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No. 5

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 9, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROGER W. MARSHALL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION DECLARES WAR ON STATE LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Friday, the Trump administration declared war on State legalization of marijuana as they come out on the wrong side of history and the American public.

The Obama administration recognized that the vast voter-driven move-

ment to legalize marijuana at the State level was something that couldn't be stopped and, in fact, that the Federal Government shouldn't interfere. Their Justice Department issued guidance, known as the Cole amendment, that, as long as these voter-approved State legalization efforts were enforced rigorously and thoughtfully, the Federal Government wouldn't interfere with what the voters wanted.

Friday, Sessions and the Trump administration overruled that guidance and declared open war on the part of 93 U.S. attorneys to feel free to interfere with what local voters have decided.

This is strongly opposed by the American public. Over 60 percent in poll after poll show that Americans favor legalization of marijuana. When it deals with medical marijuana, that percentage is over 90 percent. We have seen State after State, approve medical marijuana including Florida, with a 71 percent "yes" vote in November of 2016.

If the question is, regardless of how you feel about marijuana, should the Federal Government interfere with what the voters have decided, three out of four voters say the Federal Government should keep their hands off it.

Luckily, at least as far as medical marijuana is concerned, they are protected from interference by the Justice Department because of the amendment that I have authored with my friend DANA ROHRBACHER. It is in the continuing resolution. It needs to be in any long-term funding bill. In fact, we should embrace an amendment by our colleague TOM MCCLINTOCK from California, that would expand those protections to any State legal marijuana activity.

The Justice Department is not just on the wrong side of history and the American public, they are missing a chance to cure the damage caused by selective and cruel enforcement of

marijuana laws. We are still arresting tens of thousands—mostly young men of color, especially African-American men—for something the majority of Americans now think should be legal.

We miss a chance to win the war against opioid death and addiction. In States that have medical marijuana—surprise—there are fewer pills prescribed. The longer the States have had medical marijuana, the lower the overdose deaths. In California, which has had medical marijuana the longest, there are a third fewer opioid deaths. We are missing an opportunity to build on that.

We are missing the opportunity to increase the hundreds of millions of dollars that are now going to the State tax coffers to deal with education and addiction and law enforcement through State legal efforts and away from the drug cartels and the black market. Indeed, if we clean up this mess, we will have billions of dollars to devote to public purposes and further undermine the strength of drug cartels that use the black market to fund their efforts.

It is past time that Congress steps up and fixes this mess.

The good news is this reckless action by the Trump administration and Jeff Sessions will accelerate the time that we support what State and local governments should do: rationalize our cannabis policy and stop this ineffective, failed prohibition.

LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, we salute and thank the brave men and women who make up our law enforcement community.

Officers on the local, State, and Federal level dedicate their efforts to keep

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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us safe. They serve to protect the vulnerable and to defend us from harm. They patrol the neighborhood beats, walk our streets, and willingly put their lives on the line to do the work that makes our society safe.

These men and women preserve our way of life by steadfastly safeguarding us from crime. To ensure the safety and protection of others, many have lost their lives in the line of duty. Their sacrifice must not be forgotten, and their families should always remain in our prayers.

Though today is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, I believe members of our law enforcement community deserve our gratitude every day.

NEW YEAR, NEW TAX CODE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is a new year, and I am thankful that my Republican colleagues and I made good on our promise to bring about a new Tax Code. Due to the historic passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, most citizens, couples, and companies will finally receive the tax relief they have so desperately needed.

The list of companies nationwide that have announced pay raises, bonuses, and 401(k) contributions is growing. Companies that weren't able to invest more in their employees in the past have found renewed confidence in this Nation's economic future.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle proclaimed that this bill was a tax scam that would only profit the rich. These baseless claims are the very epitome of fake news, and nothing could be further from the truth.

Already, more than a million Americans have received bonuses because of our efforts to reform the Tax Code. \$900 billion is being distributed to hardworking American taxpayers by job creators as of today.

Thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we have witnessed companies begin to reinvest in the future of employees. In fact, Aflac announced it will increase 401(k) matching from 50 percent to 100 percent for the first 4 percent of employee contribution, on top of issuing one-time bonuses to employees.

Our job creators are so inspired by the reforms we worked hard for, and those who are working toward retirement will enjoy these benefits for years to come.

While some in this Chamber stated that tax reform would lead to Armageddon, I would like to point out that, for many, tax reform has brought about what Reagan called morning in America again. Proponents of the status quo and naysayers claimed that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would cost taxpayers. That is simply not the truth.

Even modest increases in GDP growth caused by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will substantially contribute to a leveling off of the deficit. The Congressional Budget Office stated, for every one-tenth of 1 percent increase in GDP, nearly \$270 billion in revenue is added over 10 years.

Most importantly, hardworking American taxpayers will now keep more of their hard-earned cash. Estimates show that married couples taking advantage of the new standard deduction in the Fifth District of North Carolina may receive a tax cut to the tune of \$1,834. That is no small sum.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that House Republicans kept our promise to bring about more jobs, fairer taxes, and bigger paychecks in 2017, and I look forward to this continued success in 2018.

IT IS TIME TO STOP THE ATTACK ON THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last October, President Trump loudly proclaimed that the Affordable Care Act, ObamaCare, was "virtually dead." He said it was finished, it was gone. This was after the pummeling that this law had been taking over 2017 in the unsuccessful effort by the Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Again, last October was a critical moment, because enrollment was about to commence for 2018's policy year, and the Trump administration announced that they were going to cut in half the time that people would have an opportunity to go out and learn about rates, to talk to get enrollment help, and also to sign up for different plans. They also cut the marketing budget by 80 percent and eliminated funding for folks at the State level to actually provide face-to-face assistance. So it all looked pretty grim back in October in terms of what that would result in in terms of enrollment for 2018.

Well, as a famous resident from the State of Connecticut, Mark Twain, once infamously said: Rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated.

Yesterday, the Connecticut exchange, the Connecticut Access Health Exchange, announced their enrollment numbers for 2018. Rather than going down, even though they were only able to enroll people in half the time there was in 2016, and even though they had no budget in terms of trying to actually promote and advertise, their enrollment went up. It went up by 3 percent in terms of the number of people who signed up for Anthem Blue Cross plans, for ConnectiCare plans, and for Medicaid plans.

Again, it was done because of this amazing grassroots, organic effort by libraries, by community health centers, by human service agencies, by hospitals that went out and took on the task of getting the word out that, in fact, the Affordable Care Act was still alive and that people would have access to affordable health plans. Sure enough, it resulted in an increase in health plans.

Interestingly, the young invincibles, the young enrollees that everybody predicted were going to abandon the

program because the enforcement of the mandate was going to be relaxed by the IRS actually had a very strong, healthy number.

Coming from a State that is known for its insurance history—it was the insurance capital of the world—the fact of the matter is that getting those young enrollees, those young members to sign up for these plans, in fact, portends well for 2019 and beyond.

This morning, The Hill newspaper reported that for ObamaCare insurers, actually, their financial prospects are looking much better for 2019 because the system has stabilized.

Now, again, there is still work that could be done. There is a bill, H.R. 3748, a Medicare buy-in, which would allow people 50 and up to voluntarily sign up for Medicare, again, using subsidies if they qualify or paying the full cost, which would still be 40 percent less than the plans that are on exchanges throughout the country for people 50 and up. It would not affect the deficit, and, in fact, arguably, it would strengthen the Medicare trust fund because you would get a younger population into the Medicare Program.

So there is work that we can do that is optional, voluntary, in terms of trying to provide more choices for individuals out there; but, clearly, what happened yesterday in Connecticut and throughout the country in terms of enrollment figures, that despite the active efforts by the Trump administration to undercut and sabotage this law, in fact, shows that the law has a life of its own, that, in fact, people are voting with their feet in terms of still trying to get access to the critical needs of every human being and every American, which is access to healthcare.

I want to particularly congratulate Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, who spearheaded this effort in Connecticut and yesterday stated: This just shows how valuable the Affordable Care Act is to thousands of residents in Connecticut; also, Jim Wadleigh, the director of the exchange, who, again, was not distracted or demoralized by the comments coming out of the White House but still plunged forward and still persistently and determinedly went out and made sure that people got the real information, the real facts, the real news so that they could, in fact, take an opportunity to protect themselves and their families from the inevitable problems of sickness and accident, that every American and every Member of Congress enjoys through their health benefits, for every resident in the State of Connecticut.

It is time for us to stop the attack in terms of a program that has provided millions of Americans coverage and opportunity to healthcare. We should work together on bills like H.R. 3748, a voluntary, deficit-neutral attempt to try and strengthen and provide cheaper alternatives for people 50 and up and small businesses. That is the way forward, not this persistent, nonstop hyperpolitical, hyperpartisan attack

on a bill that has made a huge difference to millions of Americans.

□ 1015

PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania kicked off one of my favorite events, the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

For more than a century, farmers have gathered each January at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This week, we are having the 102nd Pennsylvania Farm Show. This weeklong event is the largest indoor agriculture exposition in the Nation, showcasing over 6,000 animals, featuring nearly 12,000 exhibits, and more than half a million visitors.

Each year, I host a listening session at the Farm Show and we cover a range of topics during the public forum, from raising awareness about agriculture education to hearing very real concerns from our dairy farmers and more. As we embark on crafting the next farm bill, the 2018 listening session was extremely important.

I want to thank the following Members who were able to join this year's Farm Show: Agriculture Committee Ranking Member COLLIN PETERSON, Congressman DWIGHT EVANS, Congressman TOM MARINO, Congressman ROGER MARSHALL, and Congressman LLOYD SMUCKER. I also want to thank USDA Under Secretary Greg Ibach for coming up to join us. I was honored to be joined by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show truly does bring together so many different people in the ag community and it is an event like none other. As vice chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I am very proud of this fine event that takes place in the Commonwealth.

The Farm Show complex houses 24 acres under one roof, spreading throughout 11 buildings, including three arenas. There is no admission fee and it is a great event for the entire family. There are numerous educational shows that are all free of charge.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show provides an atmosphere for everyone to walk through, observe, and educate themselves about different areas of agriculture, the Commonwealth's largest industry, which brings in nearly \$6.9 billion annually in agricultural cash receipts. Almost half a million jobs are tied to the industry, which positively impacts all Pennsylvanians.

Undoubtedly, one of the most popular attractions at the Pennsylvania Farm Show is the Food Court. Located in the Expo Hall and Main Hall of the complex, the Food Court offers visitors a

variety of Pennsylvania products—PA Preferred products—and it generates income to support the nonprofit Pennsylvania Agricultural Commodity Organizations.

Mr. Speaker, over a century ago, the first Pennsylvania Farm Show was a 3-day exhibit. Today, the event is a weeklong, 8-day celebration of how the agricultural industry touches our everyday lives. Proudly, this event draws visitors from across the country to highlight everything our State has to offer when it comes to ag.

Numerous students participate in the event as well from 4-H clubs and FAA organizations.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show truly showcases our Nation's farmers and landowners, and I was thrilled to again take part in the best agricultural expo in the country.

THE NATIONAL DEBT AND OUR SHARED FUTURE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the national debt and our shared future. Our country has been on an unsustainable fiscal path, regardless of which party has been in power, and we all know this. As a result, our national debt is the largest it has ever been.

As of this week, the national debt is in excess of \$20 trillion. This works out to be an average of \$62,670 debt for every man, woman, and child in the United States. It is outrageous. It is a completely unacceptable amount of debt, and we have it because of irresponsible governing and a lack of political courage here in our Nation's Capital.

Sadly, this Congress has chosen to continue this irresponsible and unsustainable fiscal course. The tax cut legislation that Republicans rammed through the Congress last month will add \$1.45 billion to our deficit over 10 years, estimated, and over \$2.2 trillion to our national debt. We are going in the wrong direction.

But there is something I think that I have learned about this tax legislation last month, and that is that it seems that deficits matter under Democratic administrations, but under Republican administrations, deficits don't matter at all.

So when it comes to lifting our debt ceiling later this year, I would expect or hope to see every Republican who voted for the tax bill that adds \$2.2 trillion to our deficit—our debt to vote to increase the debt ceiling, seeing as deficits no longer matter.

Let's think about this \$2.2 trillion tax bill that will add to our debt. That is \$2.2 trillion in additional moneys that our children will have to pay for unless we do something. We can be fiscally responsible, and we must be fiscally responsible. But to act to change this course, we must stop digging this hole bigger.

I had a farmer friend who once told me: JIM, I've got a theory about holes, and that is, once you find yourself in one, just stop digging. Sometimes you think if you dig harder and faster, you're going to get out of it. Just stop.

Mr. Speaker, this will be difficult, especially considering the opportunity we missed to put the Nation back on a fiscally responsible path with the tax reform effort last year. Yet there are important steps that we can take—and Congress should—to balance our budget and to keep it from getting worse, like the amendment proposed by Representative STEPHANIE MURPHY from Florida, a balanced budget amendment.

We should also move to implement targeted reforms on government spending, both mandatory and discretionary spending, in ways that contribute to economic growth and invest in our future. It is tough work. It requires political courage and the willingness to reach across the aisle, for Democrats and Republicans to join hands and jump, in essence, on these tough decisions.

The last time we had such an opportunity to address the challenge was in March of 2012, when Congressman JIM COOPER from Tennessee presented a budget resolution similar to the recommendations under Simpson-Bowles. That plan would have reduced the deficit over \$4 trillion over a 10-year period.

Sadly, the political courage was in short supply then on that day, as it is now. There were 38 of us who were willing to support the plan. I was attacked by political groups on the left and on the right for taking such a vote, but that vote was the right thing to do and I was proud to take it.

Congress has a chance to do the right thing now. Congress has to come together. We need Democrats and Republicans to put our Nation's fiscal house back in order for the sake of all Americans.

The Blue Dog Coalition, of which I am a co-chair, has a long history of standing for fiscal responsibility, even when it was hard. Bridging the divide between Republicans and Democrats, both in Congress and this administration, is what we must do.

So as we are debating today how to put together the votes for the concurrent resolution to fund our Nation's budget for the rest of this year, let's think about this. Let's work together. What a novel concept.

As I stand here today, as a Blue Dog, as a proud Representative of California's 16th Congressional District, and as a concerned American, ready to reach across the aisle to create the bipartisan, long-term policy solutions that will help us tackle our national debt and our deficit, and that will help put us back on a fiscally sustainable path, I invite my colleagues and my fellow Americans to join me.

This is what good governance is really all about. This is where responsible leadership is necessary. It is what

Americans want and need, and it is what we should be doing.

TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a very troubling issue, but also to tell the story of one of my high school classmates who is trying to make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, every day, 22 veterans in the United States take their own lives. At this pace, veterans are committing suicide at a rate of 19 percent higher than the general adult population. We, in Congress, will not turn a blind eye to these servicemembers in need of our support. This issue is a top clinical priority for the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as for this Congress.

In a unanimous vote, the House passed legislation that works for the VA to examine the effectiveness of the Veterans Crisis Line. I am also a proud cosponsor of the Oath of Exit Act written by my close friend and colleague, Congressman BRIAN MAST from Florida. This legislation will require all individuals retiring or separating from the Armed Forces to take a pledge not to harm themselves. But these actions alone are not enough, and more must be done to protect our servicemembers.

To help our veterans with this mental health battle, we are now turning to our four-legged friends. Therapy dogs have a proven success record for helping our veterans tackle the physical and mental challenges that they face in their transitions back to civilian life.

As I stand before the House today, I want to bring awareness to one organization that I am especially proud of, K94Heroes. This nonprofit group provides therapy dogs to our servicemen and -women who are in desperate need of compassion and support. I am overjoyed to see members of the community empowering our veterans and I am honored to say that this organization was founded in my home State, in my hometown, by one of my high school classmates, John "Big Daddy" Lipscomb.

John founded the K94Heroes program after connecting with one of our other classmates, an elementary classmate, who specializes in service dog training for veterans. In 2015, John and his daughter established K94Heroes and raised private funds to mitigate training costs. Together, they work tirelessly to ensure every veteran who deserves a service dog receives one.

We owe it to those who protected us abroad the assurance of protection here at home. With upstanding citizens like John "Big Daddy" Lipscomb and with continued action on the Federal level, we will be able to better protect our veterans who sacrifice so much for this

country. Still, this Congress must make continued efforts toward veteran suicide prevention, and I commend the efforts of organizations such as K94Heroes.

HONORING JOHN YOUNG, CENTRAL FLORIDA'S LOCAL HERO

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of an Orlando favorite son, a hero that we lost this past weekend, Astronaut John Young, who was inspirational and legendary to our community and who grew up in College Park in Orlando, Florida. Streets named after him span our district, as well as Congresswomen MURPHY's and DEMINGS' districts in central Florida.

He was described by our local paper as a "country boy who grew up in Orlando, Florida, back when it was mostly farmland." He even got in trouble for smuggling a corned beef sandwich into space on Gemini 3.

He was mostly known for his coolheadedness and calm demeanor as he took numerous trips into space with NASA. Some of the flags and mission patches he flew into space are on display in our Orlando Science Center. In central Florida, we are proud to have the John Young Parkway bear his name. He died on January 5, this past Friday, at his home in Houston.

Mr. YOUNG was NASA's longest-serving astronaut. He was the first person to orbit the Moon by himself and the ninth person to walk on the Moon as well. He was the first person to travel to space six times during NASA's Gemini and Apollo lunar missions, and into the space shuttle programs as well.

John Young commanded the first space shuttle flight mission, an iconic view that so many central Floridians and so many Americans have seen over the years during that program. He was awarded the prestigious Congressional Space Medal of Honor in 1981. He represents the very best of the Orlando area.

Rest in peace, Astronaut John Young.

□ 1030

HONORING ISABEL CASTANO-LUGO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARSHALL). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Isabel Castano-Lugo, who will turn 112 years young on January 11. Isabel, a supercentenarian, is one of only a handful in the Nation who has lived through some of the brightest times and darkest chapters in our history.

Born in 1906, in Manizales, Colombia, Isabel was one of 13 brothers and sisters. At age 41, Isabel married and had 2 sons, Omar and Danilo Lugo. Because

of the increasing violence in her home country and the kidnapping of her husband, Isabel began a new life with her children in the United States in 1970, and, for 26 years, she resided in my district in beautiful Miami Beach.

Throughout her long and distinguished life, Isabel has never ceased placing the needs of others before her own. Isabel has served as a strong advocate for many important issues and organizations, such as the Jewish Community Center of Miami Beach, and has continued to serve as a voice for the voiceless to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this historic birthday with Isabel, who is the oldest living person in the State of Florida.

CONGRATULATING COACH MARK RICHT

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mark Richt, head coach of the Miami Hurricanes football team on being named the Walter Camp 2017 Coach of the Year and the ACC Coach of the Year.

In only two seasons at the helm, Coach Richt has created a winning environment at my alma mater, the University of Miami. This season, the Hurricanes won their first ACC Coastal Division title and ended a 7-year losing streak against rival Florida State University.

Coach Richt's success on the field this past year also earned him two notable accolades. He is the first Miami Hurricane's coach to be named ACC Coach of the Year and only the second UM coach to receive the Walter Camp award. Coach Richt is truly a phenomenal leader, and I am confident that he will continue to guide UM's football program to greater victories in the years to come.

Once again, "congratulations," "felicidades," to Coach Richt on your success this last season, and "Go Canes."

CONGRATULATING COACH JIM MORRIS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Jim Morris on celebrating his 25th and final season as head coach of the Miami Hurricanes baseball team. Coach Morris has dedicated his life to college baseball. He has won over 1,500 Division 1 games, the fifth most in the history of the sport.

During his tenure, the University of Miami, my alma mater, qualified for the College World Series more times than any other baseball program throughout the country, and he led the team to two national championships. Coach Morris has also been named National Coach of the Year three times.

Coach Morris' outstanding leadership for the past 25 years has left a positive and lasting impact on the University of Miami. I am confident that this historic legacy will continue to inspire and will continue to shape Hurricane baseball in the years to come.

Once again, "congratulations," "felicidades," to Coach Morris on a long and distinguished career.

"Go Canes."

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA FOOTBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the football team at the University of Central Florida located in my congressional district.

The Knights finished the season ranked sixth in the Nation by the Associated Press. They had a perfect 13-0 record—the only team in college football to go undefeated. UCF won the American Athletic Conference championship with an exhilarating—and excruciating—double-overtime victory against a talented team from the University of Memphis.

The Knights shook up the world of college football in the Peach Bowl on New Year's Day when they beat Auburn University, one of the most storied football programs in the country.

I had a personal stake in the outcome of the Peach Bowl, having made a friendly bet on the game with Congressman MIKE ROGERS, whose Alabama district is home to Auburn. I am excited to collect my winnings from Congressman ROGERS later today, a bucket of delicious Florida oranges that he will deliver to me while carrying a UCF helmet.

I thank the football gods that UCF did not lose. Under the terms of the wager, I would have been compelled to blanket a tree on the Capitol grounds with toilet paper, pursuant to a time-honored and, frankly, bewildering Auburn tradition. I am grateful that the Knights saved Capitol Police from the trouble of having to arrest a Member of Congress for vandalism.

Even though UCF was not given the opportunity to play for the national championship, the players and coaches of this team are national champions in my book. The Knights didn't just win games, they also won our hearts. They didn't just beat opponents, they also beat the odds. Sports—in particular, team sports—have a unique power to captivate, to unify, and to inspire.

Under the strong and steady leadership of Head Coach Scott Frost, the Knights captivated the school's students and alumni, filling them with pride. They united our Central Florida University community from Orlando to Oviedo, from Apopka to Altamonte Springs, and they inspired countless people, young and old alike, both football experts and novices. Importantly, UCF the football team brought national attention to UCF the university, which has quietly become one of Florida's and our Nation's academic gems.

To be sure, the Knights' squad was filled with talented players, seven of whom won first team all-conference honors, including rifle-armed quarterback McKenzie Milton, fleet-footed running back Adrian Killins, and one-handed defensive warrior Shaquem Griffin, who personifies courage and character.

Many members of the team justifiably played with a chip on their shoulder, having been overlooked by more established college football programs coming out of high school. They had to earn respect through their actions. Ultimately, what made the Knights so special and so successful was not what they accomplished as individuals, but, rather, what they achieved together as a team.

It was clear from watching the coaches and players that they loved and respected each other. The bond they shared made them teammates in the truest sense of the word. The team's motto, which is the name of the UCF fight song, is "Charge on." It is a message whose power extends beyond the football field and applies to life itself. When you confront challenges, charge on. When others doubt your abilities, charge on. And when you think you can't work any harder, charge on.

As a proud fan, I thank the UCF football team for showing us all what it means to charge on.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize seven students from my district who have received the 2017 National Merit Scholarships.

The criteria required to receive a National Merit Scholarship is quite difficult. In fact, of the 15,000 finalists selected, only half will actually receive scholarships. The recipients of this prestigious scholarship are Connor Schmidt of Ham Lake, Benjamin Caswell of Shoreview, Raffi Toghrumadijan of Blaine, Rachel Cho of Blaine, Piper Christenson of Spring Lake Park, Catherine Lewis of Blaine, and Kenneth Truong of Coon Rapids. Each one of these students has big plans for the future which include careers in medicine, science, and engineering—all fields that are critically important to the success of our Nation.

I congratulate each of these students on receiving this scholarship, and we look forward to watching you achieve great success in your respective careers.

Good work, and good luck.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN JEFFREY VOLLMER

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of one of Minnesota's heroes. On Tuesday, December 19, 2017, Captain Jeffrey Vollmer of the Mayer Fire Department died in the line of duty.

A loving father and husband, Jeff is survived by his wife, Emily, and their two daughters, Anika and Kennedy. He was a 12-year veteran of the all-volunteer fire department in Mayer, Minnesota. Friends and colleagues knew him as a selfless and kind leader who was always willing to help others.

Fire Chief Rod Maetzold described Jeff as the kind of guy you could count on when it mattered most. Jeff was an avid muskie fisherman who enjoyed hunting and photography. Jeff loved to work with wood. He built signs, tables, and even a bed set for his daughter.

We pray for peace and comfort for his colleagues, friends, and family. He will be missed by so many.

RECOGNIZING JAKE HENRIKSEN

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding servicemember from my district, Jake Henriksen. As a Centennial graduate and resident of Lino Lakes, Minnesota, Jake always knew he wanted to serve in the military. As a third-generation member of the U.S. Army, his service as a specialist representing the 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade Combat Team continues a family legacy of service to our Nation.

In just under 2 years in the service, Jake won the U.S. Army Europe Soldier of the Year award. Each company of the Army made up of about 100 people selects a soldier to compete in the Best Warrior Competition. Jake was chosen as his company's representative. The competition tests soldiers' abilities in a variety of areas, including a physical test, a written test, marksmanship, land navigation, chemical defense, and medical tasks. Jake excelled in all, which is why he went on to earn the title of U.S. Army Europe Soldier of the Year affirming his commitment to excellence.

Our community is very proud of Jake and his accomplishments. We admire his dedication and his commitment to serve. Congratulations, Jake.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day to remember the men and women in blue who protect and serve our great Nation. The great State of Minnesota is home to many phenomenal law enforcement officers, men and women, who put their lives on the line each and every day to ensure the safety and security of our communities.

These are the true heroes, and some, tragically, have lost their lives in the line of duty. In 2016, Deputy Steven Sandberg was shot and killed in the line of duty in St. Cloud, Minnesota. While his death was both senseless and tragic, we remember the courageous way he chose to live and serve our local community.

In honor of brave officers like Deputy Sandberg today and every day, let us remember and honor the selfless service of our men and women in blue.

DEFENDING THE AMERICA WORD

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, this morning, a high school senior sat attentively in a Chicago classroom while

this country held her college dreams hostage.

This morning, a fourth-year medical student started her rotation as an aspiring thoracic surgeon in Cambridge while this country took her talent for granted.

This morning, an enlisted soldier living in Queens eagerly awaited his basic training assignment while his country shrugged their shoulders at his service.

This morning, 800,000 young men and women woke up, offered a brave smile to their loved ones, and sought to better the only home they have ever known.

You can call them DREAMers. You can call them immigrants. You can call them Americans. You can call them husbands, wives, sons, daughters, neighbors, doctors, students, servicemen and -women.

You can call them human beings who deserve to live in a place that they call home; whose lives shouldn't be horse-traded for big walls, petty tweets, and bad campaign ads; who have offered us their talent, their tirelessness, their ingenuity, their empathy, their loyalty, and their patriotism; who have earned their government's protection in return.

We gave those 800,000 human beings our word, and if those of us here in this room who have the incredible privilege of serving in these halls bestowed with the title "Representative," if we aren't willing to defend the American word and make sure that it still means something, then who will?

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, today is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and so I rise to honor our men and women in blue. My oldest son is a local police officer, so I am acutely aware of the risks and sacrifices made by the men and women in law enforcement.

They assume risks every day—risks we sometimes take for granted in order to keep our communities safe. Being a law enforcement officer isn't a job. It is a calling. It is a service to the community.

□ 1045

Despite the very real risks, they respond to the call always knowing they may not go home.

Just last week, a deputy in the community my son serves in was struck by a car during a traffic accident. Yes, he was responding to a traffic accident, and he was hit by a car. It broke his back, broke his neck, and crushed his face. The last update I received, he was in critical condition. All he was doing was trying to protect people at a traffic accident.

We can't take that for granted. Today we need to pause and simply

offer a thank-you to law enforcement officers across the country and to their families. We offer a prayer for those who have reached the end of watch.

Join me today in thanking police officers across this Nation. Take a moment to simply say thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF MACOMB COUNTY

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the bicentennial year of Macomb County, Michigan.

On January 15, 1818, Macomb County was formally organized as the third county in the territory of Michigan. Macomb County was designated nearly 20 years before Michigan even gained statehood. It was named in honor of General Alexander Macomb, a decorated veteran of the War of 1812. Macomb's rich history of service to our Nation doesn't stop there.

In July 1917, almost 100 years after Macomb's founding, Selfridge Field was established. Everyone in Macomb County and the National Guard knows the importance of Selfridge Air National Guard to our national security. Its founding just 13 years after the Wright brothers' first flight is a true testament to the commitment to national security and to innovation that has defined Macomb County for 200 years.

In addition to being the auto capital of the world, Macomb led the manufacturing that resulted in the arsenal of democracy in America's victory in World War II. Our defense industry helped the Allies win World War II and continues to provide necessary resources to maintain our strength and security in the world.

I am proud to represent Macomb County in Washington, D.C., and eager to celebrate the 200th anniversary of this great county.

HONORING AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay honor and pay tribute to the Honorable Dr. Martin Luther King, and, Mr. Speaker, I am so proud and honored to have the preeminent privilege of doing so here in the well of the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. King was born at a time, to quote Dr. Benjamin Hooks, when he could buy a hat but he couldn't try it on.

He was born at a time when he could only sit in the balcony of a movie, and that was in some movies. There were others that he wasn't allowed in at all.

He was born at a time when he had to sit in the back of the bus or he might be barred from riding the bus totally.

He was born at a time when he would have to wait in line and others of a different hue could always stand in front of him.

He was born at a time when invidious discrimination and when segregation was apparent and lawful.

Dr. King was born at a time when there were few who were willing to challenge the hate and the bigotry that was emanating from this country in all of its arenas for the most part.

But Dr. King was a person who understood that that which you will tolerate you will not change. Dr. King refused to tolerate bigotry and hatred. He refused to tolerate it, and, in fact, that is what separated him from a good many other people, for the most part.

Dr. King, if I may recall, went to Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963. He went there to do something about the conditions, about the discrimination, about the hate and the bigotry. When he went there to do something about it, there were people who were tolerating hatred and bigotry.

There were people there who were very prominent members of the clergy—eight of them—who decided that they would write Dr. King a letter and explain to him that what he was doing was unwise and untimely. They explained to him that law and order should prevail. They commended the constabulary for protecting the city.

These were persons who were considered honorable people, but they were people who were willing to tolerate hatred and bigotry. They, in fact, insisted that we should let the courts handle this: Let's work it through peaceful means by which we might sit and negotiate with those who would perpetrate hatred and bigotry.

Dr. King, on the other hand, sought to use nonviolent protest as a methodology by which change might take place. The things that he could not tolerate he was willing to protest to bring about change.

There were other great orators of the time. Dr. King was indeed a great orator, one of the greatest ever, but there were other great orators. There were other persons who were knowledgeable, had Ph.D.'s, and who were very well versed in what was happening with discrimination and could have spoken up on it. Many did speak up, but many of them were willing to tolerate it. Dr. King was not, and that separated him from a good many people who were orators, who were learned, and who understood invidious discrimination. In fact, they were opposed to it, but they tolerated it in quiet ways.

