes".	H.R.	356	Jan. 23, 2013	NR	ENR	May 14, 2013		57	.....	May 15, 2013	July 9, 2014	July 25, 2014	133
To provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes.	H.R.	507	Feb. 5, 2013	NR	ENR	Apr. 9, 2013	Apr. 10, 2014	27	148	May 6, 2013	July 9, 2014	July 25, 2014	134
To provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, for the environmental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids Mine Project Site, and for other purposes.	H.R.	697	Feb. 14, 2013	NR	ENR	July 8, 2013	Apr. 8, 2014	137	147	July 22, 2013	July 9, 2014	July 25, 2014	135
To authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.	H.R.	876	Feb. 27, 2013	NR	ENR	May 17, 2013	Apr. 10, 2014	76	150	June 17, 2013	July 9, 2014	July 25, 2014	136
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.	H.R.	1158	Mar. 14, 2013	NR	ENR	May 17, 2013	Apr. 10, 2014	68	151	June 11, 2013	July 9, 2014	July 25, 2014	137
To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Dr. Cameron McKinley Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Center".	H.R.	1216	Mar. 15, 2013	VA	VA			.....	.....	June 17, 2014	July 9, 2014	July 25, 2014	138
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building".	H.R.	1376	Mar. 21, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		July 9, 2014	.....	0	Mar. 24, 2014	July 10, 2014	July 25, 2014	139

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			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 113–	Senate 113–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 113–
To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 162 Northeast Avenue in Tallmadge, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Daniel Nathan Deyarmin, Jr., Post Office Building".	H.R. 1813	Apr. 26, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		July 9, 2014	.....	0	Mar. 24, 2014	July 10, 2014	July 25, 2014	140
To provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado.	H.R. 2337	June 12, 2013	NR	ENR	Sept. 10, 2013	May 22, 2014	196	173	Oct. 29, 2013	July 9, 2014	July 25, 2014	141
To allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska.	H.R. 3110	Sept. 17, 2013	NR		Apr. 1, 2014	.....	393	.....	Apr. 28, 2014	July 9, 2014	July 25, 2014	142
To amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow a veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location.	H.R. 1528	Apr. 12, 2013	EC Jud		May 20, 2014	.....	457	.....	July 8, 2014	July 16, 2014	Aug. 1, 2014	143
To promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, and for other purposes.	S. 517	Mar. 11, 2013		Jud	.....	July 10, 2014	.....	212	July 25, 2014	July 15, 2014	Aug. 1, 2014	144
Making an emergency supplemental appropriation for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, to provide funding to Israel for the Iron Dome defense system to counter short-range rocket threats.	H.J. Res. 76	Oct. 3, 2013	App			.....	.....	.....	Oct. 11, 2013	Aug. 1, 2014	Aug. 4, 2014	145
To improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3230 (S. 2450)	Oct. 2, 2013	App			.....	.....	.....	Oct. 3, 2013	June 11, 2014	Aug. 7, 2014	146
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 815 County Road 23 in Tyrone, New York, as the "Specialist Christopher Scott Post Office Building".	H.R. 606	Feb. 8, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		July 31, 2014	.....	0	July 14, 2014	Aug. 1, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	147
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6937 Village Parkway in Dublin, California, as the "James 'Jim' Kohnen Post Office".	H.R. 1671	Apr. 23, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		July 31, 2014	.....	0	June 17, 2014	Aug. 1, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	148
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 450 Lexington Avenue in New York, New York, as the "Vincent R. Sombrotto Post Office".	H.R. 2291	June 6, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		July 31, 2014	.....	0	July 14, 2014	Aug. 1, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	149
To ensure compliance with the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction by countries with which the United States enjoys reciprocal obligations, to establish procedures for the prompt return of children abducted to other countries, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3212	Sept. 28, 2013	FA	FR		June 26, 2014	.....	204	Dec. 11, 2013	July 16, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	150
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13127 Broadway Street in Alden, New York, as the "Sergeant Brett E. Gornewicz Memorial Post Office".	H.R. 3472	Nov. 13, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		July 31, 2014	.....	0	June 17, 2014	Aug. 1, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	151
To amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to expand the definition of trauma to include thermal, electrical, chemical, radioactive, and other extrinsic agents.	H.R. 3548	Nov. 20, 2013	EC	HEL&P	May 20, 2014		458	.....	June 24, 2014	July 31, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	152