So when Dr. King went to Birmingham, these eight clergypersons having written him a letter, he found himself incarcerated in the Birmingham jail, and he decided to respond to them. The "Letter from Birmingham Jail" is a response to eight notable clergy members in Birmingham.

So he decided to respond to their letter. In responding to their letter, he gives us this masterpiece that really addresses what invidious discrimination is all about, why you can't consider yourself an outside agitator if you are an American, and why you have to do this not only for yourself, but for the generations to come.

But reading Dr. King's letter, as masterful as it is, is not enough. So today, in honor of his birthday, January 15, I am asking people to read the letter that Dr. King was responding to. If you read that letter, then you will understand why you cannot tolerate hate.

ADMINISTRATION'S OIL DRILLING PLAN INCLUDES FLORIDA

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Department of the Interior announced a newly proposed plan to expand offshore drilling off our country's coasts, including Florida's. Shortly after making the announcement, Secretary Zinke guaranteed that States will have a voice in this process.

So I have come to the floor today as the elected Representative of the Florida Keys and southern Miami-Dade, a district that includes ecological treasures and economic drivers like the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Everglades National Park, and Biscayne National Park, to be that voice.

I can say this with confidence: the people of Florida and its leaders, including myself, have made it clear over and over again how we feel about offshore drilling near Florida. We don't want it.

We don't want to put our beautiful beaches and environmental treasures at risk. We don't want to risk the livelihoods of millions of hardworking American men, women, and families when there is no need. Florida simply has too much to lose.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with many of my colleagues in this Chamber, both Florida Senators MARCO RUBIO and BILL NELSON, and our Governor Rick Scott, are going to make sure Florida's voice is heard loud and clear on this issue: we don't want drilling near Florida's shores, we don't need drilling near Florida's shores, and we will not allow this or any administration to put our economy or our environment at risk.

HONORING MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENT
DALE ADAMSON

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Adamson, a dedicated teacher of mathematics at Howard D. McMillan Middle School in my district and a recent recipient of the prestigious Milken Educator Award.

Central to Mr. Adamson's selection was his classroom rapport with students, ability to explain complicated concepts through real-world applications, and a daily commitment to his craft. Not satisfied with simply lecturing on abstract theories at the chalkboard, Mr. Adamson gained well-deserved renown for exciting his students with real-world problems like how algebra was used by NASA recently to land a probe on an asteroid or the multitude of mathematical principles one might observe launching objects off the school's roof.

The Milken Family Foundation's motto states that "the future belongs to the educated."

As a past member of the Miami-Dade School Board and the proud father of two daughters in the public school system, I am glad to have teachers like Mr. Adamson in our community. I sincerely believe that educators with the heart and imagination displayed by Mr. Adamson are the key to unlocking the next generation's potential.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues how critical it is that Republicans and Democrats work in good faith to find a compromise on immigration policy in the coming days.

Congress first began trying to pass legislation for the benefit of young immigrants who were brought to our country as children through no fault of their own some 17 years ago. All attempts have failed, but this time failure is not an option.

800,000 DREAMers who came forward and registered with the government in recent years would be at risk. These are young people who are working, paying taxes, getting educated, and contributing to our country. They speak English. Some of them want to serve in our military to defend our freedoms. They sat in the same classrooms and grew up with our own children. Many have no memories of their countries of origin.

Mr. Speaker, these are America's children. That is why we all need to work together in the coming days and find a compromise that can secure the future for these young immigrants and, at the same time, make our country safer and more prosperous by securing our borders and reforming our immigration laws.

Americans have been expecting results from Congress on immigration policy for years. Enough is enough. The time for action is now.

A YEAR OF RESULTS FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment today to highlight the real results we have achieved on behalf of north country families in this Congress.

In 2017, we worked on many important initiatives to grow the north country economy, support our veterans and military families, strengthen our local healthcare system, and improve education. In fact, last year alone, the House of Representatives passed more than 470 bills and resolutions, 90 percent of which are bipartisan.

In Congress, I focused on important legislation to grow our local economy. I recently introduced two bills that will increase access to rural broadband and help our north country farmers

bring their production into the 21st century.

I also helped the House pass legislation to strengthen career and technical education programs. This bipartisan bill updates Federal career and technical education policies to help more students gain the skills they need to compete for in-demand jobs.

I have also introduced bipartisan legislation to boost north country tourism by extending the time Canadian visitors can spend each year in the United States.

We have also made significant strides when it comes to education. For the past 3 years, I have worked to ensure that our students have the educational opportunities to achieve their limitless potential. In my first year in Congress, I introduced a bill to expand Pell grant access so that students can access this critical financial aid resource during summer months. I was pleased to see my initiative for year-round Pell signed into law this past May, meaning students and families in our district now have another important tool to achieve their higher education dreams.

As the proud Representative of Fort Drum and the Navy nuclear site at Kesselring, my district is home to thousands of military families that make incredible sacrifices serving our Nation.

In 2017, I was pleased to have a bill I authored pass the House of Representatives to help military spouses. This legislation eliminates a loophole that requires military spouses to establish residency every time their servicemember receives a new assignment.

I also introduced two bills that will help military spouses that were signed into law in December. The Lift the Relocation Burden from Military Spouses Act increases professional license portability. This provides reimbursement for licensing fees of up to \$500 for each permanent change of station. The second is the Military Residency Choice Act, which allows spouses the choice to establish the same State of residency as their servicemember spouse for voting and tax purposes.

New York's 21st District is the proud home of more veterans than any other district in New York State. My district offices have been hard at work on their behalf helping to recover over \$2.25 million in hard-earned VA benefits for our veterans.

Congress also passed an extension of the GI Bill education benefits that lifts the expiration on when they can be used, giving veterans more flexibility to attend higher education institutions.

Last summer, Congress passed the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, which President Trump signed into law. This important law makes it easier to terminate failing VA employees and provides stronger protections for whistleblowers who raise the alarm over wait lists or medical malpractice.

□ 1100

No veteran deserves to be denied care, and this law brings needed accountability to the VA.

Healthcare is another issue I hear frequently about when I speak with families and businesses across my district, especially ensuring our rural communities have the access they need.

In September, I introduced the CHIME Act, a bipartisan bill to extend the Community Health Center Fund for 5 years. Federally Qualified Health Centers like Hudson Headwaters, North Country Family Health, and the Community Health Center of the North Country provide over 95,000 people in my district with critical healthcare and preventative services.

I am pleased that this bill has over 200 cosponsors. The overwhelming bipartisan support for the CHIME Act was instrumental in the House passing legislation to extend the Community Health Center Fund for 2 years.

I have also been a strong supporter of CHIP and I voted to pass a 5-year reauthorization in the House in November.

While we work to have long-term solutions for these two programs signed into law, I was pleased to pass a critical extension for them in December.

Mr. Speaker, last year was busy working hard to grow our North Country economy, increase access to education, serve our brave veterans, and much more. I am honored every day to serve New York's 21st District in Congress and I look forward to continuing to work my hardest in 2018.

SUPPORTING THOSE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Philip Gutis.

Mr. Gutis is from New Hope, Pennsylvania. At the age of 56, he has been diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Early-onset Alzheimer's currently affects hundreds of thousands of Americans who are under the age of 65. Diagnoses for this debilitating neurological disease in its early stages can be arduous and frustrating, as many of the symptoms resemble less serious issues like stress.

Mr. Gutis recently visited my district office to discuss living with this disease. He detailed the pain, stress, and confusion that he felt when first diagnosed. He described how simple tasks can become challenging when dealing with memory loss. But his message was not to complain about his ailment, it was to be a voice for other individuals who live with Alzheimer's, those who are unable to have their voices be heard.

Alzheimer's is a serious neurological disease. Though there is no cure, treat-

ment for symptoms can help slow the progressive effects of dementia.

I stand in support of Mr. Gutis and all those living with Alzheimer's.

DOYLESTOWN HEALTH FOUNDATION

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Doylestown Health Foundation is a healthcare network that has provided critical care to the Bucks County community for over 90 years. In recognition of its continued work, Doylestown Health recently received \$10 million in gifts, the largest amount in their history.

The pair of \$5 million donations were given by two families with close ties to the Doylestown Health Foundation. Richard and Angela Clark have had four generations of family cared for at Doylestown Hospital, while Alex Gorsky, the CEO of Johnson & Johnson, and his wife, Patricia, have served on the hospital board and board of directors, respectively.

Supporting institutions in our community through charitable donations are crucial to community prosperity. The generous gifts of the Clark and Gorsky families are earmarked for vital projects like a new heart and vascular center.

With contributions like these, the Doylestown Health Foundation will be able to continue providing optimal care to those in our Bucks County community.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3759. An act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1425. An act to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERIFF'S DEPUTY ZACKARI PARRISH

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroism and bravery of Douglas County Sheriff's Deputy Zackari Parrish.

I attended Deputy Parrish's funeral this past Friday and heard what a great husband, father, son, and law enforcement officer he was. He was a father of two young daughters; a husband to his wife, Gracie; a son to his loving parents; and a colleague to many of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

Zackari lost his life 10 days ago, responding to a domestic disturbance call in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Sergeant David Buyers spoke of Zackari's

bravery that day, saying that he didn't flinch, he didn't back down, he didn't hesitate. But he also did everything in his power, according to the sheriff, to talk down the gunman.

Sadly, we can't always win the battles against evil, and on that day, Zackari lost. But a lost battle is not a lost war. Zackari knew he fought in a war to defend the innocent and to stand up for good.

It is an honor to speak about a hero. We have the chance to honor one of those people who devoted their life to others. People like Zackari remind us that our world is not lost, evil will not win the day, and we can give more to this world than we take from it.

Zackari is a hero for the people of Douglas County, Colorado, his fellow sheriff's deputies, and the State of Colorado. I pray for his family, friends, and fellow deputies as they charge ahead in life without their loved one. I pray that God will give them peace in this time and that God will be glorified even in the midst of this horrible trial. I pray for the other law enforcement members, the other heroes wounded that day, as well: Michael Doyle, Taylor Davis, Jeff Pelle, and Thomas O'Donnell.

We can never repay their sacrifices for our community. We can only commit ourselves to never forget the cost they willingly paid for us.

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 11 o'clock and 6 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:

Lord our God, we give You thanks for giving us another year.

At the beginning of this new session, surround us with Your Holy Spirit. Encompass with Your power all the walls and the dome of this building, truly a symbol to the world of inalienable rights and the freedom of people.

Guide and protect Your elected servants in government and all who work in this place. May all who visit here be treated with respect and kindness.

May the comings and goings of Your people be under the seal of Your loving care, and may all our work 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 Texas (Mr. BABIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BABIN 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.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 3, 2018.

Speaker PAUL RYAN,
The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: I write to inform you that I will resign from the office of U.S. Representative, effective 5:00 PM EST, Monday, January 15, 2018. For the past seventeen years, it has been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve the people of Ohio as a Member of Congress.

I thank you for your leadership as Speaker and wish you all the best in future success.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. TIBERI,
Representative to Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
January 3, 2018.

Hon. JOHN R. KASICH,
Riffe Center,
Columbus, OH.

DEAR GOVERNOR KASICH: I am writing to inform you that I will resign from my seat effective 5:00 PM EST, Monday, January 15, 2018.

It has been an unimaginable privilege to serve the people of the 12th district of Ohio for the past seventeen years. Throughout this time, I have been honored to have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to strengthen our nation and improve people's lives. However, I am equally proud of the outstanding constituent services my office has provided to help countless central Ohioans solve myriad problems with the federal government. Public service is a sacred trust with those we represent, and I hope I have been able to make a difference in people's lives.

It was a distinct honor to succeed you in Congress, and thank you for your leadership as governor to make Ohio an incredible place to live, work, and raise a family. I wish you all the best in continued success.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. TIBERI,
Representative to Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

REPUBLICAN REFORMS CREATE JOBS

(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, last week, I had the opportunity to visit every county in the district I represent on an annual agenda day tour. I shared with local media and constituents the legislative agenda for 2018, as well as my appreciation for the Republican tax reform bill, which has already created jobs.

While walking through Walgreens 2 weeks ago, the owner of Mooneyhan's Auto Service, Bill Mooneyhan, told me that, as a direct result of Republican tax cuts, he is adding a new bay to his shop.

Nephron Pharmaceuticals of Cayce, led by Lou and Bill Kennedy, announced an annual \$1,000 pay increase and is adding 125 jobs in Lexington County.

American Airlines and Aflac are adding jobs, while countless other businesses are providing pay increases and bonuses for their employees.

I am grateful for the leadership of President Donald Trump, Speaker PAUL RYAN, Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, Republican Whip STEVE SCALISE, and Chairman KEVIN BRADY. I thank them for providing much-needed tax relief for citizens to create jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Best wishes to Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED and Marie Royce on their decision to conclude service in Congress.

URGING THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO ENFORCE THE FLIGHT SAFETY LAW

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, each year we are reminded of the day that Continental Flight 3407 crashed in western New York. This tragedy forever changed our community and stole the lives of husbands, wives, sons, daughters, sisters, and brothers.

In their grief, the families of Flight 3407 bravely turned their loss into a powerful force for change. With their leadership, Congress enacted strong and landmark aviation safety reform legislation. That reform exactly aligned with what the National Transportation Safety Board concluded: that the crash was avoidable, and that pilot error and failed training procedures were the causes.

We have new leadership at the Federal Aviation Administration, and I strongly urge him to swiftly enforce the flight safety law. We, the members of the western New York delegation and the families of Flight 3407, will be watching closely.

EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

(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, this Friday, January 12, marks the eighth anniversary of the devastating earthquake that took the lives of 250,000 Haitians and left unimaginable destruction. Local south Florida organizations, led by Haitian Women of Miami, will hold a silent march at 4 p.m. this Friday to mark the occasion, walking from Northwest 62nd Street to North Miami Avenue to the Little Haiti Cultural Center.

These past 8 years, the people of Haiti have shown incredible resolve, even after being hit by Hurricanes Matthew and Irma recently, and, sadly, there is still much work to be done, Mr. Speaker.

Many Haitians came to the United States after these natural disasters seeking safety and security. Sadly, the administration terminated the Temporary Protected Status, TPS, to these individuals, forcing them to return to a devastated Haiti that is still struggling to rebuild.

As we mark this sad anniversary, we must reaffirm our commitment to helping Haiti move forward, and that must start by calling upon the administration to reverse its decision to terminate TPS for Haiti.

OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING IS A RISKY PROPOSITION

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Trump administration proposed opening up all of the coast of the United States of America to offshore oil drilling. This is a very risky proposition for my home State of Florida. Our economy depends on tourism, clean water, a strong fishing economy, and we have a military mission line off of the West Coast of Florida that has to be protected from drilling.

We are not that far removed from the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster that caused loss of life, billions of dollars in economic damage, and significant environmental damage as well. Why would we put our economy, our environment, our military missions at risk for such a risky proposition?

There may be appropriate places to drill for oil, but it is not off of the coast of the State of Florida.

My Republican colleague FRANCIS ROONEY and I have cosponsored a bipartisan bill, the Florida Coastal Protection Act, H.R. 2002. I urge the support of the Congress in turning back this very risky proposal for offshore oil drilling by the Trump administration.

IF YOU DON'T WANT A TAX CUT, MAIL IT BACK TO THE IRS

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

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, some folks in Washington are upset because we just passed the largest tax cut in American history. They think this money is Washington's money and that politicians and bureaucrats should decide how to spend it.

I could not disagree more. You and I know that this money belongs to the American people, came right out of their wallets.

Under our new law, we put hard-working families first by helping them cope with the cost of raising children by doubling the child tax credit. We also help small businesses by cutting their taxes so that they can compete with foreign companies and create jobs right here in America.

Well, for those folks who don't think they need an extra \$1,500 or so, or who think politicians and bureaucrats can spend their money better, I have a solution: go ahead and drop your new refund check in the mail. Send it to the IRS. They will be glad to take your money.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Children's Health Insurance Program that so many of our vulnerable young people depend on for their healthcare coverage. Across the country, 8 million young people use CHIP, more than 300,000 people in Illinois alone. But their coverage and, consequently, their health and future are now in jeopardy because this House has failed to reauthorize the program for the first time in 20 years. Yesterday marked 100 days since the authorization lapsed.

Before the new year, Congress temporarily extended limited funding, but the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is already warning that some States won't have funding to make it through the month of January.

It is beyond shameful that this House can pass trillions of dollars in tax breaks for those with the most security but not see its way to provide health insurance for the children most in need.

This is a vital program. This is a popular program. This is a program that traditionally enjoys bipartisan support. There is no reason to continue to extend the uncertainty.

I urge my colleagues to act and reauthorize the CHIP program as soon as possible to offer much-needed stability to families and their children depending on this coverage.

CELEBRATING LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, to commend law enforcement officers throughout our Nation who answer the call to serve their communities.

Law enforcement officers face increasingly difficult circumstances while working to serve and protect the public. It is a dangerous job, and often it is a thankless job.

Our officers put on their uniform each day knowing that they can be in harm's way at any moment. They answer the call in times of distress. They follow the rules, and they wear the badges proudly.

This day is designated annually, on January 9, to show support to our law enforcement leaders in every community, including the Capitol Police, who are with us here today.

Madam Speaker, we must remember that our officers are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives. They are human, and they, arguably, have one of the most difficult jobs in America.

So today, and each day, let's honor our brothers and sisters in blue. Let's thank them for the important work that they do to keep us all safe.

LET'S KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OPEN

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

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, the Republican majority spent the entire year of 2017 in this House essentially stacking the deck for the most powerful interests in this country. That tax bill, you look at it closely, it grants massive benefits to people at the very top of the economy, at the cost of over \$1 trillion in debt that our children and grandchildren will have to pay back.

Now, with just 10 days to go before another potential government shutdown, and a shutdown which would cost our economy billions of dollars, we still have not gotten a budget. Despite the fact that Republicans control the House, they control the Senate, they control the White House, and they have consolidated power, they can't keep the government open for more than a few weeks at a time.

The way we have to do this is to work together across the aisle. We are willing, but we can't be brought into the conversation 15 minutes before the government is going to be shut down; and we ought to deal with the big priorities that we were sent here to deal with, where we agree.

We agree on CHIP, at least the majority of the House does. Bring it to the floor for a vote.

We agree on DACA. A majority would vote for a Dreams bill. Let's just work on the things we can agree on and leave the partisan fights to those areas where we really disagree. This is long overdue.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today again to call on my colleagues to quickly pass a 5-year extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program. Around 85,000 Iowa children rely on CHIP for their health. If we don't act, families and children will suffer.

This is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue, and we must pass a solution together. Families should not be worried about losing coverage for their children.

And the fact that this Congress cannot muster the ability to pass a long-term extension of CHIP is confounding, to say the least.

We must quickly set aside any political games, come to the table, and work together to pass a long-term CHIP funding bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to set aside any political games or partisan brinksmanship and come together and fully fund CHIP. The health of our children is at stake.

□ 1215

REMEMBERING SISTER CATHERINE PINKERTON

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Catherine Pinkerton, who journeyed from us during this past Christmas season in Cleveland. She had attained the age of 96.

Sister Catherine was a Roman Catholic Sisters of St. Joseph order for 78 years. She rose to serve as president of her congregation, and she was also selected to lead the national Leadership Conference of Women Religious and was awarded its Outstanding Leadership Award in 2006.

She worked as the founder of NETWORK, the social justice lobby, urging Congress to care for the needy and the sick, and she became a tireless advocate in these Halls of Congress for justice, especially for the poor and oppressed. One of her greatest victories was pushing for the passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program, which insures 9 million of America's children.

In 2008, Sister Catherine was invited to deliver the benediction at the Democratic National Convention, and she urged Americans to "call forth and affirm as leaders of this Nation, persons

of vision, courage, and solid values, clearly focused not only on what is but, rather, open to the challenge of discerning and welcoming what is yet to be."

Sister Catherine, your sacrificial life was extraordinary, and you were countercultural. You will be missed. May your passionate words and deeds guide us to care for our fellow human beings. The American people are grateful for your lifetime of service.

I will later include in the RECORD a eulogy and tribute to Sister Catherine by Sister Christine Schenk, who spoke at her memorial service and whose first sentence about her reads: "Catherine's life was all about bringing glad tidings to the poor and letting the oppressed go free. She was so powerfully passionate and so dedicated to her mission of justice, who can doubt that the spirit had indeed anointed her for this work?"

CONGRATULATING PANAMA CITY BEACH FIRE CHIEF JOHN DALY ON RETIREMENT

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

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Panama City Beach Fire Chief John Daly on his retirement.

Chief Daly served the people of Panama City Beach for 33 years and willingly took up the responsibility to run into the fire, putting his life on the line to save others countless times.

When he began his career with Panama City Beach Fire and Rescue in 1985, there were only seven career firefighters. Today that number has grown to 35 as our city has grown and thrived. John was promoted to chief in 2002 and has remained an outstanding leader ever since. He considers the firefighters under his watch to be family, and he knows that they will continue to do great things under the leadership of the new fire chief, Larry Couch.

Madam Speaker, please join me in saying thank you to Chief Daly, his wife, Joan, and their daughters for their years of service and sacrifice, and wish them luck as they enjoy a new chapter in life.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY AND HONORING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY DANIEL MCCARTNEY

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

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, before I came to Congress, I spent 33 years as a cop. Today is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, a day to honor our dedicated law enforcement officers who selflessly put their lives on the line each and every day to protect our families. We not only honor

those who protect and serve us today, but we also remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Sadly, yesterday, in my community, we experienced the death, the murder, of another police officer. His name was Deputy Daniel McCartney of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department, shot and killed while responding to a burglary call. This brave man was also a Navy veteran and leaves behind a wife and three sons—4 years old, 6 years old, and 9 years old—without a father.

I ask you to join me today in praying for his family and for his colleagues in the Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

Every day, law enforcement officers are asked to stand tall in the face of danger. I know.

To paraphrase a quote from Sheriff Pastor yesterday after the death of his fallen officer, he said: Deputy McCartney ran toward trouble, ran to protect. He is a man who served with the heart of a servant, with spirit, with strength and compassion.

Please join me today in thanking our law enforcement officers across this Nation for their dedicated service.

MEDIA POSITIVE NEWS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the media's daily barrage of negative stories have undermined the public's confidence in their reporting. The media continues to ignore positive stories about the President's effective policies.

If the media were not so biased against the President, more of the American people would know the following:

The 4.1 percent unemployment rate for the entire country is the lowest it has been in 17 years;

Latino and African-American unemployment numbers are the lowest in decades;

The stock market has broken numerous records, adding significant value to Americans' investment and retirement accounts;

The economy is growing at 3.3 percent, the fastest in years;

Consumer confidence is at a 17-year high.

The liberal media should report the facts, even if they make the President look good.

RECOGNIZING LITTLE ROCK POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today on this National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day to recognize this year's Little Rock Police Department recruit class and their efforts to

fill dozens of sworn officer vacancies within the department.

Little Rock's police force has suffered a loss in numbers over the past few years, currently with 84 sworn officer vacancies. According to department data, this fall's recruit class is tied for the largest number of starting recruits since 1993.

Earlier this year, City Manager Bruce Moore announced that officers would work mandatory overtime due to the vacancies. So I thank City Manager Moore, Chief Buckner, and Mayor Mark Stodola for their leadership and efforts to address these vacancies and return this department to full strength.

I respect and appreciate the important work of our police throughout the Nation who are charged with the critical work of protecting us in our States and communities.

I wish this recruit class the very best of luck as they pursue their goal of joining the Little Rock Police Department and ensuring the safety of our citizens, our neighborhoods, and our property.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to claim that climate change is real, that it is manmade, and that we have a responsibility to act bravely and constructively to minimize the damage it does to humanity and to the fauna and flora of our planet.

The reality of our warming atmosphere, oceans, and continents has been established in thousands of peer-reviewed articles. This is scientific fact accepted by the governments of peoples of almost every nation in the world.

But science is always evolving, and scientists continue to work diligently to discover the facts, the processes, and the implications for all of us. Mostly, what we learn is sad and destructive.

Last Thursday, the peer-reviewed academic journal *Science* published a new study that concludes the frequency of coral bleaching has increased so much that reefs cannot recover between severe episodes.

We need to focus on just the facts of climate change and then be wise enough and bold enough to act. Every Member of Congress must bear the burden of this responsibility.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF FIREFIGHTER LIEUTENANT MATT LETOURNEAU

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of Philadelphia firefighter Lieutenant Matt LeTourneau, who is also a long-time member of the Springfield Fire Company in Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Lieutenant LeTourneau tragically died Saturday evening, giving his life protecting his community while battling a row house fire in subfreezing temperatures in the city of Philadelphia.

Matt graduated from Cardinal O'Hara High School in 1993 in Delaware County, and he served 11 years as a member of the Philadelphia Fire Department. He joined the Springfield Fire Company in 1991 at the age of 16, and he served and continued to serve as an instructor at the Delaware County Emergency Services Training Center, where he was praised by his colleagues for his skill and the knowledge that he passed on to them about how to keep themselves safe.

He served his community with dedication, commitment, and courage, his colleagues said. "We took a big loss in the fire service," J.J. Bonsall, one of his closest friends said. "He was one of the greatest firefighters we know."

He was also a participant in something called Redpaw Emergency Relief Team, making sure that animals that are harmed in fires have a safe place.

Madam Speaker, I thank Lieutenant Matt LeTourneau for his service and sacrifice for the community that he loved. The condolences and gratitude of an entire region are with his mother, with his extended family, his friends, and the firefighters from Springfield and Philadelphia fire companies.

RECOGNIZING STOP THE BLEED TRAINING COURSES

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

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Stop the Bleed training courses offered by the American College of Surgeons.

Every year, more than 180,000 Americans die from injuries sustained in a myriad of ways. What many people may not know is that a large number of these fatalities result not from instantaneous trauma but, rather, from blood loss. From the moment a major injury occurs, the clock is ticking. Uncontrolled bleeding can kill us in as little as 5 to 10 minutes.

Bleeding is a preventable cause of death, and that is why the Stop the Bleed effort is such a valuable program. The American College of Surgeons, working in partnership with many other organizations, has now made this training easily available to Americans across this country.

I had the opportunity to participate in Stop the Bleed training myself, and as part of my course, I learned how to properly apply bandages and tourniquets. And do you know, what? It actually was kind of fun.

We should do everything possible to ensure that more accidents don't become tragedies. This effort must include integrating blood loss prevention into our preparedness toolkit. Let's all

be ready to come to the aid of our fellow citizens if the need ever arises.

Madam Speaker, let's stop the bleed.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR. RICHARD ALBERTA

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

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of a constituent of mine in my district, Dr. Richard Alberta, senior pastor at Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Brighton, Michigan. On December 31, 2017, Dr. Alberta stepped down from the pulpit after 40 years of service.

Originally from New York, Dr. Alberta was raised in a nonreligious home. After marrying his high school sweetheart, Donna, he embarked on a successful career until, one day, something changed. He attended a church service and realized the missing puzzle piece in his life was to do whatever he can to pursue and prayerfully consider the path felt by the love of his Lord and devotion to his ministry.

Over the past four decades, Dr. Alberta dedicated his time, wisdom, and leadership to the Lord and the church. His friendship and faithful guidance has made a lasting impression on the lives of so many.

As he begins his next chapter, I wish him all the best, and I commend him on his unwavering commitment to his congregation and to our community as a whole.

□ 1230

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSELEHTNEN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

DOMESTIC EXPLOSIVES DETECTION CANINE CAPACITY BUILDING ACT OF 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4577) to establish a working group to determine ways to develop a domestic canine breeding network to produce high quality explosives detection canines, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4577

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 "Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BEHAVIORAL STANDARDS.**—The term "behavioral standards" means standards for the evaluation of explosives detection working canines for certain factors, including canine temperament, work drive, suitability for training, environmental factors used in evaluations, and canine familiarity with natural or man-made surfaces or working conditions relevant to the canine's expected work area.

(2) **MEDICAL STANDARDS.**—The term "medical standards" means standards for the evaluation of explosives detection working canines for certain factors, including canine health, management of heredity health conditions, breeding practices, genetics, pedigree, and long-term health tracking.

(3) **TECHNICAL STANDARDS.**—The term "technical standards" means standards for the evaluation of explosives detection working canines for certain factors, including canine search techniques, handler-canine communication, detection testing conditions and logistics, and learned explosive odor libraries.

SEC. 3. DOMESTIC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, shall establish a working group to determine ways to develop a decentralized domestic canine breeding network to produce high quality explosives detection canines and modernize canine training standards.

(b) **WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION.**—The working group established under subsection (a) shall be comprised of representatives from the following:

(1) The Transportation Security Administration.

(2) The Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) National domestic canine associations with expertise in breeding and pedigree.

(4) Universities with expertise related to explosives detection canines and canine breeding.

(5) Domestic canine breeders and vendors.

(c) **CHAIRPERSONS.**—The Administrator for the Transportation Security Administration shall approve of two individuals from among the representatives of the working group specified in subsection (b) to serve as the Chairpersons of the working group. One such Chairperson shall be from the entities specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of such subsection, and the other such Chairperson shall be from the entities specified in paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of such subsection.

(d) **PRELIMINARY STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the working group under subsection (a), such working group shall submit to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration preliminary behavioral standards, medical standards, and technical standards for the domestic canine breeding network and canine training described in such subsection, including recommendations on how the Transportation Security Administration can engage stakeholders to further the development of such network and training.

(e) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 180 days after submission of recommendations to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration under subsection (c), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a strategy for expanding the domestic canine breeding network described in

subsection (a), based on such recommendations.

(f) **CONSULTATION.**—In developing the strategy required under subsection (e), the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall consult with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Director of the United States Secret Service, and the heads of other Department of Homeland Security components determined appropriate by the Administrator to incorporate, to the extent practicable, mission needs across the Department for an expanded domestic explosives detection canine breeding network that can be leveraged to help meet the Department's operational needs.

(g) **SUNSET.**—The working group established under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is two years after the submission of the strategy required under subsection (e).

SEC. 4. ACQUIRING BASELINE CAPACITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 270 days after the submission of recommendations to the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration under section 3, the Administrator shall issue baseline behavioral standards, medical standards, and technical standards for explosives detection canines.

(b) **STANDARDS.**—The baseline behavioral standards, medical standards, and technical standards referred to in subsection (a) shall be incorporated, as appropriate, into all statements of work for the Transportation Security Administration explosives detection canine contracts and reflect the detection capabilities required to effectively mitigate terrorist threats. Such standards may be revised by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, as necessary.

SEC. 5. NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the working group established under this Act.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of passage of my bill, H.R. 4577, the Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act of 2017.

This legislation creates a working group on behavioral, medical, and technical standards for explosives detection working dog breeding and training programs.

This group will consist of the Transportation Security Administration, the

Office of Science and Technology, private sector canine vendors and breeders, industry associations, leading veterinarians, and academics with firsthand knowledge of the subject matter.

The group's final report on standards should reflect the latest in canine science and will be presented to the TSA Administrator for further breeding development as well as canine procurement.

This bill is common sense. Canines are far more efficient than any machine and much more cost effective. The use of detection canines by the TSA is critical in keeping passengers over American skies safe.

With this in mind, why then, Madam Speaker, does the TSA procure the majority of its canines from European vendors in conjunction with the Department of Defense?

American canine breeders produce exceptional working dog lines, but the TSA's arcane procurement rules and training requirements create barriers to entry for American breeders and especially private sector vendors.

With the passage of H.R. 4577, the TSA will be required to incorporate findings and standards from the working group into its procurement process to create greater consistency and transparency for private sector vendors.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense bill and pass H.R. 4577, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4577, the Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act of 2017.

In recent years, the volume of air travel has steadily risen, with 42 million people traveling domestically in the last days of 2017 alone. Last year, the worldwide number of people flying rose to a historic high of 4 billion passengers.

The high visibility of the aviation sector makes it a persistent target for terrorists who wish to carry out attacks and inflict harm upon U.S. citizens. As such, the TSA must continue to collaborate with stakeholders and better incorporate proven security tools into security operations. One of the tools that we know to be effective is canine detection teams, particularly in detecting and protecting against explosive threats.

In a May 2017 hearing before the Committee on Homeland Security last year, the Director of the Threat Assessment Division within the Transportation Security Administration attested to the value of aviation screening canine teams, saying: "Canines are incredibly effective. They can do things we can't even measure with machines."

The legislation before us today, H.R. 4577, would require the TSA to establish a working group of stakeholders to determine ways to develop a domestic canine breeding network to produce ex-

plosives detection canines and modernize canine training standards.

Today, the demand for trained and certified dogs is huge, with more and more security stakeholders coming to appreciate the explosive detection capabilities of our four-legged friends. This heightened demand has led to a shortage, presenting challenges for the U.S. Government in the procurement of suitable canines.

In testimony before the committee, the TSA and various stakeholders have cited these challenges and expressed concern regarding how to best address this shortage. That is why this legislation is so important.

The working group mandated in this legislation draws from authorities on explosives detection canines and homeland security missions, including the Transportation Security Administration, the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate, national domestic canine associations, academic experts, and domestic canine breeders and vendors.

The knowledge and expertise offered by this diverse group of representatives will ensure that the DHS can implement an effective and impactful strategy to further the development of explosives detection canine teams.

For these reasons, Madam Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO), who is the chairman of the Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my colleague's bill, H.R. 4477, the Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act of 2017.

This bill will help develop a domestic program through which the DHS and the TSA can acquire high-quality explosives detection canines from the United States. Currently, too much money is spent on too few canines because we are forced to compete for dogs from other countries in this high-demand threat environment.

Mr. ROGERS' bill will help mitigate threats to aviation security by working to build our capacity here at home while proliferating the use of highly capable explosives detection canines. In a time when threats to homeland security are rapidly evolving, these dogs represent one of our greatest security tools in detecting explosives in surface and aviation transportation systems.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. ROGERS for his leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

H.R. 4577 will jump-start conversations on how to increase the supply of canines and better integrate them in the TSA's layered security at airports

and surface transportation hubs. Canines have become an invaluable asset to the DHS in fulfilling its many important missions and goals.

Even prior to the inception of the Department, canines were utilized by law enforcement and first responder agencies for decades, proving to be one of the most effective and versatile tools in detecting threats and protecting the homeland.

Terrorists are working hard to exploit vulnerabilities in our transportation system, and the U.S. must utilize all of our available resources to combat these threats. Canines are undoubtedly one such resource, providing a robust and reliable layer of security and giving Americans peace of mind.

If enacted, H.R. 4577 would better position the TSA to achieve and maintain a reliable supply of canines to deploy to not only airport terminals, but also to cargo operations and mass transit systems.

As such, Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4577, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, this is an area that we have spent a lot of time on in the Committee on Homeland Security over several years, and I can state without equivocation that there is no technology that is more effective at detecting explosives in our transportation systems than these canines.

It is a shame that we have allowed ourselves to become so heavily dependent on European providers for this very essential asset. This bill will go a long way in helping our country establish its own production of these essential assets for our use in keeping our country safe and secure.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4577, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DHS OVERSEAS PERSONNEL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2017

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4567) to require a Department of Homeland Security overseas personnel enhancement plan, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4567

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 "DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. OVERSEAS PERSONNEL BRIEFING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after submission of the comprehensive three-year strategy required under section 1910 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding Department of Homeland Security personnel with primary duties that take place outside of the United States.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The briefing required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A detailed summary of each type of personnel position with primary duties that take place outside of the United States and how each such position contributes to the Department of Homeland Security's counterterrorism mission.

(2) Information related to how the geographic and regional placement of such positions contributes to the Department's counterterrorism mission.

(3) Information related to the position-specific training received by such personnel before and during placement at a foreign location.

(4) Challenges that may impede the communication of counterterrorism information between Department personnel at foreign locations and Department entities in the United States, including technical, resource, and administrative challenges.

(5) The status of efforts to implement the strategy referred to in subsection (a).

(6) The status of efforts (beginning with the second briefing required under this section) to implement the enhancement plan under section 3.

SEC. 3. OVERSEAS PERSONNEL ENHANCEMENT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the briefing required under section 2, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a plan to enhance the effectiveness of Department of Homeland Security personnel at foreign locations.

(b) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The plan referred to in subsection (a) shall include proposals to—

(1) improve efforts of Department of Homeland Security personnel at foreign locations, as necessary, for purposes of providing foreign partner capacity development and furthering the Department's counterterrorism mission;

(2) as appropriate, redeploy Department personnel to respond to changing threats to the United States;

(3) enhance collaboration among Department personnel at foreign locations, other Federal personnel at foreign locations, and foreign partners;

(4) improve the communication of counterterrorism information between Department personnel at foreign locations and Department entities in the United States, including to address technical, resource, and administrative challenges; and

(5) maintain practices to guard against counter-espionage threats associated with Department personnel.

SEC. 4. TERMINATION.

The briefing requirement under section 2 shall terminate on the date that is four years after the submission of the strategy referred to in such section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4567, the DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2017.

As chairman of the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation and Protective Security, I recently led a bipartisan congressional delegation to Europe and the Middle East to examine international aviation security and counterterrorism operations. The efforts of DHS personnel stationed overseas to build relationships with foreign partners, to coordinate with other Federal agencies, and to secure our homeland from threats before they arrive on our shores are truly a testament to the vital counterterror mission of Homeland Security. Additionally, the trip underscored the need to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of our overseas programs in a manner that is risk-based.

Unfortunately, however, I also observed that even today, more than 15 years after 9/11, the United States Government still struggles to avoid stovepiping and effectively participate in information sharing and collaboration on homeland security matters. It is imperative that DHS personnel serve as a force multiplier with their Federal counterparts to act in genuine partnership when mitigating threats to the homeland both here and abroad.

My legislation takes observations from our delegation and codifies requirements to make overseas DHS personnel more effective and better equipped. This bill provides critical transparency to the training provided to overseas DHS employees, as well as how their positions and roles measurably contribute to the counterterrorism mission of the Department of Homeland Security.

Additionally, my bill will allow Congress to understand what organizational culture or bureaucratic hindrances exist to effective information sharing among DHS personnel and how we can break down barriers to better address evolving threats to the United States.

The first role of government is to protect its citizens, and it is incumbent upon those of us in Congress to ensure that the United States Government is doing all it can to respond to changing threats, share information effectively,

and build counterterrorism capacity among our foreign partners.

I appreciate the bipartisan support of Ranking Member WATSON COLEMAN, Congressman VELA, and Congresswoman MENG of this bill and I look forward to continuing our work together on these and other issues. I also wish to thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. MCCAUL, for his unwavering support of our efforts.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4567, the DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2017.

Madam Speaker, the DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2017 would require the Department of Homeland Security to submit to Congress an overseas personnel assessment and enhancement plan.

Today, roughly 2,000 DHS personnel have been deployed to more than 70 countries around the world. These DHS employees are involved in a diverse range of overseas operations targeted at terrorism prevention, counter-narcotics, and preventing human smuggling.

I am particularly interested in the efforts of the National Targeting Center, which is housed within U.S. Customs and Border Protection, to embed intelligence analysts in overseas information sharing operations with international partners to prevent terrorist and other criminal networks from carrying out attacks and criminal operations with impunity.

In fact, in a short while, the House will be debating H.R. 4578, the Counter Terrorist Network Act, which, among other things, authorizes overseas deployments from the CBP.

About half of overseas DHS personnel are from the CBP and are involved, among other things, in screening U.S.-bound passengers at airports, inspecting cargo being loaded on ships bound for the U.S., and training other nations' customs and border force.

Additionally, the DHS also assigns Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agents, Secret Service special agents, and Transportation Security Administration officials to overseas posts to engage with international partners on counterterrorism, counter-narcotics, information sharing, and criminal investigations, as well as security screening and vetting programs.

Just last month, CBP personnel were credited with helping Ecuadoran authorities interdict and arrest seven people and 800 pounds of cocaine. Specifically, a CBP team participating in an aerial surveillance mission in drug transit zones near South America tracked a low-flying aircraft that intelligence reports indicated had not filed a flight plan and, with a long-lens camera, snapped images of the plane's tail number and other identifying details and radioed Ecuador who were waiting when the plane landed to arrest the smugglers.

□ 1245

According to CBP, its P-3 plane program patrols more than 42 million square miles in the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the Pacific Ocean and last year contributed to 145 drug seizures, helping American and foreign authorities capture a combined 34,108 pounds of marijuana and 193,197 pounds of cocaine, according to Customs and Border Protection records.

More broadly, DHS personnel stationed overseas make important contributions to the Department's efforts in securing the homeland and keeping the American people safe. As such, it is imperative that these individuals are utilized efficiently and effectively. This bill seeks to ensure just that.

In 2016, Congress enacted legislation that the Committee on Homeland Security, on a bipartisan basis, approved to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue a strategy for the Department's international programs.

Among other things, the law required DHS to provide the committee with an inventory of personnel and resources deployed abroad and a 3-year, risk-based strategy to ensure strategic overseas employment of personnel.

The statutory deadline for this strategy was June 2017, 7 months ago. This critical strategy has not been submitted to Congress, as mandated.

H.R. 4567 incorporates an amendment from Ranking Member THOMPSON that expands the bill's briefing requirement to include information on efforts to implement the strategy. Enactment of this bipartisan legislation should help enhance the effectiveness of DHS personnel at foreign locations.

Madam Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I represent Newark, New Jersey, home of Port Newark and Newark Liberty International Airport.

Port Newark is the busiest container port on the East Coast, handling over 700,000 cargo containers annually. In 2015, over 37 million passengers traveled through Newark Liberty International Airport, including many traveling into the United States from abroad.

As a Member of Congress representing the largest port on the Eastern seaboard and one of the busiest international airports in the country, it is important to me that the Federal Government do everything in its power to push out our borders—to prevent dangerous cargo and dangerous people from coming into our country.

The DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2017 would do just that by directing the Department to develop and execute an overseas personnel assessment and enhancement plan.

As we speak, nearly 2,000 DHS employees are stationed around the globe, engaging in terrorism prevention, counter-narcotics, and antihuman smuggling activities in more than 70 countries.

About half of DHS personnel deployed overseas are from Customs and Border Protection, who are responsible for screening U.S.-bound passengers at airports, inspecting cargo being loaded onto ships bound for the U.S., and training other nations' customs and border forces.

The Department also sends Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agents, Secret Service special agents, and Transportation Security Administration officials abroad to help prevent international criminal and terrorist activity from spreading into the United States.

These activities have a direct impact on the security of my district. Over the course of the past year, multiple people have been caught attempting to smuggle drugs into the country through Newark Liberty International Airport, including a man who tried to bring over 1 kilogram of heroin into the country by disguising it as a six-layer cake.

While I applaud CBP for apprehending bad actors as they attempt to enter the United States, I would prefer to keep bad people and bad cargo outside of our borders, particularly in light of the drug epidemic affecting many of our communities.

Accordingly, I am committed to ensuring that the Department has optimized the deployment of its international personnel.

Madam Speaker, therefore, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4567.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in closing, H.R. 4567 seeks to enhance DHS' efforts to push out our borders.

The men and women of DHS face an immense challenge in responding to the ever-changing terrorist threat landscape. It is imperative that DHS personnel stationed overseas serve as an effective force in this mission, and enactment of this legislation would be a positive step towards this goal.

In fiscal year 2016, CBP officers inspected over 390 million travelers at 328 ports of entry, of which over 119 million flew into air ports of entry. Deployed overseas CBP officers, through programs such as Preclearance and the Immigration Advisory Program, utilize a risk-based, intelligence-driven strategy to extend our border security efforts outward to detect, assess, and mitigate, at the earliest possible point in the travel continuum, any risk imposed by travelers before they reach the United States.

Today, ICE agents are assigned to 66 offices in 49 countries and work with their overseas law enforcement counterparts to detect, disrupt, and dismantle transnational criminal groups

and individuals who seek to harm our country and people.

ICE special agents investigate transnational crime by conducting a wide range of criminal investigations, in coordination with our foreign and domestic partner agencies, targeting the illegal movement of people, merchandise, and monetary instruments into, within, and out of the United States.

Maintaining an overseas footprint is costly. In fact, the annual cost of deploying an ICE agent overseas can be four times the cost of deploying the agent domestically. As such, it is critical that DHS have a strategy for its overseas programs and execute it.

Congress has an important oversight role to play to ensure that DHS carries out these programs in a risk-based, strategic manner.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4567, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the starkness of the challenges facing the men and women of DHS to accomplish our mission was made clear to me and my committee colleagues on a recent trip to the Middle East and Western Europe. I hope they know just how much we appreciate all of their tireless efforts to protect the homeland.

Madam Speaker, I digress just for a moment before I close and note that, for the last 3 years on my committee, one of my colleagues, the main committee staff person, Krista Harvey, has worked on all these bills and worked on all these trips I have taken and has played a key role in the things we do to keep our country safe. In fact, I was just checking. Twenty-one bills that she helped author passed the House, and many were signed into law.

Ms. Harvey, regrettably, is leaving our service, but she is going to continue serving the government in working at the Department of Homeland Security in a senior capacity at the Transportation Security Administration. I thank her for her work and doing all she does as a public servant helping us keep our country safe.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4567, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SECURITY ASSESSMENT FEASIBILITY FOR EQUIPMENT TESTING AND EVALUATION OF CAPABILITIES FOR OUR HOMELAND ACT

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4561) to provide for third party testing of transportation security screening technology, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4561

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 “Security Assessment Feasibility for Equipment Testing and Evaluation of Capabilities for our Homeland Act” or the “SAFE TECH Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration” means the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

SEC. 3. THIRD PARTY TESTING OF SECURITY SCREENING TECHNOLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, shall develop a program to enable a vendor of transportation security screening technology to obtain testing, including as an alternative to the Administration’s testing process under paragraph (9) of section 114(f) of title 49, United States Code, by an appropriate third party, as determined by the Administrator, in consultation with the Under Secretary, of such technology before procurement or development of such technology.

(b) DETECTION TESTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The third party testing program authorized under subsection (a) shall include detection testing to evaluate the performance of a security screening technology relating to the probability of detection, the probability of false alarm, and other indicators that such technology is able to meet the Administration’s mission needs for detection of—

- (A) explosives; and
- (B) prohibited items.

(2) COORDINATION WITH FINAL PROCESSES.—To the extent practicable, and without compromising the integrity of the Administration’s testing process under paragraph (9) of section 114(f) of title 49, United States Code, or the Department of Homeland Security’s oversight of such testing process, or increasing costs to the Administration, the Administrator shall coordinate the third party detection testing under paragraph (1) with any associated subsequent final Department of Homeland Security testing.

(3) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.—To the extent practicable and permissible under law, and in accordance with national security interests of the United States, the Administrator shall—

(A) share with appropriate international partners detection testing information and standards; and

(B) coordinate with such appropriate international partners to align such testing information and standards to maximize the capability to detect explosives and other threats.

(c) ALTERNATIVE TESTING FACTORS.—Third party testing under subsection (a) may in-

clude as an alternative, at the discretion of the Administrator, the testing at the TSA Systems Integration Facility of the Administration, including testing for—

- (1) health and safety factors;
- (2) operator interface;
- (3) human factors;
- (4) environmental factors;
- (5) throughput;
- (6) reliability, maintainability, and availability factors; and
- (7) interoperability.

(d) TESTING FRAMEWORK.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, shall—

(1) establish a framework for the third party testing under this section to determine if the security screening technology that is the subject of such testing satisfies the Administration’s requirements before such technology may enter or re-enter, as applicable, operational testing at an airport or other transportation facility; and

(2) use phased implementation to allow the Administration and the third party concerned to establish best practices.

(e) PRIORITIZATION OF THIRD PARTY TESTING.—The Administrator may prioritize, when appropriate, the field testing of security screening technology and equipment by third parties.

(f) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

(1) UNITED STATES OWNERSHIP.—An entity providing third party testing under the program developed pursuant to subsection (a) shall be owned and controlled by a citizen of the United States.

(2) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive the requirement specified in paragraph (1) with respect to an entity that is a United States subsidiary of a parent company that has implemented a foreign ownership, control, or influence mitigation plan that has been approved by the Defense Security Service of the Department of Defense prior to seeking to engage in third party testing. The Administrator has complete discretion to reject any proposal from a company to provide testing under subsection (a) that requires a waiver under this paragraph.

(3) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—The Administrator shall ensure, to the extent possible, that an entity providing third party testing under this section does not have a contractual, business, or other pecuniary interest (exclusive of any such testing) in—

- (A) the security screening technology subject to such testing; or the
- (B) vendor of such technology.

SEC. 4. RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF SECURITY STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in coordination with the European Civil Aviation Conference, shall continue development of a validation process for the reciprocal recognition of security validation processes for recognition of security screening technologies or certification authorities for deployment.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The validation process under subsection (a) shall ensure that the certification process of each participating international security partner or recognized certification authority complies with Administration standards.

SEC. 5. GAO REVIEW.

Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a study on the third party testing program developed under this Act. Such study shall include a review of the following:

(1) Any efficiencies or gains in effectiveness achieved in the Administration’s operations as a result of such program.

(2) The degree to which the Administration conducts timely and regular oversight of entities engaged in such testing.

(3) The effect of such program on the following:

(A) The introduction of innovative detection technologies into security screening operations.

(B) The availability of testing for technologies developed by small to medium sized businesses.

(C) Any vulnerabilities associated with such program including with respect to the following:

(i) National security.

(ii) Conflicts of interest between entities carrying out such testing and entities with such technologies to be tested.

(iii) Waste, fraud and abuse.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4561, the SAFE TECH Act, sponsored by my good friend and colleague and a knowledgeable alumnus of the Homeland Security Committee, Congressman BILIRAKIS, who recently participated in my subcommittee's overseas congressional delegation to examine airport security and the passenger screening technology in place at last point of departure airports with direct flights to the United States.

As part of our delegation, we visited Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, where we saw the effective deployment of new and advanced computed tomography screening technology, as well as a number of other screening technologies aimed at making the passenger and employee screening checkpoints both more effective and more efficient.

Upon returning to the United States, the committee conducted rigorous oversight and found that the existing testing and evaluation processes in place at the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration are riddled with bureaucratic bottlenecks that serve to delay new technologies for years.

I will note that the technology in place at the airport in Schiphol was made in the United States, yet we are not taking advantage of that technology because of these bottlenecks.

Additionally, due to logjams at Homeland Security and TSA facilities, small businesses, as well as technology startups, are often prevented from participating in the acquisitions and pro-

curement processes. As a result, our aviation system is left with antiquated security technology that is incapable of adequately responding to new and ever-evolving threats.

Madam Speaker, this is simply unacceptable, and we must act to reform the Homeland Security and TSA acquisition processes. H.R. 4561 takes significant steps toward making these reforms by allowing new technologies to receive third-party testing and evaluation, while maintaining existing lines of authority for the TSA administrator to ensure such testing remains held to the highest standards of security and integrity.

This bill will not only drive innovation but will also save taxpayer dollars at Homeland Security and TSA, while reducing costs to companies developing new screening technologies. That is why we have received broad support, not only in a bipartisan manner here in Congress, but also from the private sector.

Madam Speaker, I commend the dedication of Congressman BILIRAKIS to reforming the broken acquisitions process currently in place and for working with me and the committee on developing this bill. I also wish to thank Chairman MCCAUL for supporting this legislation and moving it quickly through the committee to address the serious concerns we found through our oversight efforts.

I also thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, who routinely support bills of ours, and we routinely support bills of theirs, because we both understand that homeland security is a very bipartisan issue.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4561, the Security Assessment Feasibility for Equipment Testing and Evaluation of Capabilities for Our Homeland Act, and I encourage my colleagues to support its passage, which would require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a new, third-party testing program for Transportation Security Administration screening technology.

We have heard, time and time again, from vendors that it takes far too long to get their technologies through TSA testing processes. TSA's testing and evaluation must be improved not simply to improve management efficiency, but to address the constantly evolving threat landscape.

In November, TSA Administrator David Pekoske testified before the Committee on Homeland Security about the need to accelerate deployment of innovative security enhancements, as terrorist groups are becoming more sophisticated. These bad actors are learning about our aviation security countermeasures and have even gone so far as to post instructions to build devices to evade screening technologies on the internet.

□ 1300

As terrorist and criminal organizations become more sophisticated, we must remain one step ahead. H.R. 4561 seeks to do just that and move TSA forward in overcoming technology stovepipes that have hindered state-of-the-art security technology from being integrated into our Nation's transportation systems in a timely manner.

H.R. 4561 is predicated on the view that, by establishing alternative avenues to test transportation screening technologies, TSA will be positioned to introduce innovative security enhancements into checkpoints sooner, and businesses, regardless of their size, will be better positioned to compete.

The committee has repeatedly heard from small security manufacturers about how financially draining it is to wait out TSA testing in the hopes of a contract. H.R. 4561, if implemented effectively, has the potential to get innovative technology produced by small businesses in airport security checkpoints and enhance the effectiveness of TSA's screening operations.

During consideration of this measure in committee, the majority accepted amendments offered by committee Democrats to the bill to ensure that the third-party testing receives scrutiny from the Government Accountability Office and to build integrity into this new program.

Given the changes that were made to the legislation in committee and the potential positive impact this legislation could have on ensuring innovative technologies are integrated into TSA's security operations, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4561.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, my good friend JOHN KATKO, and also the ranking member, my good friend FILO VELA, and also the chairman, the full chairman of the committee, Mr. MCCAUL, for their great work. I really appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 4561, Security Assessment Feasibility for Equipment Testing and Evaluation of Capabilities for Our Homeland, or the SAFE TECH Act. My legislation seeks to strengthen the safety of international air travel.

Specifically, this bill provides an avenue for third-party testing of innovative technology screening capabilities to enhance airport security. The testing program authorized under this act shall include evaluating the performance of detecting explosives and other prohibited items. Additionally, the SAFE TECH Act will look into alternative testing for other factors, including, health and safety concerns, operator interference, human error, environmental dynamics, reliability, and interoperability.

The bill also assesses the feasibility of linking compatible security technology utilized by the United States and international allies in order to augment screening checkpoints. The coordinated collaboration is an essential element of strengthening global security.

Currently, technical standards for safety and operating procedures at the international airports are set by international agreements. However, the standards in place are generally broad, leaving potential vulnerabilities through inconsistencies with international partners.

On a recent congressional delegation trip that I appreciated the chairman including me on to review screening procedures for inbound travel to the United States at major EU hubs, I was startled by the lack of consistency in international standards and gaps in technology that support precautionary measures to ensure passenger safety.

Today's bill—and I appreciate the work of the committee, and I thank you for making it an even stronger bill—will address this concern and improve the safety of our air travel for all passengers. I have always contended that, if we are not safe, nothing else matters.

The protection and security of our homeland and its citizens is our responsibility, Mr. Speaker, which is why I introduced the SAFE TECH Act. We must ensure those entrusted with the care of our citizens have the best resources and technology available to combat the growing threat of terrorism.

Passage of this bill today makes air travel safer for everyone entering the United States and for our citizens, and it represents a step forward in ensuring the cooperation needed to improve global security. I urge my colleagues to support this good bill and its passage in the House.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to point out that this series of bills that we have presented today has been worked on in a strong bipartisan fashion.

I would like to thank Chairman KATKO and Ranking Member WATSON COLEMAN for their strong leadership on this subcommittee, Mr. BILIRAKIS for his hard work, and, of course, Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their leadership on the Homeland Security committee.

On behalf of both Members and staff on this side of the aisle, we also wish Krista Harvey the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4561 is common-sense legislation. This bill promotes the incorporation of innovative technology in airport screening capabilities. It does so by requiring DHS to stand up a third-party testing program to accelerate the evaluation of promising transportation security technologies, including 3D-imaging computer tomography, or CT technology.

CT scan technology holds great promise in enhancing the effectiveness of TSA screening operations insofar as transportation security officers would have the benefit of seeing a full 3D multicolor image of whatever the screener is inspecting and getting better detail about any suspect items.

Presently, TSA is testing a number of systems in the lab and in the field and has said that it expects to be able to begin deployment of this new tool to airports by early 2019.

Given the known ongoing terrorist threat posed by electronic devices, CT technology should be introduced into the airport environment in an expedited fashion. If done right, the establishment of a third-party testing program within TSA has the potential of getting innovative technologies into our transportation security systems quicker and improving the overall effectiveness of security screening. As such, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4561.

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

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the time is long overdue to apply strong oversight and reform to the manner in which TSA develops and deploys new screening technologies across our aviation system.

With persistent threats facing the aviation sector, H.R. 4561 makes much-needed improvements to the innovation and procurement process at TSA. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4561, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURING AMERICAN NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST TERRORISM ACT OF 2017

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1486) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide funding to secure non-profit facilities from terrorist attacks, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1486

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 "Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. NON-PROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.

601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 2009. NON-PROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a program to be known as the 'Non-Profit Security Grant Program' (in this section referred to as the 'Program'). Under the Program, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall make grants to eligible nonprofit organizations described in subsection (b), through the State in which such organizations are located, for target hardening and other security enhancements to protect against terrorist attacks.

"(b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—Eligible nonprofit organizations described in this subsection (a) are organizations that are—

"(1) described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code; and

"(2) determined to be at risk of a terrorist attack by the Administrator.

"(c) PERMITTED USES.—The recipient of a grant under this section may use such grant for any of the following uses:

"(1) Target hardening activities, including physical security enhancement equipment and inspection and screening systems.

"(2) Fees for security training relating to physical security and cybersecurity, target hardening, terrorism awareness, and employee awareness.

"(3) Any other appropriate activity, including cybersecurity resilience activities, as determined by the Administrator.

"(d) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Administrator shall make funds provided under this section available for use by a recipient of a grant for a period of not less than 36 months.

"(e) REPORT.—The Administrator shall annually for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022 submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing information on the expenditure by each grant recipient of grant funds made under this section.

"(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022 to carry out this section.

"(2) SPECIFICATION.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1)—

"(A) \$35,000,000 is authorized for eligible recipients located in jurisdictions that receive funding under section 2003; and

"(B) \$15,000,000 is authorized for eligible recipients in jurisdictions not receiving funding under section 2003."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 2002 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 603) is amended by striking "sections 2003 and 2004" and inserting "sections 2003, 2004, and 2009".

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2008 the following new item:

"Sec. 2009. Non-profit security grant program."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill that is under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1486, the Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2017. This bill authorizes the Non-profit Security Grant Program within the Department of Homeland Security.

Administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, this program provides critical support to help protect at-risk nonprofit institutions, including Jewish community centers, houses of worship, and other cultural and community institutions, against threats and attacks.

Security enhancements covered by the program include the installation of cameras, physical barriers or controlled entry systems, along with training for active-shooter scenarios.

Nonprofit organizations in my district have told me about the positive impact this program has had on their security. In fact, the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island recently received a \$75,000 grant through this program for their facility located on Arthur Kill Road in order to adequately respond to an increase in threats.

I have also led letters to appropriators advocating for \$50 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program and was so glad to see that the funding level was included in the Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, which passed the House last September.

The bill we are considering today further demonstrates our commitment to the program by authorizing it for the first time. I was pleased to work with the ranking member on this language as part of the DHS Authorization Act that we approved this summer, and I am pleased to once again support it today.

Nonprofit organizations provide vital services to our communities every day. The program authorized by the bill we are considering here today will help provide peace of mind that they will be secure as they continue to serve their neighbors.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1486, the Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1486 would authorize the Department of Homeland Security's Nonprofit Security Grant Program, which awards grants to nonprofit organizations at risk of a terrorist attack, in statute.

Since early last year, nonprofit organizations throughout the United States have experienced an uptick in threats, vandalism, and violent acts. According to the Anti-Defamation League, anti-Semitic incidents jumped 67 percent from 2016 to the first three quarters of 2017. Many nonprofit organizations, however, do not have the resources to make their facilities more secure by installing proper surveillance, hardening their facilities, and undergoing general preparedness activities.

The need for nonprofit organizations across the country to have access to the Homeland Security grants to bolster security is substantial. Given the security challenges associated with the current terrorist threat environment, it is important that this critical Homeland Security grant program be codified in law.

This bill goes further than just codifying the existing program. It expands it to include jurisdictions that are located outside funded UASIs but are still at risk of terrorism.

H.R. 1486 authorizes the Nonprofit Security Grant Program at \$50 million, a \$25 million increase over its current funding level. Language similar to this measure was included in the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017, which passed the House earlier this Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, with the emergence of lone wolves and small terrorist cells, we have seen that acts of terror are not just limited to urban areas. As threats to our homeland continue to evolve and as violent extremists continue to exploit soft targets, the risk to nonprofit organizations grows. We need to make sure that we do our part to ensure that places of worship and other nonprofit organizations throughout the country have access to resources necessary to keep themselves safe and secure.

□ 1315

H.R. 1486 was endorsed by The Jewish Federations of North America. I appreciate its support.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the letter of support.