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 198 Baker Street in Corning, New York, as the "Specialist Ryan P. Jayne Post Office Building".	H.R. 3765	Dec. 12, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		July 31, 2014	.....	0	June 17, 2014	Aug. 1, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	153
To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom.	H.R. 4028	Feb. 10, 2014	FA	FR		July 21, 2014	.....	214	May 28, 2014	July 29, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	154
To designate the facility of the United States Forest Service for the Grandfather Ranger District located at 109 Lawing Drive in Nebo, North Carolina, as the "Jason Crisp Forest Service Building".	H.R. 4360	Apr. 1, 2014	Agr			.....	.....	.....	June 17, 2014	July 31, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	155
To allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4386	Apr. 3, 2014	FS	BHUA			.....	.....	May 6, 2014	Aug. 1, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	156
To reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4631	May 9, 2014	EC		June 23, 2014	.....	490	.....	June 24, 2014	July 31, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	157
To redesignate the railroad station located at 2955 Market Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commonly known as "30th Street Station", as the "William H. Gray III 30th Street Station".	H.R. 4838	June 11, 2014	TI	CST			.....	.....	July 28, 2014	July 31, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	158
To provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5021	July 8, 2014	TI WM SST EC E&W NR		July 14, 2014	.....	520	.....	July 15, 2014	July 29, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	159
To provide additional visas for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5195	July 24, 2014	Jud FA			.....	.....	.....	July 30, 2014	Aug. 1, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	160
To provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.	S. 653	Mar. 22, 2013		FR	.....	Dec. 18, 2013	.....	0	July 25, 2014	July 10, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	161
To measure the progress of recovery and development efforts in Haiti following the earthquake of January 12, 2010, and for other purposes.	S. 1104	June 6, 2013		FR	.....	June 26, 2014	.....	201	July 25, 2014	July 10, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	162
To reauthorize subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.	S. 1799	Dec. 11, 2013	Jud E&W	Jud		June 12, 2014	.....	0	July 28, 2014	June 26, 2014	Aug. 8, 2014	163
Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.	H.J. Res. 124	Sept. 9, 2014	App Bud			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 17, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Sept. 19, 2014	164
To reauthorize the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp.	S. 231	Feb. 7, 2013	OGR NR	HS&GA		July 31, 2014	.....	235	Sept. 8, 2014	July 31, 2014	Sept. 19, 2014	165
To amend the Public Health Service Act relating to Federal research on muscular dystrophy, and for other purposes.	H.R. 594	Feb. 8, 2013	EC		July 24, 2014	.....	556	.....	July 28, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	166
To amend the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act to clarify how the Act applies to condominiums.	H.R. 2600	June 28, 2013	FS	BHUA			.....	.....	Sept. 26, 2013	Sept. 18, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	167
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.	H.R. 3043	Aug. 2, 2013	WM			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 16, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	168
To ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3716	Dec. 12, 2013	NR		July 17, 2014	.....	532	.....	July 22, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	169
To amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the period of certain authority with respect to judicial review of Merit Systems Protection Board decisions relating to whistleblowers, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4197	Mar. 11, 2014	OGR Jud	HS&GA	July 14, 2014	July 31, 2014	519	0	July 14, 2014	Sept. 11, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	170