THE JEWISH FEDERATIONS
OF NORTH AMERICA,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL, Chairman,
Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON, Ranking Member,
Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, Chairman,
Hon. DONALD M. PAYNE, Jr., Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN MCCAUL AND DONOVAN AND RANKING MEMBERS THOMPSON AND PAYNE: We commend you for scheduling the mark-up of H.R. 1486, the Securing American Non-Profit

Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2017. The Jewish Federations strongly endorse this bill, and respectfully urge Members of the Committee to adopt Ranking Member Thompson's amendment of the bill in the nature of a substitute, in order to align it with Sec. 2011 of House-passed H.R. 2825, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017.

The vulnerability of places of worship to violent homegrown extremists (HVEs) is a growing threat in the United States. According to a joint assessment by the National Counterterrorism Center, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, HVEs are increasingly favoring softer civilian targets, such as houses of worship, having judged them to have lower levels of security (and, for some, as a result of encouragement from overseas violent extremists, such as ISIL).

Last month, the FBI released its annual hate crimes report for 2016, which found that Muslim bias crimes increased, and, for the 20th consecutive year, anti-Jewish hate crimes amounted to the majority of all religious bias crimes reported. This year, synagogues, churches, mosques, religious centers, cemeteries, and other nonprofits have been subjected to arson/fire-bombing, shooting/mass shooting, attempted bombing, death threats, robbery, vandalism/destruction of property, hate-based/anti-Semitic graffiti, assault, intimidation, and the targets of incitement to violence.

According to DHS, religious facilities share a number of common vulnerabilities that make them ready targets of attack, including unrestricted access to facilities and contiguous and peripheral areas, easy identification, predictable schedules, and large congregations of people. To minimize these vulnerabilities, DHS recommends protective measures that include, access controls, barriers, monitoring, surveillance, and other physical target hardening and preparedness investments, such as planning and training. Unfortunately, DHS acknowledges that common vulnerabilities also include the limited resources nonprofit institutions have for security.

Passage of the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 1486 would address the vulnerabilities of at-risk nonprofit institutions, by authorizing a nonprofit security grant program for the acquisition and installation of physical target hardening, including fencing, bollards, and other barriers; lighting, surveillance, and metal detection equipment; blast proofing doors and windows; cyber-security; and related employee training and awareness exercises.

For these reasons, JFNA strongly endorses H.R. 1486, and respectfully urges Members of the Committee to adopt the bill as amended.

Sincerely,
ROBERT B. GOLDBERG,
Senior Director, Legislative Affairs,
The Jewish Federations of North America.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1486, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1486, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office regarding H.R. 1486. The cost estimate was not available at the time of the filing of the Committee report.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, January 8, 2018.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1486, the Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2017.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Robert Reese.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL.

Enclosure.

H.R. 1486—SECURING AMERICAN NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AGAINST TERRORISM ACT OF 2017

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security on December 13, 2017

SUMMARY

H.R. 1486 would authorize the appropriation of \$50 million annually for fiscal years 2018 through 2022 for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide grants to certain nonprofit organizations to enhance security measures aimed at guarding against terrorist attacks.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates implementing H.R. 1486 would cost \$112 million over the 2018–2022

period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1486 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 1486 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 1486 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 450 (community and regional development).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018–2022
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	50	50	50	50	50	250
Estimated Outlays	4	11	21	33	43	112

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO assumes the bill will be enacted near the beginning of calendar year 2018 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated each year. H.R. 1486 would authorize the appropriation of \$50 million in each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022 for FEMA to provide grants to nonprofit organizations for improvements to physical security and cybersecurity. (In 2017, FEMA allocated \$25 million for such grants.) Based on historical spending patterns for such grants, CBO estimates implementing the bill would cost \$112 million over the five year period and \$138 million after 2022.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1486 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

MANDATES

H.R. 1486 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY

Federal Costs: Robert Reese; Mandates: Andrew Laughlin.

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY

H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1486, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COUNTER TERRORIST NETWORK ACT

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4578) to authorize certain counter terrorist networks activities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4578

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 “Counter Terrorist Network Act”.

SEC. 2. DUTY TO COUNTER TERRORIST NETWORKS; DETAILS AND ASSIGNMENT.

Section 411 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(4)—

(A) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in clause (vi), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) by redesignating clause (vii) as clause (viii); and

(iii) by inserting after clause (vi) the following new clause:

“(vii) collaborate with appropriate agencies, including Federal, State, local, tribal, and international entities, to enhance border security through operations such as operations that seek to disrupt and dismantle networks, including foreign terrorist organizations (as such term is described in section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189)), that pose terrorist or other threats; and”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (p) through (r) as subsections (q) through (s), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (o) the following new subsection:

“(p) ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL.—The Commissioner may detail or otherwise assign personnel of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to other appropriate agencies, including to serve overseas in support of global information sharing partnership operations in furtherance of enhancing border security, including by preventing entry into the United States by individuals known or suspected of being associated with a network, including a foreign terrorist organization (as such term is described in section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189)), that poses terrorist or other threats.”.

SEC. 3. BRIEFINGS.

The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall biannually brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding activities, during the prior six months, in furtherance of clause (vii) of section 411(g)(4) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(g)(4)), as added by section 2 of this Act. Such brief-

ings may be provided in a classified setting if the Commissioner determines such is appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4578, the Counter Terrorist Network Act.

The fine men and women in uniform at U.S. Customs and Border Protection are tasked with an incredibly important mission. Every day, they protect our Nation from transnational criminal organizations, human traffickers, and terrorists who wish to exploit vulnerabilities at our Nation’s borders.

To execute this critical mission, the CBP has developed a cadre of subject matter experts that are well versed in counternetwork operations. These experts work tirelessly at our Nation’s seaports, airports, and land border crossings, honing their skills, stopping the flow of illicit goods and people, and creating actionable intelligence.

Given the fact that the CBP is uniquely positioned on our Nation’s front line, it would seem expected that members of the CBP would have the authority to participate in counternetwork activities that target terrorists and transnational threats, both domestically and internationally.

However, this is not the case. Currently, the CBP lacks the statutory authority to assign CBP personnel to specialized counternetwork details and liaison assignments with a national security focus.

H.R. 4578 seeks to mitigate this deficiency by giving the Commissioner of the CBP the statutory authority to assign personnel to these specialized task forces and collaborate with appropriate Federal, State, local, and Tribal entities to enhance border security operations that focus on disrupting and dismantling transnational criminal organizations and foreign terrorist networks.

By granting this authority to the Commissioner, the CBP's collaborative efforts will result in enhanced information sharing and an increase in intelligence-driven enforcement operations.

Lastly, H.R. 4578 requires the Commissioner to provide a report to Congress within 6 months of enactment, substantially describing the ongoing efforts to defeat threats posed by transnational criminal and foreign terrorist groups.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee Ranking Member VELA for introducing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the law enforcement community and to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4578, the Counter Terrorist Network Act.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 4578, the Counter Terrorist Network Act, to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection's ongoing efforts to prevent individuals who pose a known threat to our country from entering the United States.

Over the years, the CBP has pushed out our borders through various programs, including international partnerships where officers are posted overseas.

The CBP's National Targeting Center, or NTC, uses the latest technology and analytical tools to identify threats and share that information with both domestic and international law enforcement partners.

The CBP vets foreign nationals traveling to the United States prior to arrival through the use of various sophisticated screening techniques. Time and again, we see terrorist acts carried out by individuals who were not on the Federal radar for terrorism.

In the 17 years since the September 11 attacks, we have made huge investments in this country in intelligence to better connect the dots about those risks.

My legislation seeks to ensure that the NTC is positioned to continue embedding its analysts in overseas operations so that individuals associated

with terrorist and transnational criminal networks are prevented from operating with impunity.

H.R. 4578 authorizes the NTC to continue building its collaborative intelligence and law enforcement partnerships to stay one step ahead of those individuals who wish to do us harm or commit other criminal acts.

The bill also authorizes CBP personnel to be posted abroad to perform critical preemptive operations to make sure the travelers and visa petitioners coming to our country are thoroughly screened and vetted.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative for the DHS and its law enforcement partners to do everything practicable to screen and vet individuals before they arrive at our borders.

H.R. 4578 underscores this imperative by authorizing the CBP to counter terrorist and criminal networks' efforts to infiltrate our borders in a way that has proven effective and adaptive.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4578.

In closing, H.R. 4578 is a bipartisan bill that was unanimously approved by the Committee on Homeland Security late last year.

The partnerships that the CBP has established to disrupt and dismantle terrorists and other criminal networks are valuable and merit congressional support.

H.R. 4578 provides the CBP with statutory authority to continue these partnerships and it enables CBP personnel to be posted within different Federal and international entities in furtherance of their antiterrorism and homeland security missions. Congress must continue to support this effort, and we can do so today by passing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the Committee on Homeland Security for their support, and I urge my House colleagues to pass H.R. 4578.

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

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4578, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4578.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

GLOBAL AVIATION SYSTEM SECURITY REFORM ACT OF 2017

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4559) to conduct a global

aviation security review, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4559

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 "Global Aviation System Security Reform Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term "Administration" means the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 3. GLOBAL AVIATION SECURITY REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall conduct a global aviation security review to address improving aviation security standards, including standards intended to mitigate cybersecurity threats, across the global aviation system.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The global aviation security review established under subsection (a) shall include input from the following entities:

(1) The Office of Global Strategies of the Administration.

(2) The Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Administration.

(3) The Office of Security Policy and Industry Engagement of the Administration.

(c) COORDINATION.—The Administrator shall coordinate with the following entities on the global aviation security review:

(1) U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(2) The Office of International Engagement of the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) The Department of State.

(4) Any other relevant office or agency of the Federal government, as determined by the Administrator.

(d) BEST PRACTICES.—The global aviation security review shall establish best practices regarding the following:

(1) Collaborating with foreign partners to improve global aviation security capabilities and standards.

(2) Identifying foreign partners that have not successfully implemented security protocols from the International Civil Aviation Organization or the Department of Homeland Security and have not taken steps to implement such security protocols.

(3) Improving the development, outreach, and implementation process for security directives or emergency amendments, as the case may be, issued to domestic and foreign air carriers.

(4) Assessing the cybersecurity and cyber espionage risk of security screening equipment.

SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall report to the appropriate congressional committees on the organization, development, and progress of the global aviation security review required under section 3.

(b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on

best practices identified by the global aviation security review required under section 3 and the actions the Administrator has taken to implement such best practices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman KATKO for his leadership on this important piece of legislation.

It is essential that we continue to improve aviation security in order to stay ahead of the evolving threat posed by Islamist terrorists. It is clear that terrorists around the world remain intent on attacking aircraft.

That is why over the past year the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation Security Administration have worked to raise the global level of aviation security. One area of potential improvement is through working to increase security at overseas last point of departure airports.

In October, I joined a bipartisan delegation of congressional members from the House Homeland Security Committee to several of the largest last point of departure airports, including Amman, Jordan; and Frankfurt, Germany. We examined current threats to aviation security and got to look at how our foreign partners have worked to stay ahead of all the potential threats.

This legislation seeks to improve global aviation security standards by directing the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to conduct a comprehensive review of aviation security implementation and challenges across the global aviation system. This legislation will help improve coordination and outreach, both within the United States Government and with foreign partners regarding improvements to aviation security.

It makes sense for our security agencies to work with our foreign allies who are facing the same security threat that we face. This legislation will help the DHS locate and implement best practices, which are being used overseas. The fight to protect travelers isn't one that we face alone in America, and this threat isn't going to dissipate anytime soon. That is why this legislation is focused on ensuring

that our agencies build partnerships and can learn from our foreign partners.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4559, the Global Aviation System Security Reform Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his leadership on this legislation.

This legislation would require the TSA to conduct a global aviation security review in order to improve aviation standards across the global aviation system within 180 days of enactment.

The security review within this bill is required to include input from the TSA's Office of Global Strategies, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, and the Office of Security Policy and Industry Engagement, and must identify best practices for foreign partners.

While the TSA has taken tremendous steps to improve aviation security at airports with direct service to the U.S., there is more that can be done.

In the last 12 months, we have seen the global aviation threat landscape evolve to include an increased threat to cargo security, and passenger planes being targeted with bombs hidden in large electronic devices.

The TSA is continually working with global partners and stakeholders to ensure that aviation standards are being maintained and elevated as needed.

Under this legislation, improvements that should be made to aviation security will be highlighted for Congress.

This legislation has the potential of providing a very good roadmap for Congress to address areas of improvement for global aviation security and to ensure that we constantly strive towards the safest and most secure aviation community.

Mr. Speaker, I note that, in the last couple of days, through the holiday season, those people who were either stuck in airports, and bags that were stacked, and people couldn't find bags are not considered a security issue. It was a weather issue. But we understand how crucial it is that the traveling public has needs in the free flowing and secure flowing of aviation. Giving the Congress a roadmap, I believe, is a very important step.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4559, the "Global Aviation System Security Reform Act of 2017."

This legislation would require TSA to conduct a global aviation security review in order to improve aviation standards across the global aviation system within 180 days of enactment.

The security review within this bill is required to include input from TSA's Office of Global Strategies, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, and the Office of Security Policy and Industry Engagement, and must identify best practices for foreign partners.

While TSA has taken tremendous steps to improve aviation security at airports with direct

service to the U.S., there is more that can be done.

In the last 12 months, we have seen the global aviation threat landscape evolve to include an increased threat to cargo security, and passenger planes being targeted with bombs hidden in large electronic devices.

TSA is continually working with global partners and stakeholders to ensure that aviation standards are being maintained and elevated as needed.

Under this legislation, improvements that should be made to aviation security will be highlighted for Congress.

This legislation has the potential of providing a roadmap for Congress to address areas of improvement for global aviation security, and ensure that we constantly strive towards the safest and most secure aviation community.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4559 will give this body a strong sense of the direction for global aviation security improvements.

As threats to aviation security grow more sophisticated, this bill seeks to ensure that TSA is keeping pace with the threat landscape.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me again emphasize the importance of identifying best practices to be utilized by our system and to utilize these best practices to improve the security for the traveling public.

H.R. 4559 will give this body a strong sense of direction for global aviation security improvements. As threats to aviation security grow more sophisticated, this bill seeks to ensure that the TSA is keeping pace with the threat landscape.

□ 1330

Since I have no further speakers, I am closing by saying, with that, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 4559.

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

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. One of the things that we are seeing today, in an increasingly dangerous world, is how do we face these threats and work together. This bill is intended to help work to be more efficient across not just America but with our allies in making our aviation travel more safe and secure.

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

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of bill, H.R. 4559: The Global Aviation System Security Reform Act of 2017. This legislation will help raise the global baseline of aviation security and protect the traveling public from a litany of terror threats.

After recently participating in a bipartisan Congressional delegation to the Middle East

and Europe to observe international aviation security efforts firsthand, my colleagues and I returned home determined to bolster the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to build capacity among foreign partners.

When it comes to aviation security, we are only as secure as our weakest link. Unfortunately, through our oversight on the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation and Protective Security, we have grown increasingly concerned that existing standards are simply not sufficient to keep up with the changing threats to aviation.

This legislation will ensure that DHS and TSA are aggressively committed to eliminating security vulnerabilities and inconsistencies at overseas airports with direct flights to the United States.

I wish to thank Congressman ESTES for participating in the important delegation we undertook which led to this legislation, as well as his commitment and leadership to security America's transportation systems on my Subcommittee.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office regarding H.R. 4559. The cost estimate was not available at the time of the filing of the Committee report.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, January 9, 2018.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 4559, the Global Aviation System Security Reform Act of 2017.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Megan Carroll.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL.

Enclosure.

H.R. 4559—GLOBAL AVIATION SYSTEM
SECURITY REFORM ACT OF 2017

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security on December 13, 2017

H.R. 4559 would direct the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), in consultation with other federal agencies, to review security-related standards across the global aviation system. The bill would require TSA to identify best practices for:

Enhancing security by collaborating with foreign partners involved in aviation security,

Identifying foreign entities that have not yet implemented international standards,

Improving processes for issuing security-related directives to air carriers, and

Assessing cyber-related threats to screening equipment.

Using information from TSA, CBO estimates that meeting the bill's requirements would increase the agency's costs by less than \$500,000 in 2018; such spending would be subject to appropriation. Enacting H.R. 4559 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4559 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 4559 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. The estimate was approved

by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4559, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

—————
CYBER VULNERABILITY
DISCLOSURE REPORTING ACT

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3202) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report on cyber vulnerability disclosures, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3202

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 "Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON CYBER VULNERABILITIES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that contains a description of the policies and procedures developed for coordinating cyber vulnerability disclosures, in accordance with section 227(m) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148(m)). To the extent possible, such report shall include an annex with information on instances in which such policies and procedures were used to disclose cyber vulnerabilities in the year prior to the date such report is required and, where available, information on the degree to which such information was acted upon by industry and other stakeholders. Such report may also contain a description of how the Secretary is working with other Federal entities and critical infrastructure owners and operators to prevent, detect, and mitigate cyber vulnerabilities.

(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3202, the Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act.

It is hard to find an electronic device today that doesn't connect to the internet. From smartphones to alarm clocks, everything is part of the Internet of Things. Americans can do everything, from personal banking to unlocking the front door, with the palm of their hands.

As the world has become increasingly interconnected, vulnerabilities in computer code underlying these devices and the applications they run can often expose the average American to exploitation by hackers, criminals, and even bad actors from nation states.

As more and more critical and personal information is being stored on the internet and more industrial systems are being operated autonomously, it is vital that we are able to plug the holes in vulnerable technology.

It seems like every day we read about another data breach that could have been prevented if only the company had known about a vulnerability in the product or network, occurrences such as the WannCry ransomware that affected hundreds of thousands of computers in more than 150 countries, and the recently reported meltdown that could affect millions of personal computers throughout the world. That is why, in this world of ever-increasing intrusions, we must do our best to make sure our computer systems are as invulnerable to attack as possible.

The Department of Homeland Security was given the authority by the Cybersecurity Act of 2015 to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 allows the Secretary to coordinate with industry to develop departmental policies and procedures for coordinating the disclosure of cyber vulnerabilities as described in the Vulnerabilities Equities Policy and Process published by the White House on November 15, 2016. This disclosure is important, as it highlights vulnerabilities and allows the public and private sector to work to prevent and mitigate cyber threats.

H.R. 3202, the Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act, is an important tool, in that it requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress on their policies and procedures for disclosing vulnerabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the manager for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3202, the Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act. I very much want

to thank the committee for bringing the Jackson Lee bill to the floor and the work that we did on it in committee.

I wish to speak specifically to the work that is done on the Homeland Security Committee as I discuss this legislation. I think it is very important to take note of the fact that the ranking member works very hard to generate very positive legislation and that we have been able to see a large number of bills, some that I have been able to sponsor, come to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I thank the chairman, Mr. MCCAUL, and the ranking member for making the Homeland Security Committee so productive in generating important legislation to ensure the security of this Nation. I thank them for their leadership in putting the security of our Nation's cyber assets first, whether they are computing resources used in voting technology, or industrial control systems that support the delivery of electricity, oil and gas, or management of transportation systems that are vital to our Nation's economic health.

Mr. Speaker, I was chairman of the Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee some few sessions ago. This was when infrastructure was included in the transportation and security domain. I can tell you that, even then, we began to acknowledge the crucialness of protecting the cyber system and how far-reaching cyber systems can go, as far away as water systems, to bridges, to dams, and in between, and to note that a lot of our cyber system, 80 percent of it was in the private sector, probably more at this point.

H.R. 3202, the Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act, which I introduced, requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report on the policies and procedures developed for coordinating cyber vulnerability disclosures.

The report will include an annex with information on instances in which cybersecurity vulnerability disclosure policies and procedures were used to disclose details on identified weaknesses in computing systems or digital devices at risk.

The report will provide information on the degree to which the information provided by DHS was used by industry and other stakeholders.

The report may also contain a description of how the Secretary of Homeland Security is working with other Federal entities and critical infrastructure owners and operators to prevent, detect, and mitigate cyber vulnerabilities.

It is important to restate that our cyber system is largely in the private sector. It does not alleviate or eliminate the role that the Federal Government should play. This legislation squarely places with the Federal Government the responsibilities of dealing with those critical infrastructure own-

ers and operators to prevent, detect, and mitigate cyber vulnerabilities.

The reason that I have worked to bring this bill before the full House for consideration is a problem often referred to as a zero-day event. A zero-day event describes a situation that network security professionals may find themselves in when a previously unknown error or flaw in computing code is exploited by a cybercriminal or terrorist.

The term "zero-day event" simply means that there is zero time to prepare a defense against a cyber attack. That is not the place that we would like to find ourselves.

When a defect in software is discovered, their network engineers and software companies can work to develop a patch to fix the problem before it can be exploited by those who may seek to do us harm.

We have evidence that the cyber world is a good world, but it can be a dangerous world and impact the life and quality and democracy and freedom of Americans. We want to be prepared and never have to face, in this most powerful country in the world, something called a zero-day event.

H.R. 3202 seeks a report on the ongoing Department of Homeland Security's policies and procedures for coordinating cyber vulnerability disclosures, such as zero-day events, with private sector partners. Because vulnerabilities can be used by adversaries, it is important that this sensitive information be managed securely so details are not routinely made available, neither to the public nor to Congress.

H.R. 3202 provides the Congress with the opportunity to understand the process and procedures used by the Department of Homeland Security and the benefit these disclosures may have for private sector entities participating in programs in support of cybersecurity.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Lillie Coney of my district and Jean de Pruneda, a fellow on the Committee on Homeland Security, for their work on this important legislation.

I urge Members of the House to vote in favor of H.R. 3202, the Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize again a point that I made earlier. Because vulnerabilities can be used by adversaries, it is important that this sensitive information be managed securely so details are not routinely made available, neither to the public nor to Congress.

It is important to take note of the fact that the work we have to do is ongoing and continuing.

H.R. 3202 will give this body important information on our government-wide efforts to secure civilian agency networks and the collaborative ongoing work to provide information to private sector partners on computing vulnerabilities. There is no security in keeping zero-day events secure from disclosure and not working on solutions.

Cybersecurity is found in finding the zero-day events, creating solutions to defend against them, and sharing the solutions broadly so that they can be deployed. Once solutions are in place, the zero-day event should be disclosed to the public so that scholars and researchers can learn from the experience.

In essence, what we are saying is that we want to make sure that we are in the driver's seat, that we know the vulnerabilities, that we can confront the zero-day events, and that we can do that, meaning the Federal Government, in working with the private sector to ensure that we do protect this Nation.

Before I close, since we are dealing with Homeland Security Committee issues, I think it is important to take note of the fact of the crucialness and the importance of having a DACA fix and working together, as we have been doing, to ensure that the thousands and thousands of young people located across the Nation, who came here through no fault of their own, have a serious pathway of protection, in particular, the 140,000 that are in the State of Texas.

If we can stand here as bipartisan Members, I know that we can continue to work on that crucial and important issue, which I stand with those young people to ensure to get that done.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article by Morgan Chalfant, "Lawmakers approve 'cyber vulnerability' bill," written in The Hill.

[From the Hill, July 26, 2017]

LAWMAKERS APPROVE 'CYBER VULNERABILITY' BILL

(By Morgan Chalfant)

A House panel advanced legislation on Wednesday requiring the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to give lawmakers more information on how it discloses cyber vulnerabilities to the private sector.

The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) and received broad support from members of the House Homeland Security Committee, including Chairman Michael McCaul (R-Texas).

The bill would require Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly to send a report to relevant congressional committees describing policies and procedures used by the DHS to coordinate the disclosure of what are called "zero days"—cyber vulnerabilities that are unknown to a product's manufacturer and for which no patch exists.

The federal government decides whether to disclose zero days to the private sector through the vulnerabilities equities process (VEP), which was first acknowledged by the Obama administration in 2014 but is still shrouded in secrecy. While the government is said to err on the side of disclosure, the VEP has proven controversial because so little is known about it.

The process has attracted increased scrutiny in the wake of the outbreak of the "Wanna Cry" ransomware, which is believed to be based on a hacking tool developed by the National Security Agency.

Lawmakers in both chambers have sought to boost transparency of the VEP.

On Wednesday, Jackson Lee touted the legislation as providing an opportunity for Congress to better understand the process by which the DHS shares threat information

with private companies and how that information benefits the private sector.

"Because vulnerabilities can be used by adversaries, it is important that the sensitive information is managed securely and the details are guarded against premature disclosure," Jackson Lee said during a committee markup.

"There's no security in keeping zero day events secure and not working on solutions," she said. "The protection is in finding the zero day events, creating solutions, sharing the solutions broadly, then disclosing the vulnerabilities to the public."

The report mandated by the legislation would include an annex of information on specific instances when the DHS disclosed vulnerabilities to private sector companies in the previous year and information on how industry acted on the information. It could also contain information about how the DHS is working with other federal agencies and departments, as well as owners of critical infrastructure, to mitigate the threat of these vulnerabilities.

Kelly would be required to submit the report, which would be unclassified but could have a classified annex, within 240 days of the enactment of the legislation.

The committee approved the legislation in a voice vote with no amendments, sending it to the full House for a vote.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 3202, and I thank my manager as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3202, the Cyber Vulnerabilities Disclosure Reporting Act.

I thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their leadership on putting the security of our nation's cyber assets first whether they are computing resources used in voting technology or industrial control systems that support the delivery of electricity, oil and gas, or management of transportation systems all are vital to our nation.

H.R. 3202, the Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act, which I introduced, requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report on the policies and procedures developed for coordinating cyber vulnerability disclosures.

The report will include an annex with information on instances in which cyber security vulnerability disclosure policies and procedures were used to disclose details on identified weaknesses in computing systems that or digital devices at risk.

The report will provide information on the degree to which the information provided by DHS was used by industry and other stakeholders.

The report may also contain a description of how the Secretary of Homeland Security is working with other Federal entities and critical infrastructure owners and operators to prevent, detect, and mitigate cyber vulnerabilities.

The reason that I worked to bring this bill before the Full House for consideration is the problem often referred to as a "Zero Day Event."

Zero Day Events are vulnerabilities in software or firmware that have gone undetected or undisclosed, but if exploited by terrorists could cause great harm to computer networks, data, or complex computing dependent systems.

Our nation's electric power grid; industrial control systems that operate bridges, dams, water treatment facilities or food processing

plants are all vulnerable to the potential harm that could be caused if a weakness in software or firmware goes undetected.

Critical infrastructure must be secured against terrorist attacks that may use Zero Day Event vulnerabilities to attack critical infrastructure or civilian government agency computing assets.

Zero Day Events discovered in commercial software applications such as the "Heartbleed" and OpenSSL cryptographic software library vulnerability.

Proactive and coordinated efforts are necessary to strengthen and maintain secure critical infrastructure including assets that are vital to public confidence in the cyber nation's safety.

This bill supports the ongoing work of the Department of Homeland Security in security civilian agency and coordinating with private sector computing network owners and operators.

The nation's critical infrastructure is diverse, complex, and interdependent.

The overwhelming majority of critical infrastructure is privately owned or managed.

Critical Infrastructure owners and operators are uniquely positioned to manage risk to their operations and assets.

What is needed is a better understanding of how vulnerability discoveries lead to better protection for computing networks.

Zero Day Events require a coordinated approach to assignment of responsibility for developing patches or solutions, and a means of effectively distributing the solution without alerting potential terrorist or cyber criminals.

H.R. 3202 provides the Congress with the opportunity to understand the process and procedures used by the Department of Homeland Security and the benefit these disclosures may have for private sector entities participating in programs in support of cybersecurity.

I thank Lillie Coney of my staff and Jean de Pruneda a Fellow on the Committee on Homeland Security for their work on this important legislation.

I ask my colleagues to vote for H.R. 3202.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of 3202, The "Cyber Disclosure Reporting Act."

I thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their leadership on putting the security of our nation's cyber assets first whether they are computing resources used in voting technology or industrial control systems that support the delivery of electricity, oil and gas, or management of transportation systems that are vital to our nation economic health.

H.R. 3202, the Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act, which I introduced, requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report on the policies and procedures developed for coordinating cyber vulnerability disclosures.

The report will include an annex with information on instances in which cyber security vulnerability disclosure policies and procedures were used to disclose details on identified weaknesses in computing systems that or digital devices at risk.

The report will provide information on the degree to which the information provided by DHS was used by industry and other stakeholders.

The report may also contain a description of how the Secretary of Homeland Security is working with other Federal entities and critical

infrastructure owners and operators to prevent, detect, and mitigate cyber vulnerabilities.

The reason that I worked to bring this bill before the Full House for consideration is the problem often referred to as a "Zero Day Event."

A Zero Day Event describes the situation that network security professionals may find themselves when a previously unknown error or flaw in computing code is exploited by a cybercriminal or terrorist.

The term "Zero Day Event" simply means that there is zero time to prepare a defense against a cyberattack.

When a defect in software is discovered then network engineers and software companies can work to develop a "patch" to fix the problem before it can be exploited by those who may seek to do harm.

H.R. 3202 seeks a report on the ongoing Department of Homeland Security's policies and procedures for coordinating cyber vulnerability disclosures such as Zero Day Events with private sector partners.

Because vulnerabilities can be used by adversaries it is important that this sensitive information be managed securely so details are not routinely made available neither to the public nor to Congress.

H.R. 3202 provides the Congress with the opportunity to understand the process and procedures used by the Department of Homeland Security and the benefit these disclosures may have for private sector entities participating in programs in support of cybersecurity.

I thank Lillie Coney of my staff and Jean de Pruneda a Fellow on the Committee on Homeland Security for their work on this important legislation.

I urge members of the House to vote in favor of H.R. 3202, the Cyber Vulnerabilities Disclosure Act.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3202 will give this body important information on our government wide efforts to secure civilian agency networks and the collaborative ongoing work to provide information to private sector partners on computing vulnerabilities.

There's no security in keeping zero day events secure from disclosure and not working on solutions.

Cyber security is found in finding the zero day events, creating solutions to defend against them, and sharing the solutions broadly so that they can be deployed.

Once solutions are in place the Zero Day Event should be disclosed to the public so that scholars and researchers can learn from the experience.

With that, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 3202.

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

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this bill. With an ever-increasing reliance on technology today, we need to make sure that it is secure and safe for us to use and that the vulnerabilities are addressed so that we can maintain a safe and secure environment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3202.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1345

DHS INTERAGENCY COUNTERTERRORISM TASK FORCE ACT OF 2017

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4555) to authorize the participation in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces of personnel of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4555

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 “DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. OVERSEAS INTERAGENCY COUNTERTERRORISM TASK FORCE PARTICIPATION.