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			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 113–	Senate 113–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 113–
To make technical corrections to Public Law 110-229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4751	May 28, 2014	NR		Sept. 8, 2014	.....	579	.....	Sept. 10, 2014	Sept. 17, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	171
To reauthorize the Defense Production Act, to improve the Defense Production Act Committee, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4809	June 9, 2014	FS			.....	.....	.....	July 29, 2014	Sept. 17, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	172
To amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to specify that privilege and confidentiality are maintained when information is shared by certain nondepository covered persons with Federal and State financial regulators, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5062	July 10, 2014	FS	BHUA			.....	.....	July 29, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	173
To extend the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity and the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for one year.	H.R. 5134	July 17, 2014	E&W	HEL&P			.....	.....	July 23, 2014	Sept. 15, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	174
To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5404	Sept. 8, 2014	VA AS Bud			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 16, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	175
Approving the location of a memorial to commemorate the more than 5,000 slaves and free Black persons who fought for independence in the American Revolution.	H.J. Res. 120	July 23, 2014	NR		Sept. 8, 2014	.....	577	.....	Sept. 8, 2014	Sept. 10, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	176
To reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the American Falls Reservoir.	S. 276	Feb. 11, 2013	EC	ENR		Apr. 22, 2013	.....	24	Sept. 11, 2014	June 19, 2013	Sept. 26, 2014	177
To amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission.	S. 476	Mar. 6, 2013	NR	ENR	Sept. 15, 2014	June 27, 2013	589	64	Sept. 17, 2014	July 9, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	178
To reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, and for other purposes.	S. 1603	Oct. 29, 2013	NR	IA	Sept. 15, 2014	June 12, 2014	590	194	Sept. 16, 2014	June 19, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	179
To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.	S. 2154	Mar. 25, 2014		HEL&P	.....	July 23, 2014	.....	0	Sept. 16, 2014	Sept. 10, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	180
To provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2014, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.	S. 2258	Apr. 28, 2014		VA	.....		.....	.....	Sept. 16, 2014	Sept. 11, 2014	Sept. 26, 2014	181
To reauthorize programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4323	Mar. 27, 2014	Jud		Apr. 7, 2014	.....	404	.....	Apr. 7, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Sept. 29, 2014	182
To prevent and address sex trafficking of children in foster care, to extend and improve adoption incentives, and to improve international child support recovery.	H.R. 4980	June 26, 2014	WM Bud			.....	.....	.....	July 23, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Sept. 29, 2014	183
Providing for the appointment of Michael Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.	S.J. Res. 40	July 8, 2014	HA	RAdm			.....	.....	Sept. 18, 2014	July 23, 2014	Sept. 29, 2014	184

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for standardized post-acute care assessment data for quality, payment, and discharge planning, and for other purposes.	H.R.	4994	June 26, 2014	WM EC			.....	.....	.....	Sept. 16, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Oct. 6, 2014	185
To reauthorize and improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, and for other purposes.	S.	1086	June 3, 2013		HEL&P	.....	Feb. 25, 2014	.....	138	Sept. 15, 2014	Mar. 13, 2014	Nov. 19, 2014	186
To amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, and for other purposes.	H.R.	1233	Mar. 18, 2013	OGR	HS&GA	June 25, 2013	July 23, 2014	127	218	Jan. 14, 2014	Sept. 10, 2014	Nov. 26, 2014	187
To provide for the elimination or modification of Federal reporting requirements.	H.R.	4194	Mar. 11, 2014	OGR	HS&GA	Apr. 28, 2014	July 31, 2014	419	232	Apr. 28, 2014	Sept. 16, 2014	Nov. 26, 2014	188
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Park Street in Danville, Vermont, as the "Thaddeus Stevens Post Office".	S.	885	May 7, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		July 31, 2013	.....	0	Nov. 17, 2014	Aug. 1, 2013	Nov. 26, 2014	189
To authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Amy Biehl High School Foundation.	S.	898	May 8, 2013		EPW	.....	June 5, 2014	.....	0	Nov. 12, 2014	Sept. 9, 2014	Nov. 26, 2014	190
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 Caldwell Drive in Hazlehurst, Mississippi, as the "First Lieutenant Alvin Chester Cockrell, Jr. Post Office Building".	S.	1093	June 4, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		July 31, 2013	.....	0	Nov. 17, 2014	Aug. 1, 2013	Nov. 26, 2014	191
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 278 Main Street in Chadron, Nebraska, as the "Sergeant Cory Mracek Memorial Post Office".	S.	1499	Sept. 12, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		Nov. 6, 2013	.....	0	Nov. 17, 2014	Nov. 12, 2013	Nov. 26, 2014	192
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1335 Jefferson Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Specialist Theodore Matthew Glende Post Office".	S.	1512	Sept. 17, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		Nov. 6, 2013	.....	0	Nov. 17, 2014	Nov. 12, 2013	Nov. 26, 2014	193
To direct the Administrator of General Services to convey the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse to Teton County, Wyoming.	S.	1934	Jan. 15, 2014	TI	EPW		June 5, 2014	.....	0	Nov. 12, 2014	Sept. 9, 2014	Nov. 26, 2014	194
To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.	S.	2141	Mar. 13, 2014		HEL&P	.....	Sept. 17, 2014	.....	0	Nov. 13, 2014	Sept. 17, 2014	Nov. 26, 2014	195
To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research.	S.	2539	June 26, 2014		HEL&P	.....	July 23, 2014	.....	0	Nov. 13, 2014	Sept. 16, 2014	Nov. 26, 2014	196
To promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.	S.	2583	July 10, 2014		CST	.....	Sept. 17, 2014	.....	280	Nov. 13, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Nov. 26, 2014	197
To provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014.	H.R.	4067	Feb. 18, 2014	EC WM		Sept. 9, 2014	.....	582	.....	Sept. 9, 2014	Nov. 20, 2014	Dec. 4, 2014	198
To amend the Federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to reflect the service of women in the Armed Forces of the United States.	H.R.	5441	Sept. 10, 2014	Jud		Nov. 17, 2014	.....	620	.....	Nov. 17, 2014	Nov. 20, 2014	Dec. 4, 2014	199

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			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 113–	Senate 113–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 113–
To amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5728	Nov. 18, 2014	EC Jud			.....	.....	.....	Nov. 19, 2014	Nov. 20, 2014	Dec. 4, 2014	200
Appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.	H.J. Res. 129	Nov. 14, 2014			.....	.....	.....	.....	Nov. 14, 2014	Nov. 20, 2014	Dec. 4, 2014	201
Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.	H.J. Res. 130	Dec. 10, 2014	App			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 12, 2014	202
Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.	H.J. Res. 131	Dec. 12, 2014	App			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 12, 2014	Dec. 13, 2014	Dec. 13, 2014	203
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14 Red River Avenue North in Cold Spring, Minnesota, as the "Officer Tommy Decker Memorial Post Office".	H.R. 43	Jan. 3, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		Nov. 13, 2014	.....	0	June 17, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	204
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4110 Almeda Road in Houston, Texas, as the "George Thomas 'Mickey' Leland Post Office Building".	H.R. 78	Jan. 3, 2013	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Sept. 8, 2014	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	205
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 North Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Beach, Florida, as the "Richard K. Salick Post Office".	H.R. 451	Feb. 1, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		Nov. 13, 2014	.....	0	July 14, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	206
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 South Oak Street in London, Ohio, as the "London Fallen Veterans Memorial Post Office".	H.R. 1391	Mar. 21, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		Nov. 13, 2014	.....	0	June 17, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	207
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 302 East Green Street in Champaign, Illinois, as the "James R. Burgess Jr. Post Office Building".	H.R. 1707	Apr. 24, 2013	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	June 17, 2014	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	208
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 787 State Route 17M in Monroe, New York, as the "National Clandestine Service of the Central Intelligence Agency NCS Officer Gregg David Wenzel Memorial Post Office".	H.R. 2112	May 22, 2013	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	June 17, 2014	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	209
To provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.	H.R. 2203	May 23, 2013	FS	BHUA			.....	.....	May 19, 2014	Dec. 1, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	210
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the "Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building".	H.R. 2223	June 3, 2013	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	July 14, 2014	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	211
To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of World War I.	H.R. 2366	June 13, 2013	FS			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 2, 2014	Dec. 4, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	212
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10360 Southwest 186th Street in Miami, Florida, as the "Larcenia J. Bullard Post Office Building".	H.R. 2678	July 11, 2013	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Sept. 10, 2014	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	213