Section 102 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 112) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OVERSEAS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to assign Department personnel to participate in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces to—

“(A) facilitate the sharing of counterterrorism information, and

“(B) combat the threat of terrorism and associated risks to the United States stemming from overseas sources of conflict or terrorism,

as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) PERSONNEL.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may assign personnel from any component of the Department the Secretary determines necessary to participate in the overseas counterterrorism task forces referred to in paragraph (1).”.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORTS.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for three years, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on activities carried out pursuant to subsection (h) of section 102 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 112), as added by section 2 of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as terrorists and foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria seek to return home or travel to other regions in the wake of the defeat of ISIS on the battlefield, cooperation among U.S. military, national security, and law enforcement agencies is vital.

When these fighters move from the Middle East to the West or other regions, information collection and tracking becomes extremely difficult, especially when ensuring that all relevant Federal agencies have access to the same critical information. An enhanced, whole-of-government effort to share information and intelligence related to these fighters and their movements would improve security of the homeland.

In order to achieve this, H.R. 4555 authorizes the Department of Homeland Security Secretary to assign DHS personnel to overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces to facilitate the sharing of counterterrorism information and combat threats stemming from overseas sources of conflict or terrorism. This will enable DHS to build on existing initiatives to colocate DHS personnel with other Federal departments and agencies that play a crucial role in the fight against terrorism.

For example, assigning DHS personnel to the Department of Defense locations would facilitate better collection and sharing of information recovered from those conflict zones, which significantly improves our ability to interdict terrorists before they enter our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4555, the DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4555 authorizes DHS personnel to participate in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces. Since the attacks of September 11 and the demise of central al-Qaida, there has been an upsurge in the number of foreign terrorist organizations. The terrorist threat picture demands that DHS work to “push our borders out” and deal with terrorist threats overseas. As such, it is important that DHS deploy DHS personnel overseas to engage in counterterrorism information sharing with international partners.

Our close partnerships with countries around the world, especially in Europe, are essential to preventing returning foreign fighters from attacking the U.S. homeland. However, we remain concerned that terrorist organizations, in particular, ISIS, al-Qaida, and their affiliates, continue to plot attacks against the U.S. homeland and our interests abroad.

Authorizing the participation of DHS personnel in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces will facilitate better counterterrorism information sharing, which will help protect the homeland and U.S. interests abroad. As such, I support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, H.R. 4555 authorizes the participation of DHS personnel in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces. This measure seeks to help safeguard our homeland by fostering DHS overseas partnerships and facilitating counterterrorism information sharing.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) for sponsoring this legislation and for working with me on my amendment, which added reporting language on the activities authorized by this measure.

This is an important step forward and, again, I might emphasize, the work that is being done between the ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, and the full committee chair, Mr. MCCAUL, in bringing our committee together in producing a myriad of constructive legislation all geared to our task, because, when all is said and done, we are the Homeland Security Committee within the Homeland Security Department, created in the aftermath of the most heinous, horrific tragedy in the history of the United States of recent recollection that was not an incident of war.

Therefore, I think the American people, and I know the American people are owed our diligence and are owed our commitment and are owed our studiousness. I am very pleased to say that, on this committee, the production of legislation that comes to the floor, all is geared to securing the homeland.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 4555.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4555, the “DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act of 2017.”

H.R. 4555 authorizes DHS personnel to participate in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces.

Since the attacks of September 11th and the demise of central al Qaeda, there has been an upsurge in the number of foreign terrorist organizations.

The terrorist threat picture demands that DHS work to “push our borders out” and deal with terrorist threats overseas.

As such, it is important that DHS deploy DHS personnel overseas to engage in counterterrorism information sharing with international partners.

Our close partnerships with countries around the world, especially in Europe, are essential to preventing returning foreign fighters from attacking the U.S. homeland.

However, we remain concerned that terrorist organizations, in particular ISIS, al Qaeda, and their affiliates, continue to plot attacks against the U.S. homeland and our interests abroad.

Authorizing the participation of DHS personnel in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces will facilitate better counterterrorism information sharing, which will help protect the homeland and U.S. interests abroad.

I thank the gentleman from Florida, Mr. RUTHERFORD, for sponsoring this legislation and for working with me on my amendment which added reporting language on the activities authorized by this measure.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 4555.

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for her very commonsense amendment to this bill, which made it stronger and better, and I do appreciate the bipartisan work on that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4555, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

POST-CALIPHATE THREAT ASSESSMENT ACT OF 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4564) to require a threat assessment on current foreign terrorist fighter activities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4564

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 “Post-Caliphate Threat Assessment Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. THREAT ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State and Director of National Intelligence, shall conduct a threat assessment of current foreign terrorist fighter activities. Such assessment shall include the following:

(1) A detailed summary of current foreign terrorist fighter travel and trends, including countries of origin, travel destinations, and means of travel.

(2) An analysis of any country or region with a significant increase in foreign terrorist fighter activity.

(3) An analysis of foreign terrorist fighter travel trends in and out of Iraq and Syria.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL COMMUNICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the en-

actment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate on the threat assessment required under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to offer for consideration H.R. 4564, the Post-Caliphate Threat Assessment Act of 2017, for House consideration.

The Homeland Security Committee's Task Force on Denying Terrorist Entry into the United States, which I am a member of, spent the last year taking a deeper look at how terrorist organizations and lone-wolf attackers are entering the nations they are targeting. One of the most concerning issues that the task force learned is that an estimated 40,000 foreign fighters traveled to ISIS-occupied territories to join a force of over 100,000 radical Islamic terrorists.

Through major victories by anti-ISIS forces, the Islamic State's self-declared caliphate in Iraq and Syria has been mostly defeated as a whole, driving these terrorists into hiding. Many thousands of these battle-trained jihadists are now unidentified and their location is unknown. The United States is a primary target.

Of particular concern for the United States are those fighters seeking to return to Europe or the U.S. These fighters may seek to exploit direct flights to the United States as well as the Visa Waiver Program.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is about ensuring that we have the best possible data to defeat this threat. Specifically, my bill would direct the Secretary of DHS, in coordination with the Secretary of State and Director of National Intelligence, to conduct a threat assessment of current foreign terrorist fighter activity and report their findings to Congress. It would also ensure that Congress and the Executive gain better clarity on foreign terrorist travel and trends post-caliphate, which will strengthen our defenses as the diaspora unfolds.

Before closing, I would like to thank task force Chairman GALLAGHER, Representative KATKO, committee Chairman MCCAUL, bipartisan members of the Homeland Security Committee, and other members of the task force and their staffs for the hard work put in over the last year to make the report we issued this past December a reality.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this commonsense legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4564, the Post-Caliphate Threat Assessment Act of 2017. The Post-Caliphate Threat Assessment Act requires the DHS to conduct an intelligence threat assessment of foreign fighter activities.

With the military defeat of ISIL's caliphate, we are concerned about the threat of foreign terrorists returning to the West. While the vast majority of foreign fighters originated from Russia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, about 20,000 foreign fighters traveled to Iraq and Syria from at least 110 countries. We must address foreign fighters who are ready to return home. We must stay abreast of their movements and stop them from coming to the United States.

Requiring DHS to conduct a threat assessment of current foreign fighter activities will help DHS to continue to focus on travel screening on the risk-based dangers that we face. Let's focus our policies on preventing terrorism by keeping dangerous individuals from coming to this country.

H.R. 4564 requires a detailed report by the Secretary of Homeland Security, coordinating with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, on foreign fighter movements to help DHS focus on preventing their activities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this measure. I want to thank Mr. HIGGINS for this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4564.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1400

COUNTERTERRORISM INFORMATION SHARING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2017

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4569) to require counterterrorism information sharing coordination, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4569

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 “Counterterrorism Information Sharing Improvement Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. COUNTERTERRORISM INFORMATION SHARING COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall ensure that, for counterterrorism purposes, the Department of the Homeland Security has access to biographic and biometric data collected by the United States Government on individuals associated with a terrorist organization.

(b) COORDINATION.—The President shall direct the heads of relevant Federal departments and agencies to coordinate with the Secretary of Homeland Security to minimize and overcome any administrative, technical, capacity, or classification challenges to carrying out subsection (a).

(c) PROTECTIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that all relevant laws, rules, and procedures, including the section 552(a) of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Privacy Act” or the “Privacy Act of 1974”), regarding classification levels and civil rights and civil liberties are followed while seeking to carry out subsection (a).

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, consistent with the protection of classified information, submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the implementation of this section.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include a description of how the data referred to in subsection (a) is utilized for Department of Homeland Security screening and vetting purposes and any challenges associated with incorporating such data into departmental screening and vetting systems.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we destroy the caliphate in the Middle East, foreign fighters and terrorist sympathizers have fled the battlefield and are looking for new ways to spread their hatred, recruit new followers, instill fear, kill innocent people, and disrupt our way of life.

The December 11 bombing at the New York City Port Authority Bus Terminal was the second terror attack in New York in less than 2 months and a grave reminder of the reality of this threat.

Given this current environment, at the direction of Chairman MCCAUL, I led a task force to identify specific national security challenges and examine how terrorists might infiltrate our homeland and bring harm to our people. Subsequently, we produced a report with a series of solutions to fix any identified weaknesses that may be exploited by our enemies.

This report resulted in several pieces of legislation that have come before the House today. To that end, my bill, the Counterterrorism Information Sharing Improvement Act, seeks to enhance the current information-sharing environment that exists within the Federal and military communities. Throughout the task force, we heard time and time again about the incredible amount of biometric and biographic data being pulled off battlefields in Syria and Iraq, as U.S. forces and our allies continue to roll back the territories once held by ISIS.

It is often DOD personnel that encounter ISIS fighters on the battlefield, which often leads to the collection of valuable data. However, if these fighters and their associates move back to the West or try to enter the U.S., the DHS becomes the primary entity that will engage them. Therefore, it is critical that the data recovered by the DOD in the battlefield is able to reach the DHS and its systems for effective frontline screening and vetting of known or suspected terrorists.

In order to verify we are utilizing this information to support our counterterrorism efforts, we must ensure that the Department of Homeland Security gets access to that data in a timely manner, particularly so that it can be used for screening and vetting purposes. My bill directs the President, acting through the Secretary of Homeland Security, to ensure that the DHS has access to biographic and biometric data collected by the U.S. Government on individuals associated with a terrorist organization. The bill also directs the Secretary to report to Congress on these efforts.

The U.S. must prioritize any opportunity to identify bad actors outside the country and expand our ability to identify and deter threats before they reach the homeland. Unfortunately, information-sharing challenges among U.S. agencies can prevent valuable information from becoming available for

frontline screening and vetting. Not only is this a bureaucratic challenge, given the number of separate government agencies and components involved, but legal capacity and technical issues exist as well.

This bill will address these challenges and create improved collaborations between the Department of Homeland Security and its other Federal and military partners.

Mr. Speaker, I therefore urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4569, the Counterterrorism Information Sharing Improvement Act of 2017. This bill seeks to ensure that the DHS gets access to biometric and biographic data collected by the United States Government to carry out its counterterrorism efforts.

Since 9/11, the Democratic members of this committee have been committed to bolstering terrorism information sharing within our government. Today, terrorist threats are decentralized, spreading beyond al-Qaida, al Shabaab, and ISIL to a patchwork of small cells and lone wolves who stand ready to carry out violence to our country at their whim. Increasingly, this threat also includes homegrown violent extremists and domestic terrorists.

Ensuring that the DHS has access to biographic and biometric data on individuals associated with a terrorist organization is critical to comprehensive assessing of all forms of terrorism and threats to our government.

This legislation also requires that the DHS report on how the data is being received and utilized for screening and vetting purposes. This report will help Congress ensure that screening and vetting of travelers to the United States is conducted in a risk-based manner.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and I am prepared to close.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this legislation ensures that the DHS have access to biographic and biometric data collected by our government on individuals associated with terrorist organizations. It is important that this information be integrated into the DHS' screening and vetting programs to protect our country, our citizens, from all forms of terrorism and extremism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I thank my colleagues for their hard work in generating the task force report and all of the ideas that led to the variety of bills we are doing here today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from

Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4569.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SCREENING AND VETTING PASSENGER EXCHANGE ACT OF 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4581) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop best practices for utilizing advanced passenger information and passenger name record data for counterterrorism screening and vetting operations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4581

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 "Screening and Vetting Passenger Exchange Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. PASSENGER SCREENING BEST PRACTICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall develop best practices for utilizing advanced passenger information and passenger name record data for counterterrorism screening and vetting operations.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, to the greatest extent practicable—

(1) make available to certain countries, including visa waiver program countries under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187), the best practices required under subsection (a); and

(2) provide assistance to such countries in implementing such best practices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to voice my full support for H.R. 4581, the Screening and Vetting Passenger Exchange Act of 2017. This legislation directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop best practices for utilizing advanced passenger information, or API, and passenger names record data, or PNR, for

counterterrorism screening and vetting operations.

It also enables the Secretary to share those practices with our allies, including countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program, and to provide assistance in implementing these practices in those countries.

Having access to API, which is biographic information, and PNR data, which is data about reservation and itinerary information, allows our homeland security professionals to confirm the identities and travel patterns of potential criminals and terrorists before they enter the United States.

Allowing our men and women on the front lines to fight against terrorism, to work with Visa Waiver Program countries to make sure that they rise to the same standards only increases the safety of our Nation, the safety of all Americans traveling abroad, and the safety of all people across the globe. This legislation is a step in the right direction toward addressing further potential emerging threats.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support our Nation's Homeland Security by supporting my bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4581, the Screening and Vetting Passenger Exchange Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, the Screening and Vetting Passenger Act of 2017 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and share best practices for using data provided by passengers in screening and vetting operations with our allies around the world.

Since 2014, more than 75 million international travelers have come to the United States. In recent years, especially during the Obama administration, great strides were made to use the information furnished by these incoming travelers to advance security screening and vetting processes.

Building upon the Department's 2017 last point of departure security enhancements that sought to raise the bar in physical screenings at overseas airports with direct flights to the U.S., this bill will further reinforce security measures and seek to provide our overseas partners with the capabilities to advance their own vetting and screening.

No country is immune from terrorism, and this bill will ensure that the DHS can be a valued partner to nations that work with us.

By providing best practices on passenger screening, H.R. 4581 seeks to ensure that terrorists seeking to inflict harm are not allowed to travel without detection.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL),

the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Screening and Vetting Passenger Exchange Act. I want to thank Congressman FITZPATRICK for bringing this important legislation. The United States is currently experiencing one of the highest terror threat environments since 9/11.

Despite crushing the caliphate in Iraq and Syria, ISIS continues to demonstrate its capability to inspire attacks on the West, including in the homeland. The two terror attacks in New York City late last year are stark reminders of this reality and the threat facing the United States. Given the nature of this evolving threat, I established a task force on denying terrorists entry into the United States last year and I appointed Representative MIKE GALLAGHER to head up the effort.

I would like to thank all of the members of the task force for their hard work in making this effort a success. I charged this task force with examining how terrorists might infiltrate the homeland, identifying challenges with current U.S. Government information sharing and vetting procedures, and reviewing the screening agencies' structure and bureaucracy.

After completing its review, the task force issued a report outlining its findings and providing seven recommendations designed to address the identified gaps. These recommendations were the basis for several of the bills we are considering today. As evidenced by the recent spate of attacks, there is a large population of radicalized individuals in Europe who are willing to commit violence in the name of terrorist groups like ISIS. We must remain vigilant and cannot forget many of these individuals are just one flight away from the United States.

Given the seriousness of this threat, we must do more at home and abroad to screen and vet people seeking to enter the United States. The bills we are considering today will enhance our capabilities by improving information sharing and promoting efficiencies in the screening and vetting process, helping ensure the homeland is the best secured against terrorist infiltration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill seeks to make international travel more secure and fosters a strong relationship between our country and our allies. All nations must increase their vigilance with respect to security screening. There are thousands of ISIL foot soldiers who may seek to enter the Western world and other nations to carry out their attacks. This legislation seeks to harness the United States' best practices and capabilities to advance the safety of the global aviation community as we face an agile and evolving enemy.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4581.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SECURING DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FIREARMS ACT OF 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4433) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to achieve security of sensitive assets among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4433

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 “Securing Department of Homeland Security Firearms Act of 2017” or the “Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) LOST.—The term “lost” includes loss by theft.

(3) SENSITIVE ASSETS.—The term “sensitive assets” means any asset, regardless of value—

(A) that the Department of Homeland Security issues to a Department employee; and

(B) that either the Under Secretary for Management of the Department or a component head determines requires special control and accounting.

(4) UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.—The term “Under Secretary for Management” means the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF SECURING FIREARMS AND OTHER SENSITIVE ASSETS IN RE- SPONSIBILITIES OF UNDER SEC- RETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6), by inserting “(including firearms and other sensitive assets)” after “equipment”;

(2) by redesignating the second subsection (e) (relating to the definition of interoperable communications) as subsection (f); and

(3) by amending such redesignated subsection (f) to read as follows:

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS.—The term ‘interoperable communications’ has the meaning given such term in section 7303(g) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 194(g)).

“(2) SENSITIVE ASSETS.—The term ‘sensitive assets’ means any asset, regardless of value—

(A) that the Department of Homeland Security issues to a Department employee; and

(B) that either the Under Secretary for Management of the Department or a component head determines requires special control and accounting.”.

SEC. 4. MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE.

(a) SAFEGUARDING FIREARMS AND SENSITIVE ASSETS DIRECTIVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management shall develop and disseminate a Department-wide directive for achieving adequate security over firearms and other sensitive assets across the Department.

(2) CONTENTS.—The directive required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(A) Descriptions of what equipment, in addition to firearms, is classified as a sensitive asset for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

(B) Requirements for securing Department-issued firearms and other sensitive assets.

(C) A classification system for all categories of Department-issued badges and corresponding requirements for safeguarding such assets.

(D) Reporting requirements for lost firearms and other sensitive assets, including timelines for such reporting, to supervisors, local law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Crime Information Center, and Department headquarters.

(E) Recordkeeping requirements for lost firearms and other sensitive assets in inventory systems, including a timeline for recording such losses.

(3) REVIEW AND UPDATE OF DIRECTIVE.—Not later than one year after the issuance of the directive required under subsection (a) the Under Secretary for Management shall review and update, as necessary, such directive, including adding a requirement relating to recording in the inventory systems maintained by each component of the Department the acceptance or transfer of a firearm or other sensitive asset by such component.

(b) PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM MANUAL.—Together with the issuance of the directive pursuant to subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall disseminate a revised version of the Personal Property Asset Management Program Manual that includes the following:

(1) Requirements for component heads to develop procedures to safeguard firearms and other sensitive assets during on and off-duty time.

(2) Requirements for the issuance of safety locking devices and policies on the use of such assets, as applicable.

(3) Requirements for initial, recurrent, and remedial training on safeguarding such assets.

(4) Examples, with detail, of how to report and record lost sensitive assets across components of the Department, and an enforcement mechanism to ensure supervisors maintain such records.

(5) A requirement that the file maintained on a lost firearm or other sensitive asset

contains both the corresponding police report and the Department report detailing the circumstances surrounding such loss, including information on adherence to safeguarding procedures.

SEC. 5. COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

Department component heads shall—

(1) comply with Federal law, Federal regulations, executive branch guidance, and Department policy, including directives required by this Act, relating to the management and oversight of securing firearms and other sensitive assets;

(2) review the need for non-law enforcement badges;

(3) require component personnel to safeguard firearms and other sensitive assets in accordance with the directive issued by the Under Secretary for Management under section 4;

(4) require that component personnel adhere to the procedures and timelines for properly reporting to supervisors lost firearms and other sensitive assets;

(5) require that lost firearms and other sensitive assets are reported to local law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Crime Information Center, and Department headquarters in the timeframe established in such directive; and

(6) require that lost firearms and other sensitive assets are recorded in inventory systems in the timeframe established by such directive.

SEC. 6. INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.

The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall, on an ongoing basis, review implementation of this Act and, not later than 180 days after issuance of the directive under section 4, submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a review of the progress and effectiveness of such directive, including an assessment of the adequacy of such directive, as well as the level of compliance among the components of the Department to achieve adequate security of sensitive assets across Department components.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4433, the Securing Department of Homeland Security Firearms Act of 2017.

A recent report by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, entitled, “DHS’ Controls Over Firearms and Other Sensitive Assets,” found that, between fiscal year 2014 and fiscal year 2016, personnel from DHS and its components misplaced a total of 2,142 highly sensitive assets, including 228 firearms and 1,889 badges.

DHS is charged with the safety of our Nation and its citizens. The OIG report indicates that not only are there some DHS personnel not being held accountable for failing to safeguard their sensitive assets, they are also not receiving proper training on how to properly safeguard and keep track of such equipment. Given the importance of DHS' mission, this is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

H.R. 4433 follows the OIG's recommendations and requires DHS' Under Secretary for Management to promulgate a departmentwide directive to DHS personnel aimed at achieving adequate security over DHS firearms and other sensitive assets. H.R. 4433 mandates that this directive include descriptions of what equipment is classified as a sensitive asset, requirements for securing Department-issued sensitive assets, and recordkeeping requirements for reporting lost or stolen firearms and other assets.

H.R. 4433 also requires DHS to update its Personal Property Asset Management Program Manual to include procedures and training on how to safeguard assets, both on and off duty, in accordance with the directive.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4433, the Securing Department of Homeland Security Firearms Act of 2017.

Mr. Speaker, DHS is a diverse Department that has the distinction of being the largest law enforcement agency in the Federal Government. To help support its critical mission, DHS must maintain and safeguard a variety of sensitive law enforcement equipment, such as firearms, ammunition, and badges. DHS equipment in the wrong hands could result in loss of life.

According to an October 2017 report issued by the DHS Office of Inspector General, the Department does not have adequate requirements to safeguard its sensitive assets. Approximately 2,100 highly sensitive assets were lost between 2014 and 2016. In response to the report, my legislation requires DHS to develop and implement policies to secure firearms and other sensitive DHS equipment at the Department.

This security measure requires the Under Secretary of Management to disseminate a departmentwide directive that includes requirements for securing firearms and sensitive DHS equipment, as well as reporting these requirements.

This measure outlines the responsibilities to properly safeguard firearms and sensitive assets in accordance with the directive and requires personnel to properly report lost firearms and equipment.

This measure was unanimously approved by the Committee on Homeland Security last month and will help foster greater accountability and security within DHS, and I urge passage of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, my legislation is intended to advance the critical mission of DHS by ensuring that firearms and sensitive assets are properly safeguarded and maintained.

In my home State of California, in 2015, a 27-year-old, Antonio Ramos, was shot and killed with an ICE agent's stolen 9-millimeter weapon.

According to the DHS OIG, failures to safeguard important equipment and assets are still not being properly addressed. Given DHS' mission, it is essential that the DHS workforce prioritize and properly protect the equipment that is critical to their mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4433, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4433, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF IRAN TO FREE EXPRESSION

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 676) supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 676

Whereas, on December 28, 2017, popular protests against the Iranian regime began in the city of Mashad and rapidly spread throughout the country, in the most significant anti-government protests in Iran since June 2009;

Whereas the protesters have expressed numerous economic grievances, including the regime's widespread corruption and the Revolutionary Guard Corps' control of the country's economy;

Whereas protesters have decried the regime's costly, destabilizing activities abroad, including its support for terrorist groups such as Hezbollah and the murderous Assad regime in Syria;

Whereas reports indicate that more than 1,000 Iranians have been arrested and almost two dozen killed in connection with the protests;

Whereas the Iranian regime has shut down mobile internet access and has blocked and pressured companies to cut off social media applications used by activists to organize and publicize the protests;

Whereas Congress has provided authority to license the provision of communications

technology to Iran to improve the ability of the Iranian people to speak freely;

Whereas, on January 1, 2018, regime officials threatened to crack down, with Brigadier General Esmail Kowsari of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps stating, "If this situation continues, the officials will definitely make some decisions and at that point this business will be finished.";

Whereas Congress has provided authority to designate and sanction elements of the Iranian regime involved in significant corruption and serious human rights abuses;

Whereas Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and its Basij militia have been sanctioned by the United States for planning and carrying out serious human rights abuses against the Iranian people, including for the cruel and prolonged torture of political dissidents;

Whereas the regime has routinely violated the human rights of Iranian citizens, including ongoing, systematic, and serious restrictions of freedom of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of opinion and expression, including the continuing closures of media outlets, arrests of journalists, and the censorship of expression in online forums such as blogs and websites;

Whereas the Department of State's 2016 Human Rights Report on Iran noted "severe restrictions on civil liberties, including the freedoms of assembly, association, speech, religion, and press. Other human rights problems included abuse of due process combined with use of capital punishment for crimes that do not meet the requirements of due process, as well as cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; and disregard for the physical integrity of persons, whom authorities arbitrarily and unlawfully detained, tortured, or killed.";

Whereas, on December 29, 2017, the Department of State strongly condemned the arrest of peaceful protesters and noted that "Iran's leaders have turned a wealthy country with a rich history and culture into an economically depleted rogue state whose chief exports are violence, bloodshed, and chaos.";

Whereas, on January 1, 2018, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, Boris Johnson, stated that "The UK is watching events in Iran closely. We believe that there should be meaningful debate about the legitimate and important issues the protesters are raising and we look to the Iranian authorities to permit this.";

Whereas, on January 2, 2018, the French Foreign Ministry stated that "French authorities are closely monitoring the situation in Iran. Demonstrating freely is a fundamental right. The same is true for the free movement of information. France expresses its concern over the large number of victims and arrests.";

Whereas, on January 1, 2018, a spokesman for the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that "We call on the Iranian authorities to uphold and respect democratic and human rights" and "We are encouraged by the Iranian people who are bravely exercising their basic right to protest peacefully. Canada will continue to support the fundamental rights of the Iranians, including freedom of expression.";

Whereas Iran is a member of the United Nations, voted for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties; and

Whereas, in violation of these and other international obligations, Iranian regime officials continue to violate the fundamental human rights of the Iranian people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) stands with the people of Iran that are engaged in legitimate and peaceful protests against an oppressive, corrupt regime;

(2) condemns the Iranian regime's serious human rights abuses against the Iranian people, significant corruption, and destabilizing activities abroad;

(3) notes the statements of support for the protestors from key allies and calls on all democratic governments and institutions to clearly support the Iranian people's right to live in a free society;

(4) demands that the Iranian regime abide by its international obligations with respect to human rights and civil liberties, including freedoms of assembly, speech, and press;

(5) urges the Administration to use targeted sanctions and work to convene emergency sessions of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Human Rights Council to condemn the ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by the Iranian regime and establish a mechanism by which the Security Council can monitor such violations;

(6) encourages the Administration to expedite the license of communications technology to Iran to improve the ability of the Iranian people to speak freely;

(7) calls on companies to reject requests by the regime to cut off the Iranian people from social media and other communications platforms;

(8) respects the proud history and rich culture of the Iranian nation and fully supports efforts by the people of Iran to promote the establishment of basic freedoms that build the foundation for the emergence of a freely elected, open, and democratic political system; and

(9) urges the President and the Secretary of State to work with the international community to ensure that violations of human rights are part of all formal and informal multilateral or bilateral discussions with and regarding Iran.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their swift action in putting this important and timely resolution together.

The world has been witnessing the people of Iran taking to the streets en masse to protest the radical regime in Tehran. They have made it clear that the regime's policies have done nothing but harm Iran.

We have seen large-scale protests in Iran before, most notably in 2009, but these protests are different, Mr. Speaker. This time, unlike in 2009, America has not shied away from doing the

right thing. The administration has expressed vocal support for the people of Iran, and it has warned the regime that we are watching how it responds.

The public discontent is palpable, and these protests have exposed the cracks behind the regime's veneer. For decades, the hardline regime has squandered Iran's vast resources in pursuit of spreading the revolutionary ideology and of achieving an illicit nuclear weapons program.

The regime's rule by fear and rule by intimidation—the human rights abuses, the silencing of the opposition, the abuses of ethnic and religious minorities, the restrictions imposed against women under sharia law, and the corruption, none of these are being taken anymore, sitting down, by millions of Iranians.

Let us not be fooled, Mr. Speaker. Rouhani is no moderate. He is an opportunist, and he is a lifelong adherent to the regime and its hateful ideology.

That is why this resolution is so important. We must make it clear that we truly support the people of Iran and their aspirations for a free and democratic society. Their protests are a referendum on the regime, and we must make it clear to all the regime officials that they will be held accountable for any human rights abuses in response to these protests.

But, Mr. Speaker, we must also not lose sight of the bigger picture. These protests are important, and it is important that we take action on human rights abuses. But this is just one aspect of the regime's illicit behavior, and sanctions against human rights violators is but one tool that we have at our disposal. The totality of the regime's nefarious and illicit activity is what the people of Iran are protesting against, and it would be unwise for us to lose focus of that bigger picture.

So while it is important that we stand here today in support of the people of Iran and we make it clear that there will be consequences for human rights abuses, we must make sure that we see the whole board here and connect the dots, and that means, Mr. Speaker, using all the tools at our disposal, because they are not isolated issues. They are all connected.

So, with that, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to continue supporting a strong response to all of Iran's illicit activity and the use of all of the tools that we have at our disposal.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill.

In this House, we were on both sides of the Iran nuclear deal, but we were united in knowing that Iran is not an ally of the United States—at least, the Islamic Republic of Iran is not—and this House never agreed to ignore extreme human rights abuses simply because the Government of Iran has

agreed to limitations on its nuclear program.

This resolution puts us on the right side of history by stating that the House of Representatives stands with the people of Iran and condemns the Iranian regime's serious human rights abuses. It goes on to encourage the administration to expedite the licensing of communications technology to entities in Iran to improve the ability of the Iranian people to speak freely and also calls on companies around the world not to allow this regime to use any device or any technology to cut the Iranian people from social media and from other communications platforms.

□ 1430

We have seen in Iran a people dedicated to democracy and dedicated to improving their own lives. Over 1,000 Iranians have been arrested, and at least two dozen have been killed; this in a country with a great history. The Cyrus Cylinder is perhaps the first human rights document in world history. A model of it stands in the United Nations to commemorate the dedication of the Iranian people to human rights.

Today, they shout "No Gaza;" "No Lebanon;" "No Syria;" "My life for Iran," because they know that this regime's involvement in supporting terrorism around the world has not only devastated Syria, where Assad clings to power and half a million people have died, not only brings death and destruction to Lebanon and Yemen, but it has also devastated the Iranian economy, because this regime insists upon supporting Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis. Those are only the terrorist regimes whose names begin with H.