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3349 West 111th Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Captain Herbert Johnson Memorial Post Office Building".	H.R.	3085	Sept. 12, 2013	OGR	HS&GA		Nov. 13, 2014	.....	0	July 14, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	214
To designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be constructed at 3141 Centennial Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".	H.R.	3375	Oct. 29, 2013	VA	VA			.....	.....	June 17, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	215
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson, Michigan, as the "Officer James Bonneau Memorial Post Office".	H.R.	3534	Nov. 19, 2013	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	July 14, 2014	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	216
To designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 1961 Premier Drive in Mankato, Minnesota, as the "Lyle C. Pearson Community Based Outpatient Clinic".	H.R.	3682	Dec. 9, 2013	VA	VA			.....	.....	June 17, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	217
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218-10 Merrick Boulevard in Springfield Gardens, New York, as the "Cynthia Jenkins Post Office Building".	H.R.	3957	Jan. 28, 2014	OGR	HS&GA		Nov. 13, 2014	.....	0	Sept. 8, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	218
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4000 Leap Road in Hilliard, Ohio, as the "Master Sergeant Shawn T. Hannon, Master Sergeant Jeffrey J. Rieck and Veterans Memorial Post Office Building".	H.R.	4189	Mar. 11, 2014	OGR	HS&GA		Nov. 13, 2014	.....	0	Sept. 8, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	219
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Vermilyea Avenue, in New York, New York, as the "Corporal Juan Mariel Alcantara Post Office Building".	H.R.	4443	Apr. 9, 2014	OGR	HS&GA		Nov. 13, 2014	.....	0	Sept. 8, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	220
To amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their service, and for other purposes.	H.R.	4812	June 9, 2014	HS	CST	July 3, 2014		516	.....	July 22, 2014	Dec. 4, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	221
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 715 Shawan Falls Drive in Dublin, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids and Captain Nicholas J. Rozanski Memorial Post Office".	H.R.	4919	June 19, 2014	OGR	HS&GA		Nov. 13, 2014	.....	0	July 28, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	222
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona.	H.R.	4924	June 20, 2014	NR		Dec. 1, 2014	.....	638	.....	Dec. 1, 2014	Dec. 2, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	223

Title	Bill No.	Date introduced	Committee		Date Reported		Report No.		Date of passage		Public Law	
			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 113–	Senate 113–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 113–
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2551 Galena Avenue in Simi Valley, California, as the "Neil Havens Post Office".	H.R. 4939	June 23, 2014	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Sept. 8, 2014	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	224
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13500 SW 250 Street in Princeton, Florida, as the "Corporal Christian A. Guzman Rivera Post Office Building".	H.R. 5030	July 8, 2014	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Sept. 8, 2014	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	225
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Admiral Callaghan Lane in Vallejo, California, as the "Philmore Graham Post Office Building".	H.R. 5106	July 14, 2014	OGR	HS&GA		Nov. 13, 2014	.....	0	Sept. 8, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	226
To establish the Law School Clinic Certification Program of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5108	July 15, 2014	Jud	Jud	Sept. 15, 2014		588	.....	Sept. 15, 2014	Dec. 4, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	227
To provide for the approval of the Amendment to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes.	H.R. 5681	Nov. 12, 2014	FA			.....	.....	.....	Nov. 19, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	228
Conferring honorary citizenship of the United States on Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid, Viscount of Galveston and Count of Gálvez.	H.J. Res. 105	Jan. 9, 2014	Jud		July 22, 2014	.....	548	.....	July 28, 2014	Dec. 4, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	229
To designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 3900 Woodland Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".	S. 229	Feb. 7, 2013	VA	VA			.....	.....	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	230
To designate the Junction City Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located at 715 Southwind Drive, Junction City, Kansas, as the Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.	S. 1434	Aug. 1, 2013	VA	VA			.....	.....	Dec. 8, 2014	Jan. 14, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	231
To exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes.	S. 2040	Feb. 25, 2014		IA	.....	Aug. 5, 2014	.....	242	Dec. 2, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	232
To expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases.	S. 2917	Nov. 12, 2014		HEL&P	.....	Nov. 19, 2014	.....	0	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 2, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	233
To designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic".	S. 2921	Nov. 13, 2014	VA	VA			.....	.....	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	234
Making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.	H.R. 83	Jan. 3, 2013	EC		June 19, 2014	.....	483	.....	Sept. 15, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	235

To improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life.	H.R.	669	Feb. 13, 2013	EC	HEL&P	July 24, 2014		557	.....	Sept. 9, 2014	Nov. 20, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	236
To make revisions in title 36, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current and make technical corrections and improvements.	H.R.	1067	Mar. 12, 2013	Jud	Jud	Apr. 19, 2013		43	.....	Apr. 23, 2013	Dec. 9, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	237
To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.	H.R.	1204	Mar. 14, 2013	HS	CST	Dec. 2, 2013		278	.....	Dec. 3, 2013	Dec. 9, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	238
To grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, and for other purposes.	H.R.	1206	Mar. 14, 2013	NR	EPW	May 17, 2013	Apr. 1, 2014	67	145	June 3, 2013	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	239
To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act.	H.R.	1281	Mar. 20, 2013	EC		June 19, 2014	.....	478	.....	June 24, 2014	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	240
To designate the United States Federal Judicial Center located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the "John Rhoades Federal Judicial Center" and to designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the "James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse".	H.R.	1378	Mar. 21, 2013	TI		Apr. 9, 2014	.....	406	.....	Dec. 9, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	241
To encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.	H.R.	1447	Apr. 9, 2013	Jud	Jud	Dec. 9, 2013	Nov. 20, 2014	285	0	Dec. 12, 2013	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	242
To amend certain provisions of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.	H.R.	2591	June 28, 2013	WM			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 13, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	243
To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to adjust the Crooked River boundary, to provide water certainty for the City of Prineville, Oregon, and for other purposes.	H.R.	2640	July 10, 2013	NR	ENR	Sept. 20, 2013		224	.....	Oct. 29, 2013	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	244
To require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes.	H.R.	2719	July 18, 2013	HS	CST	Nov. 21, 2013		275	.....	Dec. 3, 2013	Dec. 9, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	245
To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department of Homeland Security and develop a comprehensive workforce strategy, and for other purposes.	H.R.	2952	Aug. 1, 2013	HS	HS&GA	Jan. 9, 2014		324	.....	July 28, 2014	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	246
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 Miller Valley Road in Prescott, Arizona, as the "Barry M. Goldwater Post Office".	H.R.	3027	Aug. 2, 2013	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	July 14, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	247
To approve the transfer of Yellow Creek Port properties in Iuka, Mississippi.	H.R.	3044	Aug. 2, 2013	TI	EPW	July 24, 2014		553	.....	Sept. 15, 2014	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	248
To designate the building occupied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation located at 801 Follin Lane, Vienna, Virginia, as the "Michael D. Resnick Terrorist Screening Center".	H.R.	3096	Sept. 12, 2013	TI	EPW	Sept. 27, 2013		235	.....	Sept. 27, 2013	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	249
To enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.	H.R.	3329	Oct. 23, 2013	FS	BHUA			.....	.....	May 6, 2014	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	250