Of course, this regime has killed over 5,000 members of the LGBT community solely for who they are and whom they love.

This is a regime whose human rights record should, indeed, be criticized by the formal adoption of a resolution by this House of Representatives.

I also want to point out that the travel ban or Muslim ban implemented by this administration is harming our efforts to support the Iranian people at this time of crisis.

It says that if leaders of these demonstrations want to come to my community, where they have tens of thousands of Iranian-American supporters, they can't do it. And if, God forbid, they fear for their lives and want to flee, even if they are carefully vetted, they cannot set foot on American soil.

So I look forward to us standing with the people of Iran and eliminating the Muslim ban. I look forward to this House saying that we stand with the people who are putting their lives on the line to fight for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), who is

the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 676, which puts America squarely on the side of courageous Iranians who risk their lives in opposition to the corruption and oppression of the mullah regime in Tehran.

Iran is a country made up of oppressed minorities. It is a country made up of Kurds—there are more Kurds in Iran than there are in Iraq—Balochis, Azeris, Arabs, and yes, anticlerical Persians. These people have lived under a regime that terrorizes their population into submission and supports terrorist attacks on other nations.

Unlike our last President, who closed his ears to the pleas of the Iranian oppressed and brutalized people—and also, I might add, facilitated the transfer of billions of dollars to that regime in the name of an arms control agreement—that President is gone, and our new President is making us proud today by endorsing the rights of those who are struggling for freedom and putting our country and people squarely on the side of those people who share our values in freedom and justice throughout the world.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bipartisan resolution, H. Res. 676, offered by my friends, Chairman ED ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. I thank my friend from Florida and my friend from California for leading us in this conversation today.

Less than 2 weeks ago, on December 28, protests began in towns and villages throughout Iran. These quickly and organically grew to become the largest antigovernment demonstrations the country has witnessed since those remarkable demonstrations in the summer of 2009.

Iranian citizens have taken to the streets to decry the regime's corruption, economic mismanagement, and destabilizing activities abroad, including support for such terrorist groups as Hezbollah.

The Iranian people, the good men and women seeking relief from the failings of the current regime, deserve our support. Their voices deserve to be heard. Not surprisingly, the response of the regime in Tehran to these protests have been predictably draconian.

News reports suggest dozens of Iranians have been killed in the crackdown on protests and more than 1,000 Iranians have been arrested. In an effort to silence the protesters, the Iranian Government has blocked access to social media platforms used to organize and spread word of the demonstrations.

This most recent crackdown is part of a long history of human rights

abuses by the Iranian Government, both at home through violent oppression and abroad through funding of groups that support terror.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that last month the House passed my amendment to the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act to help crack down on Iranian human rights abusers and ensure U.S. sanctions are best positioned to improve the human rights situation in Iran.

This is but one step. We need to do more to stop Iran's repression and persecution of different religious faiths, including Sunni Muslims, Christians, and Baha'is. We need to do more to stop the regime's arbitrary and unlawful killings. We must do more to protect the Iranian people's right to freedom of expression.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Illinois an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. This resolution is an opportunity for the American people to stand with the peaceful Iranian protesters and condemn the maligned activities of the oppressive Iranian regime.

In the days ahead, I urge this administration to hold the Iranian regime accountable to its international human rights obligation as well as work with our allies at the United Nations to condemn and sanction Iran for its ongoing human rights violations.

The Iranian Government is seeking to silence its people. Today's resolution shows we are watching and that we stand with the people of Iran. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 676 and in solidarity with the people of Iran who courageously took to the streets in the recent weeks to protest their country's barbaric dictatorship.

I thank my good friends, ED ROYCE and ELIOT ENGEL, for their leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor. I also thank the chairwoman emeritus for her tremendous work over the years towards Iran in trying to get a policy that respects fundamental human rights and also ends their barbaric reign of terror and terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, over the past several weeks, tens of thousands of Iranians participated in nationwide protests to condemn the corruption, repression, and brutality that together represent the unique legacy of Iran's nearly 40-year-old authority theocracy.

The regime responded with characteristic coercion, intimidating activists and employing government-spon-

sored thugs and military units to quell the unrest. Approximately 20 protesters died in clashes with security forces. At least 1,000 people were arrested. I am sure those 1,000 are being tortured as we meet here today. Some estimates place the number closer to 4,000 people.

This unrest is the inevitable consequence of a dictatorship built on brutality and corruption in the service of domestic repression and regional conquest. Ambassador Haley was absolutely right when she told the U.N. Security Council: "When the rights of the people are denied, the people rightly resist. If the concerns are not acknowledged, then peace and security are inevitably threatened."

I am very proud of the work this Congress has done over the years. In my subcommittee, we have held hearings on human rights abuses in Iran, including with Pastor Saeed Abedini, who did a tremendous job with his wife in trying to effectuate his relief.

We must hold Iran to account for the treatment of the hundreds of jailed protesters and not let their faith be forgotten with the next news cycle. We must work tirelessly to secure the liberty of our own citizens, including Xiyue Wang, a graduate student from my own State of New Jersey, who has spent the past 519 days in the Evin Prison complex.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge support of the resolution.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), a member of our committee.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, the people live like paupers while the mullahs live like gods.

For weeks, tens of thousands of brave Iranians have courageously stood up in over 70 cities and chanted: "The people live like paupers while the mullahs live like gods."

They challenge their failed government. They have done so in the face of violent repression, imprisonment, torture, and even death.

Why?

They are fed up. They are fed up with poverty and unemployment; fed up with economic deprivation and rampant corruption; fed up with an oppressive theocratic regime that mismanages their own country, mistreats its own people, and spends billions of dollars sowing the seeds of war and funding terrorists while its people suffer.

Ayatollahs recklessly pursued nuclear weapons instead of creating jobs and building infrastructure for their own people. The regime's apologists have long argued that these policies are popular and they give Iranians a national sense of pride, restoring their place as a regional power.

A regional power?

It is more like regional thugs.

In Iraq, Iranian-backed militias have executed and beat civilians, looted homes, and destroyed people's lives. In

Lebanon, Iranian-backed Hezbollah aims tens of thousands of rockets at Israeli citizens. Syria backs Bashar al-Assad's vicious regime. Iran sends weapons and money to militants in Yemen, Bahrain, and Gaza. It has become the biggest purveyor of mayhem in the Middle East, pouring billions of dollars into nefarious activities while their own people are impoverished.

Today, I rise with my colleagues to support the Iranian protesters and the bipartisan H. Res. 676. The United States and our allies should use the menu of sanctions available to us to target human rights violators and the Ayatollah's thugs who forcefully repress their fellow citizens.

We must ensure the protesters have access to social media, and we must let them know that we support them. Ayatollahs must know that the free world is watching.

The people live like paupers while the mullahs live like gods. The time has come for the people to rise up and change it.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL), the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, as well as a senior member on the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution condemning the Iranian regime's crackdown on legitimate protests and to show the world that America stands with the Iranian people who want peace, prosperity, and freedom.

For many years, we have known the regime in Iran has fueled radicalism and violence across the Middle East as the world's leading state sponsor of terror. But over the last few weeks, we have seen the brutal tactics Iran's leaders are willing to take to silence protesters who are fed up with extremism, corruption, and incompetence coming from their capital. The protesters deserve to have their voices heard without fear of retaliation.

Today, Iranians are not citizens who are free to choose their own destinies. They are subject to a fanatical dictatorship that fears the people it rules by denying their freedoms.

Sadly, the Obama administration believed that the Ayatollah and his radical clerics would be willing partners for peace, naively rewarding them with billions of dollars in sanction relief. It is clear, however, that, since the signing of the flawed Iran deal, the regime's behavior has only gotten worse by continuing its support for terror groups like Hezbollah and its backing of Houthi rebels in Yemen, all in pursuit of establishing a Shia crescent.

Fortunately, the current administration and this Congress will not be so easily fooled or complicit in their foreign adventurism. Leaders of rogue states will say whatever they must to bring unearned concessions from great powers.

But if it is real change that is desired, we must apply more pressure. We

cannot trust a country's government to be peaceful with other nations if it resorts to violence against its own people it is supposed to protect.

That is why I will soon introduce legislation that requires the Trump administration to determine whether senior members of the Government of Iran are responsible or complicit in human rights abuses, corruption, or censorship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Texas an additional 30 seconds.

□ 1445

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, the bill also calls out the Iranian regime's practice of taking American citizens and other foreign nationals hostage, and lays out several steps the administration should take in conjunction with our allies to put an end to this practice.

A time will come when the tyrants of Tehran are held accountable for their actions. After many decades of authoritarian rule, Iranians deserve to be free. When democracy finally does flourish in Iran, the people will remember who stood by their side.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH).

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, in the past couple of weeks, tens of thousands of Iranian citizens from a broad cross-section of society took to the streets to demand accountability and change in their country. This was the largest mass protest since the Green Revolution in 2009.

Tragically, both ended in the same predictable darkness: harsh government crackdowns in which innocent peaceful protesters were arrested, were jailed, and were killed.

In the latest episode, more than 3,700 Iranian protesters were arrested and nearly two dozen were killed. The Iranian people deserve better and they deserve the support of all peoples who value and yearn for freedom.

Today's resolution sends an important message to the Iranian people, that we stand with them in their legitimate pursuit of reforms from a regime that would silence their voices and steal their fundamental liberties.

I also believe we should do more. I am proud to have introduced with Chairman McCAUL, along with support of Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL, the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act that goes one step further than condemnation to actually impose sanctions against those Iranian officials perpetrating these egregious human rights violations, as well as those responsible for kidnapping Americans, Americans like my own constituent, Bob Levinson, who has now spent more than 10 years in captivity.

Last week, we welcomed in a new year, and Bob's family again ushered in that new year without Bob by their side. For his sake and for the sake of the Iranian people trying to hold their own regime accountable for caring more about Assad and Hamas than they do about helping their own citizens, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H. Res. 676 to help bring the Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act to the floor, and let's make sure that human rights remain exactly where they should in American foreign policy, right at the center of our agenda.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, who tells it just like it is.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, make no doubt about it, the number one terrorist in the world is the Ayatollah in charge of the butchery against his own people in Iran. He is the number one guy—the most wanted man in the world, as far as I am concerned, for terrorism lies at his feet.

He, along with the mullahs of Iran, continues to crack down violently on the people of Iran who are exercising a human right to protest the government that is in charge. The regime's brutality against its people knows no limit. To silence the crimes of the Ayatollah in Iran, they have blocked much of the internet and social media, including the telegram and Instagram. We must make sure that this important line of communication stays open for the Iranian people.

In 2009, there were about 1 million folks in Iran who had access to social media. Now there are about 20 million people, I understand, who have access to social media. Our administration must make sure that the American businesses and technology are still available to allow the Iranian people to document the regime's crimes against the people.

The Iranian people can bring about change on their own, but we must help by providing the necessary tools to empower democratic movements that the mullahs stand in fear of.

Mr. Speaker, in 2009, the Iranians rose up against the mullahs, but our government merely watched the arena of freedom in the streets of Iran while our government sat in the stands as a spectator. This is not a spectator sport. This is about freedom and human dignity.

The United States must politically, publicly, and economically support the people of Iran and let them know we will not be in the stands as a spectator any longer, and we must penalize the mullahs and the Ayatollah economically for their crimes.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank both gentlemen from California for their leadership and for their very important work on a very important crisis fight for human rights and freedom.

Just yesterday I rose to the floor of the House to recount my experience over the weekend joining the Iranian-American community in Houston on a busy corner at Post Oak and Westheimer. We joined together as Americans to begin to articulate that there is no divide when it comes to the freedom of speech, freedom for all to have access to protests and democracy.

So today I rise to support H. Res. 676, and I rise to speak in horror of the 1,000 Iranians that have been arrested and almost two dozen killed. We mourn their loss. We recognize that it has to be all of us, our allies included, that must stand and join in the language of this resolution, and it is, of course, to ensure that sanctions are pointedly targeted at those who want to oppress the protesters.

Interestingly enough, the protesters are now from rural and the middle class. The questions of the economy are very much a part of it, that Iranians are not able to live and to be able to have economic opportunity. Their young people have no growth. So this is far reaching, which is, of course, surprising to the regime.

They were hoping to quash this. They have no answers. And the answers should be a concerted, committed, and dedicated group of allies, including the United States, leading in efforts to support these protesters.

So I rise today to join in standing with the people of Iran in their legitimate and peaceful protest. I ask that the regime be condemned, and I ask that the communications, Mr. Speaker, be allowed to continue and that our companies don't reject—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

I believe it is so important that the communication—the work that we are getting ready to do here in the United States, to provide communications technology, needs to go forward. We must include in our petition—meaning our petition as Members of Congress—that our companies do not deny or quash the rights of Iranians to communicate with each other for peace, freedom, and democracy.

Our message to the regime is: it is time to open the doors of freedom in Iran. Iranian Americans, Americans, the United States Congress, and, of course, all of our government stand for peace, freedom, dignity, and democracy for the people of Iran.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr.

ROYCE), and I ask unanimous consent that he control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) is recognized.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we stand with the people of Iran. We stand with people who are engaged in legitimate protests against an oppressive, corrupt regime.

There is a certain irony to this. This is a great people, the people of Iran. It was the Persian king, Cyrus the Great, who drafted the first declaration of human rights, the Cyrus Cylinder.

As you enter the United Nations, you see this quotation from him. This was a document meant to protect other cultures and it secured a special place in the history of civilization. His humanitarian values that he laid out of freedom for all peoples, respect for culture, for religious liberty, recognition of the fact that it is better to be loved than to be feared, these are remarkable attributes, especially at that point in time, and they were handed down as part of this deep Persian culture.

We, who live in free societies, owe a great debt to the Iranian people. They are the heirs to this culture. They are those who hold those values and ideas for governance that originally inspired the European Enlightenment, leaders of our own government here, our own Founding Fathers. It was Thomas Jefferson who told his grandson: These are the ideals you study first of Cyrus the Great in terms of governance.

Now, it is amazing that Iranians at this moment enjoy far fewer rights than their forefathers did. Cyrus was lauded for the protections he offered religious and ethnic minorities. We look at the state of affairs today and we see the repression of Iran's ethnic and religious minority populations from the Azerbaijanis to the Balochs, from the Kurds and the Arabs to the Baha'is and the Christians and the Zoroastrians.

You know, the regime authorities routinely deny those citizens the most basic human rights, and they do it through harassment and intimidation and detention and violence. And if you want to know what kind of violence, talk to the young Persians or talk to the young minorities who suffered through the torture in those prisons.

Why do they suffer through it?

Because they are trying to bring attention to the oppressiveness of that regime. Those young people yearn for human rights. They stand for the celebrated culture of the Persian people and for human rights. As this resolution makes clear, the United States House of Representatives fully supports those who have taken to the streets in Iran to exercise the fundamental freedom of expression and assembly.

We join them in the hope that their bravery will build the foundation for the emergence of a freely elected, open democratic political system in Iran. It is a moral imperative to support those who risk their lives demanding the freedoms that people in free societies enjoy every day.

That is why this resolution calls on all democratic governments and institutions worldwide to join us in clearly supporting the Iranian people's right to live in a free society. We all face a clear choice. We stand with the protesters and we stand with those who demand the basic rights and opportunities enjoyed in free societies.

We are not going to stand with the oppressors, those who steal the wealth of a great nation to enrich themselves and to fund violence abroad. Supporting the people of Iran is a strategic imperative. These brave men and women are standing up against the Revolutionary Guard's violent intervention in Syria and Lebanon as well. We must join them in demanding an end to the single greatest source of instability in the Middle East, and this is this obsession that the regime has with this ideology.

In standing with the Iranian people, we must explain that they are not the target of our sanctions. U.S. sanctions target the oppressive destabilizing regime, not the people of Iran. That is why, as this resolution makes clear, Congress has provided authority to license communications technology that improves the ability of the Iranian people to speak freely.

Today we call on the agencies involved to expedite those licenses. U.S. international broadcasting must also turn up the volume of its efforts in Iran and convey a message of hope and support. This should be conveyed by the young that know that this debate today in the American people's House is about this issue. Iranians must know that they are not alone in their struggle for freedom.

We also call on companies to reject requests by the regime to cut off the Iranian people from social media.

□ 1500

These technologies are at their best when they are used to empower people and undermine the efforts of oppressive regimes.

There is more we can do, and I welcome Chairman McCaul and Congressman DEUTCH's introduction of bipartisan legislation that will give the administration greater leverage to target those responsible for ordering and carrying out human rights abuses in Iran. This includes the regime's practice of holding Americans and other foreigners hostage. Many of the regime's hostages are people of Iranian descent who came to visit family members, came to visit loved ones.

I am also working to introduce legislation that has the same goal as those who have bravely taken to the streets: to push the corrupt revolutionary

guard out of the Iranian economy. In doing so, it seeks to deny the guards the funds they use to hold power over the Iranian people while destabilizing Syria and destabilizing Lebanon.

Mr. Speaker, Congress and the administration have a great opportunity. We must work together on an approach to Iran that empowers the Iranian people and targets the corrupt regime which oppresses a great people. We cannot be quiet with the passage of this resolution. We state that America stands with the Iranian people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I commend our committee chairman for an outstanding speech.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER).

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 676, to urge support for this bipartisan resolution to help stop terror.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE and my good friend Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL for their leadership on this issue, and I am glad that this bipartisan resolution has proceeded swiftly to a vote on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, the revolution of 1979 marked an enormous step backwards for global security and for the basic rights of the Iranian people, the longest suffering victims of this corrupt terrorist regime.

From its very beginnings, the Islamic Republic of Iran, under the control of its Supreme Leaders, has repeatedly violated the fundamental human rights of its own citizens.

In August, the U.N. Special Reporter on the Situation of Human Rights in Iran highlighted the Khamenei regime's many ongoing abuses, "including the arbitrary detention and prosecution of individuals for their legitimate exercise of a broad range of rights; the persecution of human rights defenders, journalists, students, trade union leaders, and artists; a high level of executions, including of juvenile offenders; the use of torture and ill treatment; widespread violations of the right to a fair trial and due process of law, especially before revolutionary courts; and a high level of discrimination against women and religious and ethnic minorities."

Beginning late last month, protestors across the country have taken to the streets to decry their dismal economic prospects; Iran's costly, aggressive, and destabilizing actions throughout the region; and an antidemocratic regime that stifles their rights and aspirations and supports terror. These brave men and women, engaged in peaceful demonstrations, have every right to demand change from their corrupt and oppressive terrorist government.

While Iranians live under a brutal, authoritarian mullahcracy at home, their government insists on bankrolling terror throughout the re-

gion. Iran has capitalized on sanctions relief, bolstering its arsenal of conventional arms and its illegal ballistic missile program, and increasing the funding of heinous terrorist organizations and proxies in Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq, as well as propping up the murderous regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria.

As the world's leading sponsor of terror, Iran provides more than \$800 million, annually, to Hezbollah and recently renewed its support for Hamas. Iranian-backed forces are also attempting to gain a foothold in Syria, right up against Israel's border, to threaten our vital ally and the leading democracy in the region.

There should be nothing partisan about having the backs of brave men and women anywhere who risk death to speak out for what is right and against a terrorist regime. This bipartisan resolution condemns the regime's censorship, violent crackdowns, and systematic repression. We must send a clear message to Iran that its destructive behavior throughout the Middle East will not be tolerated.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for the people of Iran to enjoy their fundamental right to a peaceful and democratic government. I urge each of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan resolution to help stop terror.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, simple things mean a lot. That is why I, too, stand in support of H. Res. 676, which sends a clear message that the United States strongly condemns the arrest of peaceful protestors by the rogue Iranian regime.

Mr. Speaker, the Iranian people deserve to be free. The last administration witnessed such protests about 8 years ago and turned its back. The world saw that America turned their back on the freedom effort and movement in Iran.

The current administration has noticed immediately and recognized immediately, and we are here today to say that no longer will terrorism be appeased; no longer should we help pay for the funding of Hezbollah and Hamas through payments in the Iran nuclear deal.

Simple things mean a lot, and simple things like this resolution, Mr. Speaker, mean that we stand with the Iranian people who breathe and live to be free, just like we do.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, thank you for demonstrating that the House of Representatives stands with the people of Iran and condemns the country's brutal regime.

I rise today to applaud the Iranian people, who are struggling for dignity, human rights, and economic security under a shadow of oppression. We are a hemisphere away, but our hearts are with the brave men and women who are raising their voices in hopes that they will finally be free from the reins of tyranny.

The Iranian people are protesting the abuses of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and we must support their outrage by severely punishing and containing the IRGC with suffocating sanctions.

We must work with our allies to help Iranians communicate on the internet without restrictions. We must broadcast footage from protestors and hold authorities accountable for abuses.

America is an enthusiastic friend of the Iranian people. We are thrilled to support their aspirations for justice and liberty, and we stand with them as they take to the streets and demand an end to oppression.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The time of the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) has expired.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), and I ask unanimous consent that he be able to control that time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of this resolution demonstrating our support for the Iranian people's cry for democracy.

On December 28, 2017, tens of thousands of Iranians courageously poured into the streets to protest the brutality of President Rouhani's regime. Instead of caring for its own people, the Iranian regime focuses all of its energy on suffocating their cry, murdering protestors, while choking off communication via the internet and social media apps.

We have been down this road before. This is our second chance.

The Iranian people, smothered by their own government, look to us, and, instead of the chill of silence, this time, they are rightfully met with the full, immediate, and resounding support of the United States. We stand in solidarity with millions of Iranians desperate for support to help them turn the tide in Tehran and all throughout Iran.

The people of Iran will be losing a great champion with the retirement of Chairman ROYCE, who has served over the course of the last three terms as chairman of our committee. The fight continues.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan resolution. It will put America and this Congress on the side of the Iranian people.

Regardless of which side you are on as to the nuclear deal, we are all dedicated to peace and democracy in Iran and an end to its support for terrorism around the world, support that not only causes damage outside Iran's borders but, as the demonstrators shouting in over 50 Iranian cities have clearly indicated, devastates the economy of Iran.

To us here in Washington, we may believe that the face of this regime is that of Foreign Minister Zarif, the dapper, debonair diplomat, meeting with us in Geneva and Vienna. But the real face of this regime is that of Alan Kurdi, the 3-year-old Kurdish child found washed up on the beach in Turkey after fleeing the war in Syria, a war that has claimed nearly 500,000 lives because, and only because, Assad has been propped up by the Iranian regime. The other faces of this regime are the real faces of Iranian protestors who put their lives on the line for the freedom of their country.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that deserves the support of both sides of the aisle.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 676.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

TAIWAN TRAVEL ACT

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 535) to encourage visits between the United States and Taiwan at all levels, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 535

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 "Taiwan Travel Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.), enacted in 1979, has continued for 37 years to be a cornerstone of relations between the United States and Taiwan and

has served as an anchor for peace and security in the Western Pacific area.

(2) The Taiwan Relations Act declares that peace and stability in the Western Pacific area are in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States and are matters of international concern.

(3) The United States considers any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States.

(4) Taiwan has succeeded in a momentous transition to democracy beginning in the late 1980s and has been a beacon of democracy in Asia, and Taiwan's democratic achievements inspire many countries and people in the region.

(5) Visits to a country by United States cabinet members and other high-ranking officials are an indicator of the breadth and depth of ties between the United States and such country.

(6) Since the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, relations between the United States and Taiwan have suffered from insufficient high-level communication due to the self-imposed restrictions that the United States maintains on high-level visits with Taiwan.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States Government should encourage visits between officials from the United States and Taiwan at all levels.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It should be the policy of the United States to—

(1) allow officials at all levels of the United States Government, including cabinet-level national security officials, general officers, and other executive branch officials, to travel to Taiwan to meet their Taiwanese counterparts;

(2) allow high-level officials of Taiwan to enter the United States, under conditions which demonstrate appropriate respect for the dignity of such officials, and to meet with officials of the United States, including officials from the Department of State and the Department of Defense and other cabinet agencies; and

(3) encourage the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, and any other instrumentality established by Taiwan, to conduct business in the United States, including activities which involve participation by Members of Congress, officials of Federal, State, or local governments of the United States, or any high-level official of Taiwan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 535, the Taiwan Travel Act, and I recognize Mr. CHABOT for his long-standing dedication and support to the people of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan succeeded in a momentous transition, a transition which took them to democracy. They did this decades ago, and since, it has become a beacon of democracy across the Asia-Pacific.

Taiwan is a strong friend and critical partner to the United States. Congress has been central to this longstanding bond, championing a strong relationship with Taiwan through a number of landmark measures, like the Taiwan Relations Act, impressing successive administrations to fulfill their obligation to sell defensive arms to Taiwan. Today, Congress continues this legacy with this Taiwan Travel Act, which has gained strong, bipartisan support.

We should encourage our officials to visit Taipei, to meet with their democratically elected counterparts on the many issues, the many programs, that we work on together, such as global health, commercial ties, global cooperation and training, the framework that we have in place. We should also welcome Taiwanese officials here.

Mr. Speaker, there are, in fact, no laws that bar our executive branch officials at any level from visiting Taiwan. The EPA Administrator in 2014 was the last executive branch official to visit Taiwan. A total of six Cabinet-level officials have visited Taiwan since 1979.

As our 10th largest trading partner, Taiwan deserves more attention. U.S. interests in the region deserve more respect. This bill encourages officials, at all levels of the U.S. Government, including Cabinet-level officials, to travel to Taiwan to meet their counterparts and vice versa.

□ 1515

Mr. Speaker, we must build stronger ties in our relationship with Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, H.R. 535, the Taiwan Travel Act. I am pleased to have joined with Congressman CHABOT in introducing this bill, the Taiwan Travel Act.

Taiwan is not just an important trading partner, our 14th largest market. It is not just a land of 23 million people. It is a democratic ally of the United States, a place where our values are displayed in the Asia-Pacific region. Yet it would be surprising for most Americans to know that leaders from Taiwan are not allowed to visit the United States under any reasonable format. Instead, the President of Taiwan cannot visit Washington, D.C., but can visit Los Angeles for a refueling stop on the way to Costa Rica.

What an absurd fiction that the President of Taiwan would fly across the Pacific again and again to visit their friends in Costa Rica or other

Central American countries and that the refueling stop in the United States is just a 2-day effort to put fuel on a jet plane.

Now, my district actually benefits from this, because when the President and several different officials of Taiwan come to America, they refuel at Los Angeles Airport and they come to the Sheraton Universal Hotel in the 30th Congressional District. But in spite of the benefit both in terms of image and the economy that the current situation provides for the 30th District, it is time for us to grow up and it is time for us to realize that Taiwan is a vital ally and that its most important leaders should be visiting Washington, D.C., and talking not only to the legislative branch, but talking to the executive branch as well.

We should no longer be in a circumstance where, when Members of Congress from other parts of the country want to visit with the President of Taiwan, they have to fly to Universal City and stay at the Sheraton in my district and visit there.

We could communicate far better if the President of Taiwan was able to land at Dulles and be in the halls of Congress.

This bill simply says that it is time to encourage travel of the high-ranking officials of each country to the other and meetings at the highest levels. These are important steps in ending this effort to isolate Taiwan, because by encouraging a greater level of high-level visits and dialogue, we would ease Taiwan's international isolation and reaffirm that the U.S. has a political and security commitment to the freedom of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. CHABOT for introducing this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the chairman emerita of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank our esteemed chairman for his years of service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 535, the Taiwan Travel Act, authored by my good friend and colleague, Chairman STEVE CHABOT. Over the years, Steve and I have worked closely together on our Foreign Affairs Committee, and his commitment and leadership on strengthening U.S.-Taiwan relations has been second to none.

We have worked to shift U.S. policy on Taiwan to a more favorable position for our friend and ally, Taiwan, rather than an acquiescent policy that U.S. administration after U.S. administration continued to implement out of fear from a Chinese economic retaliation or diplomatic retaliation or military retaliation.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, it is a shame that we continue to allow China to dictate our foreign policy when it comes to Taiwan. The Taiwanese have been great partners for the United States,

whereas China seeks to undermine everything we do, yet administration after administration have gone so far as to self-impose restrictions and self-impose limitations in our dealings with Taiwan, and that includes a self-imposed restriction on allowing the Taiwanese President and other high-ranking government officials from Taipei from coming to Washington, D.C., to meet with Congress, to meet with administration officials, to meet with other policymakers. This is unconscionable, and this farce needs to end.

We should have direct dialogue with the democratically elected leadership of our ally, Taiwan, and we should not allow China or the fear of Chinese reprisal to dictate this.

Without this, we are putting ourselves at a disadvantage. We are harming and insulting an ally. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we are damaging our national security interests and giving China, in effect, a veto over our foreign policy decisions.

That is why Mr. CHABOT's bill is so important, Mr. Speaker. The Taiwan Travel Act states that it should be U.S. policy to not only allow visits from Taiwanese officials at all levels of the government, but to encourage these visits, to facilitate these visits.

It also states that our own policymakers, including at the highest levels of our government, should visit Taiwan for face-to-face meetings with their counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is a global leader. We are a sovereign nation. Who we choose to meet with and who we choose to recognize is our sovereign right. We should not allow China or anyone else to impact our decision. For far too long, America has allowed China to prevent us from taking full advantage of our partnership with Taiwan.

The Taiwan Travel Act is an important step toward doing the right thing for our friend and ally, and I hope that the administration will reverse these damaging policies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, the chairman of our esteemed committee, for the time. I urge all of our colleagues to support Mr. CHABOT's bill.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), who is the author of this bill.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of all three of these overwhelmingly bipartisan bills.

First, I would like to speak on H.R. 535, the Taiwan Travel Act, a bill which I introduced this Congress along with my colleague, Congressman SHERMAN. We appreciate his support on this and a lot of other issues in this Congress, Chairman ROYCE and other Members as well.

For close to 4 decades now, the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act has served as a

cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations, and together, with President Reagan's six assurances, we have maintained peace and stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region. However, there are still major steps that we can take to further strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

I believe one of the most important improvements that we can make is to allow the President of Taiwan and other high-ranking officials, like Taiwan's foreign and defense ministers, to visit Washington, our Nation's Capital, something that is currently prohibited. This is our own self-imposed policy and it is outrageous. These restrictions are only carried out because of potential diplomatic retaliation from the PRC, from China.

Personally, I think restricting high-level visits by senior Taiwanese officials is not only insulting, but it is counterproductive.

We should be encouraging more direct dialogue with the democratically elected President of Taiwan and other highest elected officials.

We let the leaders of China, the PRC, come to Washington on a regular basis and we give them the highest honors, yet we shun the democratically elected leaders of our longtime ally, Taiwan.