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			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 113–	Senate 113–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 113–
To provide for the use of savings promotion raffle products by financial institutions to encourage savings, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3374	Oct. 29, 2013	FS Jud	BHUA			.....	.....	Sept. 15, 2014	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	251
To amend the Federal Credit Union Act to extend insurance coverage to amounts held in a member account on behalf of another person, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3468	Nov. 13, 2013	FS	BHUA			.....	.....	May 6, 2014	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	252
To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units.	H.R. 3572	Nov. 21, 2013	NR		Dec. 1, 2014	.....	633	.....	Dec. 2, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	253
To recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.	H.R. 4007	Feb. 6, 2014	HS EC	HS&GA	June 23, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	491	263	July 8, 2014	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	254
To amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4193	Mar. 11, 2014	OGR		June 30, 2014	.....	507	.....	July 14, 2014	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	255
To name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Waco, Texas, as the "Doris Miller Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".	H.R. 4199	Mar. 11, 2014	VA	VA			.....	.....	June 17, 2014	Dec. 9, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	256
To extend and modify a pilot program on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury.	H.R. 4276	Mar. 18, 2014	VA	VA	Sept. 15, 2014		598	.....	Sept. 16, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	257
To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 161 Live Oak Street in Miami, Arizona, as the "Staff Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza Post Office Building".	H.R. 4416	Apr. 7, 2014	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	July 14, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	258
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 West Baker Road in Baytown, Texas, as the "Specialist Keith Erin Grace, Jr. Memorial Post Office".	H.R. 4651	May 9, 2014	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Sept. 8, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	259
To amend the Controlled Substances Act to more effectively regulate anabolic steroids.	H.R. 4771	May 29, 2014	EC Jud	Jud	Sept. 15, 2014 Sept. 15, 2014		587	.....	Sept. 15, 2014	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	260
To designate a segment of Interstate Route 35 in the State of Minnesota as the "James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway".	H.R. 4926	June 20, 2014	TI		Nov. 12, 2014	.....	610	.....	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	261
To repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5050	July 9, 2014	NR		Dec. 1, 2014	.....	631	.....	Dec. 2, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	262
To amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to permit exemptions for external power supplies from certain efficiency standards, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5057	July 10, 2014	EC	ENR	Sept. 8, 2014		574	.....	Sept. 11, 2014	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	263
To amend the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act to increase in the price of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps to fund the acquisition of conservation easements for migratory birds, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5069	July 10, 2014	NR		Nov. 17, 2014	.....	622	.....	Nov. 17, 2014	Dec. 2, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	264
To reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009.	H.R. 5185	July 24, 2014	EC			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 9, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	265

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 73839 Gorgonio Drive in Twentynine Palms, California, as the "Colonel M.J. 'Mac' Dube, USMC Post Office Building".	H.R.	5331	July 31, 2014	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Nov. 17, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	266
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Ocean Avenue in Lompoc, California, as the "Federal Correctional Officer Scott J. Williams Memorial Post Office Building".	H.R.	5562	Sept. 18, 2014	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	267
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 East Market Street in Long Beach, California, as the "Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office".	H.R.	5687	Nov. 12, 2014	OGR	HS&GA			.....	.....	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	268
To modify certain provisions relating to the Propane Education and Research Council.	H.R.	5705	Nov. 13, 2014	EC			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 9, 2014	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	269
To amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.	H.R.	5739	Nov. 19, 2014	WM			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 2, 2014	Dec. 4, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	270
To extend the authorization for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.	H.R.	5816	Dec. 9, 2014	FA			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	271
To impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.	H.R.	5859	Dec. 11, 2014	FA FS OGR Jud			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 13, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	272
To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and for other purposes.	S.	1000	May 21, 2013		EPW	.....		.....	.....	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 2, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	273
To provide for an ongoing, voluntary public-private partnership to improve cybersecurity, and to strengthen cybersecurity research and development, workforce development and education, and public awareness and preparedness, and for other purposes.	S.	1353	July 24, 2013		CST	.....	July 24, 2014	.....	270	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	274
To amend the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 to repeal a special rule for the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.	S.	1474	Aug. 1, 2013		IA	.....	Aug. 26, 2014	.....	260	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 9, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	275
To provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients, and for other purposes.	S.	1683	Nov. 12, 2013		FR	.....	Nov. 14, 2013	.....	0	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 4, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	276
To amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents.	S.	1691	Nov. 13, 2013	OGR HS	HS&GA		Aug. 26, 2014	.....	248	Dec. 10, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	277
To impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes.	S.	2142	Mar. 13, 2014		FR	.....	May 22, 2014	.....	175	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	278
To clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.	S.	2270	Apr. 29, 2014	FS	BHUA			.....	.....	Dec. 10, 2014	June 3, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	279
To reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes.	S.	2338	May 14, 2014		CST	.....	Dec. 1, 2014	.....	281	Dec. 12, 2014	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	280
To authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.	S.	2444	June 5, 2014		CST	.....		.....	.....	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	281

Title	Bill No.	Date introduced	Committee		Date Reported		Report No.		Date of passage		Public Law	
			House	Senate	House	Senate	House 113–	Senate 113–	House	Senate	Date approved	No. 113–
To codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity.	S. 2519	June 24, 2014		HS&GA	.....	July 31, 2014	.....	240	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	282
To amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security.	S. 2521	June 24, 2014		HS&GA	.....	Sept. 15, 2014	.....	256	Dec. 10, 2014	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	283
To repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General.	S. 2651	July 24, 2014	TI HS	HS&GA		Sept. 16, 2014	.....	261	Dec. 10, 2014	Sept. 17, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	284
To release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport.	S. 2759	July 31, 2014	TI	CST		Dec. 1, 2014	.....	282	Dec. 9, 2014	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	285
To extend temporarily the extended period of protection for members of uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and eviction, and for other purposes.	S. 3008	Dec. 11, 2014			.....	.....	.....	.....	Dec. 12, 2014	Dec. 11, 2014	Dec. 18, 2014	286
To enact title 54, United States Code, "National Park Service and Related Programs", as positive law.	H.R. 1068	Mar. 12, 2013	Jud	Jud	Apr. 19, 2013		44	.....	Apr. 23, 2013	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 19, 2014	287
To amend the Hobby Protection Act to make unlawful the provision of assistance or support in violation of that Act, and for other purposes.	H.R. 2754	July 19, 2013	EC	CST			.....	.....	July 30, 2013	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 19, 2014	288
To strengthen implementation of the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 by improving the capacity of the United States Government to implement, leverage, and monitor and evaluate programs to provide first-time or improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene to the world's poorest on an equitable and sustainable basis, and for other purposes.	H.R. 2901	Aug. 1, 2013	FA			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 15, 2014	Dec. 19, 2014	289
To amend the Act of October 19, 1973, concerning taxable income to members of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.	H.R. 3608	Nov. 21, 2013	NR WM Jud		Nov. 17, 2014	.....	625	.....	Nov. 17, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	Dec. 19, 2014	290
To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.	H.R. 3979	Jan. 31, 2014	WM		Feb. 25, 2014	.....	360	.....	Mar. 11, 2014	Apr. 7, 2014	Dec. 19, 2014	291
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 18640 NW 2nd Avenue in Miami, Florida, as the "Father Richard Marquess-Barry Post Office Building".	H.R. 4030	Feb. 10, 2014	OGR			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 8, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	Dec. 19, 2014	292
To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.	H.R. 4681	May 20, 2014	Int	Int	May 27, 2014		463	.....	May 30, 2014	Dec. 9, 2014	Dec. 19, 2014	293

To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for limitations on the fees charged to passengers of air carriers.	H.R. 5462	Sept. 15, 2014	HS	CST			.....	.....	Sept. 17, 2014	Dec. 4, 2014	Dec. 19, 2014	294
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.	H.R. 5771	Dec. 1, 2014	WM E&W Bud			.....	.....	.....	Dec. 3, 2014	Dec. 16, 2014	Dec. 19, 2014	295
To enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.	S. 2673	July 28, 2014			.....	.....	.....	.....	Dec. 3, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	Dec. 19, 2014	296

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AG .....Aging
Agr .....Agriculture
ANF .....Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
App .....Appropriations
AS .....Armed Services
BHUA ....Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Bud .....Budget
CST .....Commerce, Science and Transportation
E&W .....Education and the Workforce
EC .....Energy and Commerce
ENR .....Energy and Natural Resources
EPW .....Environment and Public Works
Eth .....Ethics
Fin .....Finance
FS .....Financial Services
FA .....Foreign Affairs
FR .....Foreign Relations
HEL&P ..Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
HS .....Homeland Security
HS&GA ..Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
HA .....House Administration
IA .....Indian Affairs
Int .....Intelligence
Jud .....Judiciary
NR .....Natural Resources
OGR .....Oversight and Government Reform
R .....Rules
RAdm ....Rules and Administration
SST .....Science, Space, and Technology
SB .....Small Business
SBE .....Small Business and Entrepreneurship
TI .....Transportation and Infrastructure
VA .....Veterans' Affairs
WM .....Ways and Means

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

9:30 a.m., Friday, March 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

2 p.m., Friday, March 6

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 2 p.m.

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