We need to send a strong signal that the current approach to bilateral contacts and communications between the U.S. and Taiwan is outdated and it is time for it to go and be changed, and that is what this bill is all about.

If we seriously want to promote greater democracy in the region, we should be as supportive as possible to the countries that are actually practicing democracy, and that is what Taiwan does. It is a longtime ally of ours.

That is exactly why I introduced the Taiwan Travel Act along, again, with Congressman SHERMAN and Chairman ROYCE a year ago—January 13, 2017, to be exact.

This bill, which has broad, bipartisan support from a long list of cosponsors, states that our government should encourage visits between the U.S. and Taiwan at all levels.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to quickly voice my support for H.R. 3320, a bill championed by my friend and colleague, Chairman TED YOHO. This bill directs the Department of State to assist Taiwan in regaining observer status in the World Health Organization, WHO. Unfortunately, Taiwan has been excluded from participating in most of the really important international organizations, including the WHO, for almost 50 years now.

Many of my colleagues and I have advocated for years for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the WHO, much to the dismay of China, which has consistently thwarted these efforts.

Taiwan's exclusion from the WHO creates a dangerous and unnecessary gap in global health, especially considering the stellar health research and medical resources Taiwan has to offer.

That is why H.R. 3320 is so important. WHO membership for Taiwan is not only in the best interests of Taiwan, it is in the best interests of the rest of the world, including the United States.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I want to voice my support for H. Res. 676, Chairman ROYCE's and Ranking Member ENGEL's resolution supporting the rights of the people of Iran and condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protesters. This is a common-sense measure.

The current regime in Iran has never respected human rights or the rule of law. The recent situation in Iran only underscores this reality.

I am pleased to see my colleagues quickly condemning the atrocities by that government this very day; however, I want to take this opportunity to stress the importance of remembering the big picture in Iran. It is a country, let's face it, that is being run by thugs. Not only do they perpetrate violence and marginalize their own people, they harbor, promote, and finance terrorism throughout the region. They threaten America and its allies. They continue to develop ballistic missiles, which we know that one day they would like to have tipped with nuclear devices. That could be a threat not just to our allies in the region, but the United States.

This most recent outbreak of civil unrest in the country should not be a surprise, considering the Iranian regime's ruthless tactics.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues join me in support of this measure also and take further steps to hold Iran accountable for both its domestic and international violations. I urge my colleagues to support all three of these measures.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank the gentlemen from California, Chairman ROYCE and Mr. SHERMAN, for their support on these and other measures.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, every year, China threatens Taiwan, attempts to strangle that democracy, bases missiles just over the Taiwan Straits, conducts military exercises designed to simulate an invasion, hurts the economy of Taiwan, and hurts the people of Taiwan.

□ 1530

What is the mildest possible response that the United States could make to these provocative and hostile actions? It is the adoption of the Taiwan Travel Act, H.R. 535, to simply have meetings with Taiwanese officials and simply allow them to land, even at those airports in the United States inconvenient for refueling on the way to Costa Rica.

We should welcome the leaders of Taiwan as we welcome the leaders of other allies of the United States, and this is the mildest answer we could make to the saber-rattling from Beijing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am a decades-long supporter of Taiwan; and as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have made supporting stronger U.S.-Taiwan economic and security ties a priority for our committee. I have traveled to Taiwan many times, as have members of the committee.

I really want to thank Chairman CHABOT for introducing this important measure, and I want to thank him for being a long-time champion for Taiwan, especially when he was chairman of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee.

The U.S. and Taiwan share a common commitment, and that commitment is to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. Taiwan's successes serve as an example of what can be built on these important principles. We should be supporting countries that have achieved democracy to serve as an inspiration for those values across the world.

The Taiwan Travel Act is important because it will encourage more interaction between the U.S. and Taiwan. This is long overdue. It is needed, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 535.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 535.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO REGAIN OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3320) to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3320

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

SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations, charged with coordinating health efforts within the United Nations system. The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the decision-making body of the WHO, which convenes annually in May to set the policies and priorities of the organization. Statehood is

not a requirement for attendance at the WHA, and numerous observers, including non-members and non-governmental organizations, attended the most recent WHA in May 2017.

(2) Taiwan began seeking to participate in the WHO as an observer in 1997. In 2009, with strong support from successive United States Administrations, Congress, and like-minded WHO Member States, and during a period of improved Cross-Strait relations, Taiwan received an invitation to attend the WHA as an observer under the name "Chinese Taipei". Taiwan received the same invitation each year until 2016, when following the election of President Tsai-Ing Wen of the Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan's engagement in the international community began facing increased resistance from the People's Republic of China (PRC). Taiwan's invitation to the 2016 WHA was received late and included new language conditioning Taiwan's participation on the PRC's "one China principle". In 2017, Taiwan did not receive an invitation to the WHA.

(3) Taiwan remains a model contributor to world health, having provided financial and technical assistance to respond to numerous global health challenges. Taiwan has invested over \$6 billion in international medical and humanitarian aid efforts impacting over 80 countries since 1996. In 2014, Taiwan responded to the Ebola crisis by donating \$1 million and providing 100,000 sets of personal protective equipment. Through the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, the United States and Taiwan have jointly conducted training programs for experts to combat MERS, Dengue Fever, and Zika. These diseases know no borders, and Taiwan's needless exclusion from global health cooperation increases the dangers presented by global pandemics.

(4) Taiwan's international engagement has faced increased resistance from the PRC. Taiwan was not invited to the 2016 Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), despite participating as a guest at the organization's prior summit in 2013. Taiwan's request to participate in the 2016 General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) was also rejected. In May 2017, PRC delegates disrupted a meeting of the Kimberley Process on conflict diamonds held in Perth, Australia, until delegates from Taiwan were asked to leave. In June 2017, the Republic of Panama granted diplomatic recognition to the PRC, terminating a longstanding diplomatic relationship with Taiwan.

(5) Congress has established a policy of support for Taiwan's participation in international bodies that address shared transnational challenges, particularly in the WHO. Congress passed H.R. 1794 in the 106th Congress, H.R. 428 in the 107th Congress, and S. 2092 in the 108th Congress to direct the Secretary of State to establish a strategy for, and to report annually to Congress on, efforts to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the WHA. Congress also passed H.R. 1151 in the 113th Congress, directing the Secretary to report on a strategy to gain observer status for Taiwan at the ICAO Assembly, and H.R. 1853 in the 114th Congress, directing the Secretary to report on a strategy to gain observer status for Taiwan at the INTERPOL Assembly. However, in 2016 Taiwan did not receive invitations to attend any of these events as an observer.

(b) AUGMENTATION OF REPORT CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1 of Public Law 108-235 (118 Stat. 656) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) An account of the changes and improvements the Secretary of State has made to the United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly, following any annual meetings of the World Health Assembly at which Taiwan did not obtain observer status.”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect and apply beginning with the first report required under subsection (c) of section 1 of Public Law 108–235 that is submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), the author of this important bill which counters the harmful and unacceptable efforts being made to undermine Taiwan's inclusion at the World Health Organization.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, Mr. ROYCE, for offering this bill, or the opportunity to offer this bill. I would also like to say I, too, support H.R. 535, the Taiwan Travel Act.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3320, a bill that directs the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization. I would like to give particular thanks to Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and Ranking Member SHERMAN for supporting this bill and working with me to advance it through the committee process.

Mr. Speaker, over the last few years, the People's Republic of China has stepped up its campaign to marginalize Taiwan. Last year, Beijing poached one of Taiwan's few remaining diplomatic partners, the Republic of Panama. Beijing also successfully blocked Taiwan from participating in a number of international organizations, including the World Health Organization.

Taiwan's exclusion from the World Health Organization's annual summit, the World Health Assembly, serves no purpose other than to placate Beijing. The WHO exists to address shared transnational health challenges, and Taiwan has proven, time and time again, that it is a model contributor to world health.

Since 1996, Taiwan has invested over \$6 billion in international medical and humanitarian aid efforts impacting over 80 countries. It has made significant financial contributions to The

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. And as this bill finds, in 2014, Taiwan responded to the Ebola crisis by donating \$1 million and providing over 100,000 sets of personal protective equipment.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 3320. Clearly, Taiwan should be a full member of the World Health Organization. All nations should be full members of the World Health Organization, especially one with an advanced health system that can help us stop pandemics from spreading from one country to another. That is why it makes sense for us to advocate Taiwanese participation in all international bodies, but particularly the U.N.'s World Health Organization.

I am pleased to cosponsor this legislation that is critical to preparing to prevent pandemics. Look at the nonsense that is being foisted on the world by Beijing. For political reasons, in an effort to say that Taiwan doesn't exist except as a province, they are endangering the health of the world because pathogens have not been told that they are not to go to Taiwan. The epidemics have not been told to spare humankind from the inefficiencies and glaring omissions that occur when an important country is excluded from the World Health Organization.

Taiwan's exclusion, even from observer status, from the World Health Organization is a terrible symbol, an attempt to deny self-determination to 23 million people. But it is worse than a terrible symbol. It is a practical impediment to stopping epidemics. It is a practical impediment to world health, and it is time for the United States to have a strategy to reach out to the world and say Taiwan needs to be part of health planning. Taiwan needs to be part of the lifesaving initiatives of the World Health Organization.

So I look forward to working with our colleagues to pass this legislation and working with the State Department to implement it. I look forward to the day when we do not put the world at risk of an epidemic that could have been contained but for the malicious symbolism being foisted on us by Beijing.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), our chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman again for yielding more time. I also recognize Congressmen CHABOT and CONNOLLY for being cosponsors of this bill.

While Taiwan's contributions to global health deserves praise, its isolation from international organizations and exclusion from the WHO has proven dangerous, if not hazardous. During the 2002–2003 outbreak of SARS, official

WHO notifications and technical assistance were either blocked or delayed, all while patients in Taiwan died and the virus continued to spread. These diseases know no boundaries and, with extensive transit and trade links, Taiwan's participation at the WHO is essential.

Congress has long supported Taiwan's participation in international organizations that do not require statehood, and this legislation will continue this important work. My bill will ensure that the U.S. diplomatic strategy to advocate for Taiwan's presence at the WHA, the World Health Assembly, adapts to Beijing's increased efforts to box out Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is a benevolent actor on the international stage. It deserves to keep that place it has earned. The next World Health Assembly meeting will take place in May of this year. Passage of my bill will be a timely opportunity for the House to recommit to longstanding U.S. policies and to take a firm stand in the face of Beijing's increasingly oppressive tactics.

I urge my colleagues to support Taiwan's participation in the WHO as an observer by supporting this legislation. Again, I thank Chairman ROYCE for the opportunity.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it was 20 years ago that we here in Congress spoke with one voice. We passed a law to support Taiwan's inclusion in the World Health Organization. It took a decade of advocacy; it took pressure before Taiwan was finally invited to participate in that assembly for the first time in 2009. So you can imagine it is with great disappointment that we learned that Taiwan was excluded from the meetings last year for the first time after 8 years of consecutive participation in Geneva.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan's participation at the World Health Organization is a matter of public health, as our friend, Mr. SHERMAN, and as the chairman of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee, Mr. YOHO, have both reminded us. This is a matter of public health.

Taiwan has contributed greatly, so greatly to the international efforts to prevent epidemics. It has provided critical humanitarian aid and medical training around the world; financial assistance, investing \$6 billion in international medical and humanitarian aid efforts since 1996, all over this globe, 80 countries.

During the 2014 Ebola crisis, it was Taiwan that was there, providing also 100,000 sets of protective gear for health workers. Through the global cooperation and training framework, the U.S. and Taiwan have jointly conducted training programs for experts to combat diseases from Dengue fever to Zika.

Mr. Speaker, yes, as Mr. YOHO reminded us, and Mr. SHERMAN, we know

from this experience that infectious diseases know no borders. They so quickly spread, and the global health community does not benefit when Taiwan is kept in the dark on these critical matters. We are all safer when Taiwan has meaningful, unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums.

All of us recall that Taiwan had an awful experience during the SARS epidemic that was 15 years ago when the World Health Organization directed Taiwan officials not to approach them, but to approach Beijing for information-sharing instead.

It is clear that Taiwan's exclusion from last year's World Health Assembly will only hurt. The health and safety of the people of Taiwan should not be needlessly held hostage by politics, and world health should not be put at risk. Taiwanese doctors have so much to offer, given their experience providing this humanitarian assistance around this world.

Last fall, I met with the Director-General of the World Health Organization.

□ 1545

I pressed him for Taiwan's participation. Unfortunately, this meeting did not relieve my concerns about Taiwan's future outlook. And it is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, that it is all the more important that the U.S. use all of its diplomatic leverage to support Taiwan's efforts to regain observer status to the WHO.

I applaud the administration for sending our Health Secretary to meet with the delegation Taiwan sent to Geneva for bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the assembly meeting last year, and I think, by doing so, the U.S. demonstrated leadership by putting international cooperation ahead of politics. Passage of this bill demonstrates our support for Taiwan's inclusion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), chairman emerita of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank our esteemed chairman for this time, and I want to thank my Florida colleague, TED YOHO, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, for offering this important bill as well as for his constant friendship and assistance to our strong and indispensable ally, Taiwan.

His bill, H.R. 3320, directing the Secretary of State to develop a strategy for increasing Taiwan's participation at the World Health Organization, is an important first step, an important piece of our foreign policy toward our ally, Taiwan.

Congress has, for years, been pushing for Taiwan to have greater access, to

have equal representation at so many institutions. Unfortunately, as with so many other international organizations, Taiwan's lack of observer status at the World Health Organization, or WHO, is caused by an orchestrated and dangerous campaign by China to constrain Taiwan's participation in global affairs.

In the case of the WHO, China is depriving the international community from access to a wealth of Taiwan's high-level healthcare information. Due to its superb talent, due to its data collection, due to its quarantine and treatment facilities, Taiwan has excellent infectious disease control capabilities. Fourteen years ago, Taiwan's cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control was crucial in stemming the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome, known as SARS.

Before the last World Health assembly in May, I wrote a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services urging greater efforts to ensure that Taiwan received an invitation to the summit. The Secretary agreed with me, writing that Taiwan is an indispensable member of the global health society and is a "strong health partner that demonstrated the value of its expertise and contributions to health issues of global concern."

Unsurprisingly, however, Mr. Speaker, China once again put its dangerous and shortsighted policies first, using its influence with World Health Organization member states to deny Taiwan an invitation to the assembly.

We cannot continue allowing China to threaten global efforts to mitigate infectious disease, and, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to allow China to bully Taiwan or to have a veto over our own foreign policy decisions. It is time to develop new ideas and new strategies so that we can put a stop to China's bullying and ensure that Taiwan gains observer status at the WHO and everywhere else.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this important measure, and, as always, I thank our esteemed chairman for the time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This legislation has support from just about everyone, bipartisan. It is obviously necessary for Taiwan to be part of the World Health Organization. To exclude it is to put the health of anyone who might be affected by a pandemic, to put that interest below Beijing's interest in strangling Taiwan diplomatically and economically.

I urge the adoption of this legislation, and I look forward to working with the State Department until we achieve our objective, which is, at a minimum, Taiwan's return to observer status at the World Health Organization.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would like to share with the body that I led a delegation to Taipei this last summer, and I was there when Taiwan pledged to donate \$800,000 in disaster relief to Houston. That was in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. It is generous actions like this that I can think of, 80 occasions, that remind us again and again that Taiwan is a positive actor in the international community, and that is why we must continue to support Taiwan's international standing and well-being.

So I would like to say in closing that I thank my colleagues for being original cosponsors on this bill. In addition to Mr. YOHO and myself, I want to thank Mr. ENGEL. And I want to thank Mr. SHERMAN. I want to thank the gentleman for his leadership on this issue, and Mr. CONNOLLY as well.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of two critical pieces of legislation, H.R. 535 and H.R. 3320. These bills are important to U.S. national security because the spread of pandemics do not respect borders. These bills are also important because they will enhance the position of Taiwan, a true and vibrant democracy, with which we have had longstanding ties.

I commend my good friend and colleague, Mr. STEVE CHABOT, for introducing the Taiwan Travel Act. Currently, the President of Taiwan, Vice President, Premier, Defense Minister and Foreign Minister of Taiwan are not allowed to come to Washington, D.C. for consultations. These are U.S. self-imposed restrictions that are practiced due to fear of potential Chinese diplomatic retaliation. Restricting high-level visits by senior Taiwanese officials is both insulting and counterproductive. This policy should be changed.

Mr. Speaker, China will never be happy with U.S.-Taiwan policy or the Taiwan Relations Act. Communist China will never be placated by our self-imposed restrictions on travel and consultations. We should not try.

Mr. Speaker, I also stand today in support of H.R. 3320, introduced by my good friend and chairman of the subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Mr. TED YOHO.

H.R. 3320 would designate that the Secretary of State devise a plan to include Taiwan in the World Health Organization. Taiwan has been excluded from participating in the WHO due to Chinese pressure, and sadly, the international community has acquiesced.

We here in Congress have been advocating for many years that the U.S. should take action to ensure Taiwan's meaningful participation in the WHO. As a major transport and shipping hub in the Asia Pacific region, with enormous volumes of people and goods passing through on a daily basis, Taiwan's exclusion creates a dangerous gap in the global health and safety information network.

Mr. Speaker, the full participation of Taiwan in the WHO and other multilateral bodies cannot be overstated as a U.S. national security interest.

China's efforts to exclude Taiwan from international bodies like WHO creates needless blind spots in the international system where terrorism and disease can spread undetected.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan must join the WHO as a full member. Regaining observer status is

only a first step. Full WHO membership for Taiwan is not only in the interest of Taiwan, it is in the interest of the rest of the world.

I urge my colleagues to pass these critical measures to strengthen the bond between the U.S. and our democratic ally, Taiwan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3320.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 676, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4564, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 4581, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF IRAN TO FREE EXPRESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 676) supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 2, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 2]

YEAS—415

Abraham	Bishop (MI)	Budd
Aderholt	Bishop (UT)	Burgess
Aguilar	Black	Bustos
Allen	Blum	Butterfield
Amash	Blumenauer	Byrne
Amodeli	Blunt Rochester	Calvert
Arrington	Bonamici	Capuano
Babin	Bost	Carbajal
Bacon	Boyle, Brendan	Cárdenas
Banks (IN)	F.	Carson (IN)
Barletta	Brady (PA)	Carter (GA)
Barr	Brady (TX)	Carter (TX)
Barragán	Brat	Cartwright
Barton	Bridenstine	Castor (FL)
Bass	Brooks (AL)	Castro (TX)
Beatty	Brooks (IN)	Chabot
Bera	Brown (MD)	Cheney
Bergman	Brownley (CA)	Chu, Judy
Beyer	Buchanan	Cicilline
Biggs	Buck	Clark (MA)
Bilirakis	Bucshon	Clarke (NY)

Clay	Hartzler	McMorris
Cleaver	Hastings	Rodgers
Clyburn	Heck	McSally
Coffman	Hensarling	Meadows
Cohen	Herrera Beutler	Meehan
Cole	Hice, Jody B.	Meeks
Collins (GA)	Higgins (LA)	Meng
Collins (NY)	Higgins (NY)	Messer
Comer	Hill	Mitchell
Comstock	Himes	Moolenaar
Conaway	Holding	Mooney (WV)
Connolly	Hollingsworth	Moore
Cook	Hoyer	Moulton
Cooper	Hudson	Mullin
Correa	Huffman	Murphy (FL)
Costa	Huizenga	Nadler
Costello (PA)	Hultgren	Napolitano
Courtney	Hunter	Neal
Cramer	Hurd	Newhouse
Crawford	Issa	Noem
Crist	Jackson Lee	Nolan
Crowley	Jayapal	Norcross
Cuellar	Jeffries	Norman
Culberson	Jenkins (KS)	Nunes
Curbelo (FL)	Jenkins (WV)	O'Halleran
Curtis	Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke
Davidson	Johnson (LA)	Olson
Davis (CA)	Johnson (OH)	Palazzo
Davis, Danny	Johnson, E. B.	Pallone
Davis, Rodney	Johnson, Sam	Palmer
DeFazio	Jordan	Panetta
DeGette	Joyce (OH)	Pascarell
Delaney	Kaptur	Paulsen
DeLauro	Katko	Payne
DeBene	Keating	Pearce
Demings	Kelly (IL)	Pelosi
Denham	Kelly (MS)	Perlmutter
Dent	Kelly (PA)	Perry
DeSantis	Kennedy	Peters
DeSaulnier	Khanna	Peterson
DesJarlais	Kihuen	Pittenger
Deutch	Kildee	Pocan
Diaz-Balart	Kilmer	Poe (TX)
Dingell	King (IA)	Poliquin
Doggett	King (NY)	Polis
Donovan	Kinzing	Posey
Doyle, Michael	Knight	Price (NC)
F.	Krishnamoorthi	Quigley
Duffy	Kuster (NH)	Raskin
Duncan (SC)	Kustoff (TN)	Ratcliffe
Duncan (TN)	Labrador	Reed
Dunn	LaHood	Reichert
Ellison	LaMalfa	Rice (NY)
Emmer	Lamborn	Rice (SC)
Engel	Lance	Richmond
Eshoo	Langevin	Roby
Espallat	Larsen (WA)	Roe (TN)
Estes (KS)	Larson (CT)	Rogers (AL)
Estry (CT)	Latta	Rogers (KY)
Evans	Lawrence	Rohrabacher
Farenthold	Lawson (FL)	Rokita
Faso	Lee	Rooney, Francis
Ferguson	Levin	Rooney, Thomas
Fitzpatrick	Lewis (GA)	J.
Fleischmann	Lewis (MN)	Ros-Lehtinen
Flores	Lieu, Ted	Rosen
Fortenberry	Lipinski	Roskam
Fox	LoBiondo	Ross
Frankel (FL)	Loeb	Rothfus
Frelinghuysen	Loeb	Rouzer
Fudge	Lofgren	Roybal-Allard
Gabbard	Long	Royce (CA)
Gallagher	Loudermillk	Ruiz
Gallego	Love	Ruppersberger
Garamendi	Lowenthal	Rush
Garrett	Lowe	Russell
Gianforte	Lucas	Rutherford
Gibbs	Luetkemeyer	Ryan (OH)
Gohmert	Lujan Grisham,	Sánchez
Gomez	M.	Sanford
Gonzalez (TX)	Luján, Ben Ray	Sarbanes
Goodlatte	Lynch	Schakowsky
Gosar	MacArthur	Schiff
Gotthelmer	Maloney	Schneider
Gowdy	Carolyn B.	Schrader
Granger	Maloney, Sean	Schweikert
Graves (GA)	Marchant	Scott (VA)
Graves (LA)	Marino	Scott, Austin
Graves (MO)	Marshall	Scott, David
Green, Al	Mast	Sensenbrenner
Griffith	Matsui	Serrano
Grijalva	McCarthy	Sessions
Grothman	McCaul	Sewell (AL)
Guthrie	McClintock	Shea-Porter
Gutiérrez	McCollum	Sherman
Handel	McEachin	Shimkus
Harper	McGovern	Shuster
Harris	McHenry	Simpson
	McKinley	Sinema

Sires	Thornberry	Walters, Mimi
Slaughter	Tiberi	Wasserman
Smith (MO)	Tipton	Schultz
Smith (NE)	Titus	Waters, Maxine
Smith (NJ)	Tonko	Watson Coleman
Smith (TX)	Torres	Weber (TX)
Smith (WA)	Trott	Webster (FL)
Smucker	Tsongas	Welch
Soto	Turner	Westrup
Speier	Upton	Westerman
Stefanik	Valadao	Williams
Stewart	Vargas	Wilson (SC)
Stivers	Veasey	Wittman
Suozzi	Vela	Womack
Swalwell (CA)	Velázquez	Woodall
Takano	Visclosky	Yarmuth
Taylor	Wagner	Yoder
Tenney	Walberg	Yoho
Thompson (CA)	Walden	Young (AK)
Thompson (MS)	Walker	Young (IA)
Thompson (PA)	Walorski	Zeldin

NAYS—2

Jones

Massie

NOT VOTING—14

Adams	Green, Gene	Renacci
Bishop (GA)	Hanabusa	Scalise
Blackburn	Kind	Walz
Cummings	McNerney	Wilson (FL)
Foster	Pingree	

□ 1617

Mr. CARTER of Georgia changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

POST-CALIPHATE THREAT ASSESSMENT ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4564) to require a threat assessment on current foreign terrorist fighter activities, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 3]

YEAS—413

Abraham	Bishop (UT)	Bustos
Aderholt	Black	Butterfield
Aguilar	Blum	Byrne
Allen	Blumenauer	Calvert
Amash	Blunt Rochester	Capuano
Amodeli	Bonamici	Carbajal
Arrington	Bost	Cárdenas
Babin	Boyle, Brendan	Carson (IN)
Bacon	F.	Carter (GA)
Banks (IN)	Brady (PA)	Carter (TX)
Barletta	Brady (TX)	Cartwright
Barr	Brat	Castro (TX)
Barragán	Bridenstine	Chabot
Barton	Brooks (AL)	Cheney
Bass	Brooks (IN)	Chu, Judy
Beatty	Brown (MD)	Cicilline
Bera	Brownley (CA)	Clark (MA)
Bergman	Buchanan	Clarke (NY)
Beyer	Buck	Clay
Biggs	Bucshon	Cleaver
Bilirakis	Budd	Clyburn
Bishop (MI)	Burgess	Coffman

Cohen	Hice, Jody B.	Meehan	Smith (TX)	Torres	Watson Coleman	Conaway	Hollingsworth	Mooney (WV)
Cole	Higgins (LA)	Meeks	Smith (WA)	Trott	Weber (TX)	Connolly	Hoyer	Moore
Collins (GA)	Higgins (NY)	Meng	Smucker	Tsongas	Webster (FL)	Cook	Hudson	Moulton
Collins (NY)	Hill	Messer	Soto	Turner	Welch	Cooper	Huffman	Mullin
Comer	Himes	Mitchell	Stefanik	Upton	Wenstrup	Correa	Huizenga	Murphy (FL)
Comstock	Holding	Moolenaar	Stewart	Valadao	Westerman	Costa	Hultgren	Nadler
Conaway	Hollingsworth	Mooney (WV)	Stivers	Vargas	Williams	Costello (PA)	Hunter	Napolitano
Connolly	Hoyer	Moore	Suozzi	Veasey	Wilson (SC)	Courtney	Hurd	Neal
Cook	Hudson	Moulton	Swaiwell (CA)	Vela	Wittman	Cramer	Issa	Newhouse
Cooper	Huffman	Mullin	Takano	Velázquez	Womack	Crawford	Jackson Lee	Noem
Correa	Huizenga	Murphy (FL)	Taylor	Visclosky	Woodall	Crist	Jayapal	Nolan
Costa	Hultgren	Nadler	Tenney	Wagner	Yarmuth	Crowley	Jeffries	Norcross
Costello (PA)	Hunter	Napolitano	Thompson (CA)	Walberg	Yoder	Cuellar	Jenkins (KS)	Norman
Courtney	Hurd	Neal	Thompson (MS)	Walden	Yoho	Culberson	Jenkins (WV)	Nunes
Cramer	Issa	Newhouse	Thompson (PA)	Walker	Young (AK)	Curbelo (FL)	Johnson (GA)	O'Halleran
Crawford	Jackson Lee	Noem	Thornberry	Walorski	Young (IA)	Curtis	Johnson (LA)	O'Rourke
Crist	Jayapal	Nolan	Tiberi	Walters, Mimi	Zeldin	Davidson	Johnson (OH)	Olson
Crowley	Jeffries	Norcross	Tipton	Wasserman		Davis (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Palazzo
Cuellar	Jenkins (KS)	Norman	Titus	Schultz		Davis, Danny	Johnson, Sam	Pallone
Culberson	Jenkins (WV)	Nunes	Tonko	Waters, Maxine		Davis, Rodney	Jones	Palmer
Curbelo (FL)	Johnson (GA)	O'Halleran				DeFazio	Jordan	Panetta
Curtis	Johnson (LA)	O'Rourke				DeGette	Joyce (OH)	Pascarell
Davidson	Johnson (OH)	Olson	Adams	Green, Gene	Pingree	Delaney	Kaptur	Paulsen
Davis (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Palazzo	Bishop (GA)	Grijalva	Renacci	DeLauro	Katko	Payne
Davis, Danny	Johnson, Sam	Pallone	Blackburn	Hanabusa	Scalise	DelBene	Keating	Pearce
Davis, Rodney	Jones	Palmer	Castor (FL)	Kind	Speier	Demings	Kelly (IL)	Pelosi
DeFazio	Jordan	Panetta	Cummings	McNerney	Walz	Denham	Kelly (MS)	Perlmutter
DeGette	Joyce (OH)	Pascarell	Foster	Perlmutter	Wilson (FL)	Dent	Kelly (PA)	Perry
DeLauro	Kaptur	Paulsen				DeSantis	Kennedy	Peters
DeLauro	Katko	Payne				DeSaulnier	Khanna	Peterson
DelBene	Keating	Pearce				DesJarlais	Kihuen	Pittenger
Demings	Kelly (IL)	Pelosi				Deutch	Kildee	Pocan
Denham	Kelly (MS)	Perry				Diaz-Balart	Kilmer	Poe (TX)
Dent	Kelly (PA)	Peters				Dingell	King (IA)	Poliquin
DeSantis	Kennedy	Peterson				Doggett	King (NY)	Polis
DeSaulnier	Khanna	Pittenger				Donovan	Kinzing	Posey
DesJarlais	Kihuen	Pocan				Doyle, Michael	Knight	Price (NC)
Deutch	Kildee	Poe (TX)				F.	Krishnamoorthi	Quigley
Diaz-Balart	Kilmer	Poliquin				Duffy	Kuster (NH)	Raskin
Dingell	King (IA)	Polis				Duncan (SC)	Kustoff (TN)	Ratcliffe
Doggett	King (NY)	Posey				Duncan (TN)	Labrador	Reed
Donovan	Kinzing	Price (NC)				Dunn	LaHood	Reichert
Doyle, Michael	Knight	Quigley				Ellison	LaMalfa	Rice (NY)
F.	Krishnamoorthi	Raskin				Emmer	Lamborn	Rice (SC)
Duffy	Kuster (NH)	Ratcliffe				Engel	Lance	Richmond
Duncan (SC)	Kustoff (TN)	Reed				Eshoo	Langevin	Roby
Duncan (TN)	Labrador	Reichert				Espallat	Larsen (WA)	Roe (TN)
Dunn	LaHood	Rice (NY)				Estes (KS)	Larson (CT)	Rogers (AL)
Ellison	LaMalfa	Rice (SC)				Esty (CT)	Latta	Rogers (KY)
Emmer	Lamborn	Richmond				Evans	Lawrence	Rohrabacher
Engel	Lance	Roby				Farenthold	Lawson (FL)	Rokita
Eshoo	Langevin	Roe (TN)				Faso	Lee	Rooney, Francis
Espallat	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (AL)				Ferguson	Levin	Rooney, Thomas
Estes (KS)	Larson (CT)	Rogers (KY)				Fitzpatrick	Lewis (GA)	J.
Esty (CT)	Latta	Rohrabacher				Fleischmann	Lewis (MN)	Ros-Lehtinen
Evans	Lawrence	Rokita				Flores	Lieu, Ted	Rosen
Farenthold	Lawson (FL)	Rooney, Francis				Fortenberry	Lipinski	Roskam
Faso	Lee	Rooney, Thomas				Fox	LoBiondo	Ross
Ferguson	Levin	J.				Frankel (FL)	Loebach	Rothfus
Fitzpatrick	Lewis (GA)	Ros-Lehtinen				Frelinghuysen	Lofgren	Rouzer
Fleischmann	Lewis (MN)	Rosen				Fudge	Long	Roybal-Allard
Flores	Lieu, Ted	Roskam				Gabbard	Loudermilk	Royce (CA)
Fortenberry	Lipinski	Ross				Gaetz	Love	Ruiz
Fox	LoBiondo	Rothfus				Gallagher	Lowenthal	Ruppersberger
Frankel (FL)	Loebach	Rouzer				Galleo	Lowe	Rush
Frelinghuysen	Lofgren	Roybal-Allard				Garrett	Lucas	Russell
Fudge	Long	Royce (CA)				Gianforte	Luetkemeyer	Rutherford
Gabbard	Loudermilk	Ruiz				Gibbs	Lujan Grisham,	Ryan (OH)
Gaetz	Love	Ruppersberger				Gohmert	M.	Sánchez
Gallagher	Lowenthal	Rush				Gomez	Luján, Ben Ray	Sanford
Galleo	Lowe	Russell				Gonzalez (TX)	Lynch	Sarbanes
Garamendi	Lucas	Rutherford				Goodlatte	MacArthur	Schakowsky
Garrett	Luetkemeyer	Ryan (OH)				Gosar	Maloney,	Schiff
Gianforte	Lujan Grisham,	Sánchez				Gottheimer	Carolyn B.	Schneider
Gibbs	M.	Sanford				Gowdy	Maloney, Sean	Schrader
Gohmert	Luján, Ben Ray	Sarbanes				Granger	Marchant	Schweikert
Gomez	Lynch	Schakowsky				Graves (GA)	Marino	Scott (VA)
Gonzalez (TX)	MacArthur	Schiff				Graves (LA)	Marshall	Scott, Austin
Goodlatte	Maloney,	Schneider				Graves (MO)	Massie	Scott, David
Gosar	Carolyn B.	Schrader				Green, Al	Mast	Sensenbrenner
Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean	Schweikert				Griffith	Matsui	Serrano
Gowdy	Marchant	Scott (VA)				Grijalva	McCarthy	Sessions
Granger	Marino	Scott, Austin				Grothman	McCaul	Sewell (AL)
Graves (GA)	Marshall	Scott, David				Guthrie	McClintock	Shea-Porter
Graves (LA)	Massie	Sensenbrenner				Gutiérrez	McCollum	Sherman
Graves (MO)	Mast	Serrano				Handel	McEachin	Shimkus
Green, Al	Matsui	Sessions				Harper	McGovern	Shuster
Griffith	McCarthy	Sewell (AL)				Harris	McHenry	Simpson
Grothman	McCaul	Shea-Porter				Hartzler	McKinley	Sinema
Guthrie	McClintock	Sherman				Hastings	McMorris	Sires
Gutiérrez	McCollum	Shimkus				Heck	Rodgers	Slaughter
Handel	McEachin	Shuster				Hensarling	McSally	Smith (MO)
Harper	McGovern	Simpson				Herrera Beutler	Meadows	Smith (NE)
Harris	McHenry	Sinema				Hice, Jody B.	Meeks	Smith (NJ)
Hartzler	McKinley	Sires				Higgins (LA)	Meng	Smith (TX)
Hastings	McMorris	Slaughter				Higgins (NY)	Messer	Smith (WA)
Heck	Rodgers	Smith (MO)				Hill	Mitchell	Snucker
Hensarling	McSally	Smith (NE)				Himes	Moolenaar	Soto
Herrera Beutler	Meadows	Smith (NJ)				Holding		Speier

NOT VOTING—18

□ 1625

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SCREENING AND VETTING PASSENGER EXCHANGE ACT OF 2017

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4581) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop best practices for utilizing advanced passenger information and passenger name record data for counterterrorism screening and vetting operations, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 1, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 4]

YEAS—415

Abraham	Blumenauer	Carbajal
Aderholt	Blunt Rochester	Cárdenas
Aguilar	Bonamici	Carson (IN)
Allen	Bost	Carter (GA)
Amodei	Boyle, Brendan	Carter (TX)
Arrington	F.	Cartwright
Babin	Brady (PA)	Castor (FL)
Bacon	Brady (TX)	Castro (TX)
Banks (IN)	Brat	Chabot
Banetta	Bridenstine	Cheney
Barr	Brooks (AL)	Chu, Judy
Barragán	Brooks (IN)	Cicilline
Barton	Brown (MD)	Clark (MA)
Bass	Brownley (CA)	Clarke (NY)
Beatty	Buchanan	Clay
Bera	Buck	Cleaver
Bergman	Bucshon	Clyburn
Beyer	Budd	Coffman
Biggs	Burgess	Cohen
Bilirakis	Bustos	Cole
Bishop (MI)	Butterfield	Collins (GA)
Bishop (UT)	Byrne	Collins (NY)
Black	Calvert	Comer
Blum	Capuano	Comstock

Stefanik	Tsongas	Watson Coleman
Stewart	Turner	Weber (TX)
Stivers	Upton	Webster (FL)
Suozi	Valadao	Welch
Swalwell (CA)	Vargas	Wenstrup
Takano	Veasey	Westerman
Taylor	Vela	Williams
Tenney	Velázquez	Wilson (SC)
Thompson (CA)	Visclosky	Wittman
Thompson (MS)	Wagner	Womack
Thompson (PA)	Walberg	Woodall
Thornberry	Walden	Yarmuth
Tiberi	Walker	Yoder
Tipton	Walorski	Yoho
Titus	Walters, Mimi	Young (AK)
Tonko	Wasserman	Young (IA)
Torres	Schultz	Zeldin
Trott	Waters, Maxine	

NAYS—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—15

Adams	Garamendi	Pingree
Bishop (GA)	Green, Gene	Renacci
Blackburn	Hanabusa	Scalise
Cummings	Kind	Walz
Foster	McNerney	Wilson (FL)

□ 1633

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PYTHON ELIMINATION PROGRAM

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

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an invasive and dangerous species destroying our Everglades ecosystem.

Geoff Roepstorff, pictured here, is a constituent who is a banker by day and a python hunter by night. I hunted with Geoff and killed some of these pythons while participating in the South Florida Water Management District Python Elimination Program. One of the pythons I killed is hanging in my office today. You can come by and see it.

The elimination program has removed over 820 snakes from south Florida, but as of now, they can't hunt inside the Everglades National Park because of Interior regulations. These predators eat up small animals and disrupt our ecosystem throughout the Everglades and even eat panthers, bobcats, and alligators, and they pose a threat to humans. The South Florida Water Management District Python Elimination Program incentivizes members of the public to assist in hunting and eliminating these invasive species.

I want to especially thank Mike Kirkland and Tia Barnett from South Florida Water Management District for their work on this program, and I say that now is the time to allow experienced and trained hunters like Geoff Roepstorff and others, as part of the elimination program, to be allowed to hunt and eliminate pythons in Everglades National Park.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO GOVERNOR BRENDAN BYRNE OF NEW JERSEY

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week, New Jersey said its final good-bye to a tireless advocate, dedicated leader, and wonderful man who just happened to also have been our Governor. Brendan Byrne, our two-term Governor, never let the weight of his office bog him down. He will be remembered for his wit, his passion, and the force of his will.

Governor Byrne helped inspire and instill honorable characteristics of public service into generations of New Jerseyans. I consider myself blessed to be among them.

It is a bittersweet moment to bid farewell to Governor Byrne. I will long keep Ruthie and Tom and the entire Byrne family in my thoughts and in my prayers as their loved ones and, indeed, New Jersey has suffered a tremendous loss.

CONGRATULATING WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wayzata High School on being named Minnesota's best public school by USA Today.

Strong public schools are the foundation of our community, and while Minnesota has many great public and private schools, Wayzata does stand out among them. The schools are evaluated on standardized test scores, student-teacher ratios, graduation rates, Advanced Placement enrollment, and more. Wayzata High School has over 3,200 students, a student ratio of 17 to 1, and an average SAT score of 1420.

Across the Nation, 80 percent of students graduate from high school. In Minnesota, 88 percent graduate, and in Wayzata, 93 percent of their students graduate. Their Advanced Placement enrollment is high, Mr. Speaker. Over 25 percent of 10th graders, 36 percent of 11th graders, and 34 percent of seniors are enrolled in AP classes at Wayzata.

Mr. Speaker, Principal Scott Gengler, all of the teachers and staff, students and parents, and the Spartan community deserve this recognition. Congratulations to Wayzata High School.

HONORING JORDAN THOMAS FOR RECEIVING THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jordan Thomas, a sen-

ior at Princeton University and a graduate of University High School in Newark, New Jersey, for being selected as a 2018 Rhodes Scholar, one of only 32 in the country.

This young man, who graduated high school in my district, is the first Newark Public Schools student in over a decade to receive this prestigious honor.

In addition to getting straight A's since his freshman year at Princeton, Jordan is writing a thesis on school-based support services that Newark Public Schools offers pregnant and parenting teens.

In the next year, he will be taking his talents abroad to study social policy at Oxford College in England. Jordan plans to return to his home of Newark as a public servant. He told the Star Ledger newspaper: "Newark built me. Newark shaped me." As a lifelong resident of Newark myself, I know that feeling.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jordan Thomas for his successes, service, and future. His love for his community shows that our country's future is in good hands.

□ 1645

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

Law enforcement officers courageously put their lives on the line to protect our homes, our businesses, and our schools. They are truly the unsung heroes of our communities. We are grateful to the men and women in blue who service the front line of defense here at home.

Today and every day, we must stand with our members of law enforcement and their families to honor the sacrifices and the contributions they make to ensure that our families remain safe.

I also especially thank the United States Capitol Police force, who work each day to ensure that Members, staff, and visitors to the Nation's Capital are safe and secure.

Let us not forget to honor the service and sacrifice of all who serve in law enforcement, especially in New York State: our New York State Police, the New York State Park Police, county, city, and village police forces, and, of course, corrections officers throughout the great State of New York.

HONORING LIEUTENANT DEBRA CLAYTON AND DEPUTY NORM LEWIS

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lives of Lieutenant Debra Clayton of the Orlando Police Department and Deputy Norm Lewis of the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

Lieutenant Clayton was an outstanding officer, a loving wife, mother, and friend. One year ago today, she was shot and killed while attempting to apprehend a murder suspect.

Deputy Lewis was killed the same day while searching for Lieutenant Clayton's killer. Deputy Lewis was deeply admired by all of his colleagues: a man described as a "gentle giant," who played for the UCF Knights and went on to be a true public servant.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that when a law enforcement officer falls, a part of America dies.

Today we recognize these two public servants and pay tribute to them for paying the ultimate sacrifice. Today we also take a moment on Law Enforcement Appreciation Day to thank law enforcement officers throughout our Nation who serve and protect us and our families.

IRANIAN PEOPLE ARE ENSLAVED BY THE MULLAHS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, cracks are beginning to form in the iron grip of the Iranian regime. The oppressed people of Iran have taken to the streets to demand an end to the corrupt and brutal dictatorship.

The mullahs in Tehran have stolen the wealth of the country and the people, lining their own pockets and funding terror throughout the Middle East.

Like in 2009, when the Iranian people rose up to confront the corruption of the regime, these Iranians have been met with harsh violence and been murdered in the streets. Thousands of others have been imprisoned. In 2009, however, the United States sat in the stands as a spectator and watched the Ayatollah crush freedom.

I applaud this President's show of support for freedom in Iran. The United States must show political and public support for our friends for liberty in Iran.

As President Kennedy once said: "Let every Nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we will pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

Like our friends in Iran.

And that is just the way it is.

CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF TEXAS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I have often come to this floor to remind

my colleagues of the devastation that the people of Texas have experienced with Hurricane Harvey. I certainly don't intend to ignore our other friends in the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Florida, and California who have experienced their own devastation, along with Louisiana.

But I am excited today, Mr. Speaker, because I am introducing a bill that celebrates the history of Texas. H.R. 4745 is the emancipation national historic trail. Many people know that the Emancipation Proclamation was not heard in Texas but for 2 years later in 1865.

This emancipation national historic trail recounts the journey of many of those individuals: freed slaves going from the Osterman Building and Reedy Chapel in Galveston, Texas; along Texas State Highway 3, Interstate Highway 45 North, Freedmen's Town, and Emancipation Park in Houston, Texas; following the migration route of newly freed slaves and other persons of African descent; from the major 19th century seaport of Galveston.

It is a collaboration with people from both parties throughout the community. It is one of unity, Mr. Speaker. It is one where we are coming together.

I look forward to passing this legislation with my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—because it is a celebration of the history of Texas.

STOP THE BLEED

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as a physician, I rise today to raise awareness about the value of comprehensive training aimed at preventing deaths after a traumatic injury occurs.

Last fall, I took part in a "Stop the Bleeding" training course offered by the American College of Surgeons. This simple training teaches individuals how to treat bleeding injuries and help save a life.

Each year, more than 180,000 people die from traumatic injuries. The most common and easily preventable cause of these deaths is too much blood loss in the critical minutes before trained first responders arrive. With an average response time of 8 to 12 minutes once 911 is called, it is the responsibility for all of us to prepare to help others in the event of a traumatic injury.

I look forward to working with my fellow Members of Congress and advocates, such as my friends of the American College of Surgeons, to raise awareness of the value of this life-saving technique.

WOMEN AND THE TAX SCAM

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, last month, Republicans rammed through a terrible tax bill with devastating consequences, and women are among the hardest hit. This tax plan drains funds from working mothers while giving huge tax breaks to corporations and the wealthy.

Women are breadwinners for half of the American families with children. These women often do more work for less pay.

Nearly six in ten workers in low-wage jobs are women. Women earn 82 cents on the dollar. In Michigan, it is even lower: 74 cents.

The tax plan takes away the individual mandate, so 9.5 million women could lose healthcare—annual exams, birth control, cancer screening, pregnancy support—and lose economic security.

Under this new law, the wealthiest continue to prosper at the expense of hardworking women in this country. We deserve better in America. People deserve better than this reckless tax bill.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

In 2017, 128 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty. Despite the significant danger they face, these brave men and women continue to put their badge on every day, leaving their loved ones at home, to protect our friends, our families, and our communities.

I was fortunate to be a member of the thin blue line for nearly a decade and a half as an FBI special agent. During that time, I worked with some of the most dedicated, mission-oriented professionals in the Nation, to include Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers.

I ask that today, and every day, all Americans take a moment to reflect on what our law enforcement officers do to protect our liberties and to ensure the safety of our communities. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their service and for their sacrifice.

As I did last year, I urge the President to observe this day by lighting the White House blue this evening.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL BRIT HATLEY AND THE HAPPY HOOLIGANS

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, no U.S. Air Force unit has ever won more than 19 Outstanding Unit Awards. This last Saturday, I was honored to be in Fargo

as the North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Wing was awarded their 19th.

The 119th Wing, known as the Happy Hooligans, has received this prestigious recognition nearly constantly since 2006.

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award is given to numbered units of the Active Duty Air Force, Air National Guard, and U.S. Air Force Reserve that have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement.

The mission of the 119th Wing is to provide trained and ready airmen, executing world class MQ-9 and reconnaissance kinetic and nonkinetic target intelligence production, and expeditionary support capabilities for the Nation and State.

Mr. Speaker, Aristotle said: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

Freedom-loving people around the world are grateful to the Happy Hooligans from Fargo for making excellence in defending liberty a habit.

Congratulations, Colonel Brit Hatley and Hooligans, and thank you for your outstanding service to the cause of freedom around the world.

DREAMERS

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the American people to information that is being kept from them. So often the good will and good-heartedness of the American people is manipulated to achieve goals that sometimes are detrimental to our people and detrimental to our country as well.

Today, the American people are being told that there are young people who are here illegally, brought by their parents at an early age—they call them DREAMers—and that we must be concerned about them, as we are. Of course, we are concerned about them. Our sympathy is with young people anywhere who want a better life.

But what the American people are not being told is that there are 850,000 of these young people. That is being left out of the discussion. They are looking to be legalized. When they are legalized, that means they can apply for family reunification, which means that they then will receive government benefits and even more people will come in under their platform.

I suggest that we take a look to see what 850,000 more young people and the millions more who will come will do to the American people.

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

(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, I rise in recognition of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. But it isn't just a day for all of us; it should be every day. They are on the front lines protecting our families, our lives, our homes, and our values. We need to keep that in mind: to appreciate them every day.

When you see them in the community, they are not someone to be afraid of. They are our neighbors. They are doing the same things we are: raising their kids, sending their kids to school, going to the park, and enjoying life, just as we do.

With all of the misunderstanding about law enforcement these days, it is really disheartening to see what some of our law enforcement officers have to put up with in order to do a job to protect all of us.

Each year, we lose many officers. At least 125 were lost in the line of duty last year, including eight in my home State of California.

I want to tell them that we do appreciate them: from the California Highway Patrol that keeps an eye on our offices, the Capitol Hill Police here, our city police, our county sheriffs, all of them. We do appreciate them because we know they are on the front line and they are just like us. We want to honor them constantly for stepping forward to do a very difficult task that is sometimes misunderstood and unappreciated. The vast majority of us Americans and northern Californians do appreciate them. God bless them all and may they be safe.

□ 1700

NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

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

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our Nation's law enforcement men and women. The safety and security of our communities is the result of our law enforcement men and women, who wake up every single day to protect neighborhoods from criminals, fight crime, ensure justice, and keep the peace.

In 2017, 125 officers died in the line of duty. Their deaths are a sober reminder that our Nation's law enforcement officers face danger every day they carry out their duty to protect the American people. They run towards danger while everyone else is running away.

No matter what, they serve and protect. They serve and protect so that you and I may be free from harm.

Their diligent service does not go unnoticed, and today, on behalf of Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District, we thank them for their bravery, fortitude, and sacrifice.

So thank you to the men and women in blue. We are a safer nation because

of the bravery of you and your families. Thank you for choosing to live a life of service. Your sacrifice and heroism will never be forgotten. Happy Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and God bless you.

PROTESTS IN IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP).

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TWO OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day with a heavy heart to pay tribute to two of Michigan's finest Oakland County sheriff's deputies and their legacy of service.

Oakland County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Overall, a 22-year-old veteran of the sheriff's department, was killed this past Thanksgiving while serving and protecting. Deputy Overall was pursuing a suspect who posed a threat to the public and died ensuring no one else's life was put in danger that day.

He is remembered by his friends and family as someone who lived by the mantra "never quit." Sonja Overall, the widow of Eric Overall, described her husband as a man of integrity who truly left his stamp on everyone's heart. His life and legacy will never be forgotten.

Now, just 5 days ago, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office suffered yet another tragedy. Oakland County Sheriff's Deputy David Hack, a 17-year veteran of the sheriff's office, was securing a car accident scene when he was critically struck by a passing car.

Deputy Hack is well known in the Rochester community, as he serves as the sheriff's liaison at Rochester Adams High School in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

He is currently in critical condition. I would like his family to know that all the students, educators, and staff at Adams High School and the Rochester community schools are praying for his recovery and his continued strength to keep fighting until he is fully recovered. Indeed, our entire Rochester community sends our prayers.

Please join me in a moment of silence for Deputy Hack's recovery and to honor the memory and mourn the loss of Deputy Eric Overall.

Mr. Speaker, on this National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, I send my deepest condolences to their family, friends, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard, and the entire Oakland County Sheriff's Office during this time of tragedy and loss.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, 39 years ago, a collective nightmare was foisted

upon the people of the nation of Iran, and so when roughly 2 weeks ago, while on recess, I became aware of the courage manifest in the action of the Iranian people in standing up to a brutal totalitarian regime, I immediately contacted our office and suggested that we secure this Special Order hour, and reached out to a number of my colleagues, several of whom join me today, to speak loudly and clearly on behalf of the United States and the nearly 6 million people represented by myself and the individuals who will speak here today in support of those who would stand up and risk their very existence for those most basic human rights, which we as Americans take, tragically, for granted.

As I stand in this well, Mr. Speaker, in cities that the bulk of Americans have never heard of, in Isfahan and Karaj and Tabriz and Mashhad and Tehran, indeed, tens of thousands stand in the face of a regime with a record of destroying not only freedom but life itself in the instance of those who would stand up and demand freedom, stand up and demand basic human rights and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, to put this into perspective, if you were to take the population of the nation of Iran circa 1979 and compare it to the population of the United States circa 1941 and then align the numbers of Americans killed in combat during the entire Second World War, it would proportionally be roughly equal to the number of people who have given their lives at the hands of the brutal Iranian regime inside the borders of Iran. Think about that for a moment. Roughly 60,000 during the coup d'etat revolution in 1979, about 12,500 from 1981 to 1984, almost 33,000 during the 1988 uprising. We don't know how many were murdered in 2009, when this Nation stood silent as Iranians, brave, took to the streets to demand self-determination and toleration; that a regime should not be able to dictate how one worships, who one marries, what one believes; that people should be given basic rights to self-determination.

Today, we know very little about what is going on in Iran except for the brave women and men who are confronting challenges that we, by virtue of the fortune of our birth as Americans, will hopefully never have to confront. We know that roughly 50 have been murdered; we know that roughly 3,000 are imprisoned.

This time, I will not be silent. I have spoken with Iranian Americans of all different facets from a number of different groups. I ask these Iranian Americans, as well as those resisting within Iran and Iranians disbursed across the globe, to set aside their political differences and join together for the common goal of deposing a regime that murders its own sons and daughters to a tune that is comparable to the total number of American combat deaths during the Second World War. Enough is enough.

Today, I stand beside an image of Habib Khabiri. Habib was the former captain of the Iranian national soccer team. He and 40 others were executed in 1984 at the Evin Prison for having the temerity to criticize their government. He was 29 years old. The evidence indicates that he was tortured before he was executed.

In fact, again, as we stated earlier, over 12,000 people were executed by the Islamic Republic Security Forces just from 1981 to 1984.

Next is a young woman who tragically became something of an international folk hero for those who were paying attention, in that she had the temerity to stand and protest during the Green Revolution in 2009, suggesting that the Iranian people had a right to self-determination, when she was publicly, on film, murdered in the streets, 26 years old. The United States remained silent. The second of three children from a middle class neighborhood, she had the courage to stand up and point out injustice when she saw it, and paid with her life. Indeed, the protesters with whom she marched shouted, "America, you are either with us or with the mullahs," and we did not respond.

Today, I am responding. This administration is responding.

The Iranians, with whom I have spoken across a diverse sect of opposition, do not want tanks and bombers and missiles, nor do I, having worn the uniform of this Nation, but while we can't rule out any particular alternatives, all they ask is a word of support; that when we act legislatively in this body and in the Chamber down the hallway, we have the follow-through to ensure that our actions are backed up; that unlike the 1990s, when the Iran Sanctions Act was passed, we don't let our so-called European allies turn a blind eye as their corporate entities continue to do business with the IRGC that uses the money generated through this business not only to murder their own citizens but to fund the likes of Hezbollah, and fast forward to current day, create instability, peril, death, and destruction literally across the entire region from the Mediterranean to the Khyber Pass.

There is no blind eye being turned this time.

Next we see Shekar Mohammadzadeh. A nurse, she was arrested, imprisoned, and tortured for rendering medical assistance to other Iranian brothers and sisters who were brutalized by the revolutionary guards in the streets of Iran. She was tortured viciously at Evin Prison, served a significant portion of a prison sentence, 7 of 15 years, before being executed along with nearly 33,000 others circa 1988.

Now, three names, three faces, three stories, probably 30 seconds to a minute on each. Let me put this into perspective, Mr. Speaker. If we were to take 5 minutes to show the pictures and speak briefly on every individual murdered by the mullah regime in

Iran, we would be here for over a year going 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I don't stand here saber rattling, suggesting American military action. I stand here suggesting that what my Iranian-American friends and what people of Iranian dissent who are dissidents throughout the world have suggested to me is that if the American Government will stand up and say, "We stand with you against these mullahs," that is the support that they need to continue the movement to see that there is a regime change, which leads to self-determination and democracy in Iran and the lifting of a dark cloud of terror from across the globe.

Don't believe me? I was born in 1972, and I have grown up with the perpetual mention of Hezbollah. There are those who think that Hezbollah is something that has been around for a long time, but I point out today that Hezbollah is actually younger than the mullah regime; that, in fact, the mullah regime created Hezbollah; and Hezbollah has the unique distinction of being one of a very few terrorist entities that has actually killed human beings on every single inhabited continent on planet Earth.

No trade with Iran, no money to the IRGC; no money to the IRGC, no money to Hezbollah; no money to Hezbollah, we have self-determination in Lebanon, we have less of an oppressive interference in Iraq, we have more stability in Syria, and we have freedom in Iran. Enough is enough.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for standing with me today, and I ask the American people and my colleagues to take the time to inform themselves about places like Isfahan and Karaj and Tabriz and Mashhad, and to think about the women and men who have the courage to walk through the threshold of a door of a home where, when they leave, they know full well they may very well not come back.

The time is now, the cause is just, the mullah regime must go. Enough is enough.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS).

□ 1715

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GARRETT for his leadership on this issue and for arranging this today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few minutes to express my concern about the way the Government of Iran has trampled on the rights of its people to express their discontent with the current regime, which has resulted in at least 21 deaths and more than 450 arrests. It is, quite frankly, disturbing the way the Iranian Government has used its military might to show an unacceptable and a disproportionate amount of force to quell and to attempt to control protests.

Additionally, Iran's judiciary has disregarded the rights of protesters to express themselves and to peacefully assemble, by threatening harsh punishments. I have read reports that the

government has blocked the Internet and social media services which, I believe, constitutes a violation of fundamental rights of free speech.

People in Iran are suffering. Their economy is stagnant, and their wages aren't keeping up with the costs of living. People are hungry, and they have grown weary of a radical and a corrupt regime set on sponsoring terrorism and pursuing an ill-advised plan for nuclear capabilities rather than focusing on improving the lives and stability of the people and their nation.

The people of Iran were hopeful that Iran would see some relief from the sanctions and would see economic improvement after their government entered into a deal in 2015 regarding its nuclear program. But because of widespread corruption and failed economic policies of Iran's Government, as well as its failure to live up to its commitments to the international community, Iran's people have only continued to suffer from poverty, high unemployment, and inflation.

It should be no surprise to the leadership of Iran that its people are calling for change because of its failure and poor leadership that have led the people to protest.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with those protesters in Iran who have lost faith in their increasingly failed government. They deserve a country that ensures their freedom to express disapproval. They deserve a government with equality and justice, to improve the lives of Iranians.

Although Iran's Government may, by force, ultimately be successful in putting an end to these public protests, this dissatisfaction with the regime will continue. I hope that someday the people of Iran will see the freedom and the kind of leadership they seek and they deserve.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOH).

Mr. YOH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. GARRETT, for organizing this on this important topic.

Today, we passed several bills about Iran. One was H. Res. 676, calling out the Iranian regime to stop suppressing and oppressing their citizens who just want those things that are innate to all human beings on this planet, that we believe in as Americans, and that are those inalienable rights that come from our Creator: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Iranian people are staging legitimate protests to condemn the Iranian regime for corruption of the economy and funding of terrorist organizations while neglecting the basic needs of the Iranian citizens, only to have their protests in opposition of the corruption by the Iranian regime be shut down and crushed through unwarranted bloodshedding and arrests.

If you look at the Iranian regime over the last 30 years since they took control of Iran, it has been nothing but bloodshed and mayhem. And if you

look at the conflicts that we have been involved in in the Middle East since the entry of Afghanistan and the Iraqi wars, if you look at our servicemen and -women who have been harmed in those battles or injured or died, 70 percent of those were caused by IEDs. Ninety percent of those IEDs were supported and produced by the Iranian regime.

The people of Iran stood up in 2009. The administration of the United States at that time refused to back the Iranian people who wanted those basic rights that we just talked about: freedoms and liberties.

Our Nation was founded on the idea that every individual is granted three basic rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. And again, we, as Americans, believe in these inalienable rights. I find it appalling that the Iranian regime is using deadly force in order to deny the Iranian people their basic freedoms.

We are in the 21st century in the world, and you see a clear divide: the Western ideologies that believe in these God-given rights that we have, and then you see the regimes and dictatorships around the world that are suppressing the very innate abilities that we are all born with. They are trying to suppress these innate abilities. By doing that, they do it through intimidation, coercion, torture, death.

The leader of the IRGC came out in a statement, and it is in ED ROYCE's resolution that we voted on today, H. Res. 676, that said they will investigate it, they will bring it to an end, and they will quash these protests and it will be done with. So that is the intent of the Iranian regime, to bring this to an end through force because they fear free-thinking people.

We are so blessed in our country of having the ability to speak out, to be able to protest peacefully, to assemble peacefully; and that is something I think sometimes we, as Americans, take for granted. This is something that all you have to do is look at what is going on around the world to see a despotic regime that is afraid of empowering its people.

The Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, must be recognized for what he is: the dictator of an oppressive regime which once again showed the world its true colors by its horrific response to the peaceful and legitimate protests that began on December 28, that saw thousands in prisons, with the leaders being threatened with death, and over two dozen having been killed.

I want to send the message that we, the United States, support the rights of those brave Iranians who are peacefully protesting the oppressive Iranian regime; and they are peacefully protesting, again, for the right to pursue life, liberty, and happiness.

Again, I want to thank Mr. GARRETT for putting this on and thank him for allowing me to participate.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GARRETT for organizing this Special Order today to shed light on what has been going on in Iran not just the last couple of weeks, but, really, since 1979.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out for the good people of Iran who are protesting against an oppressive regime that has imposed tyranny on them for nearly four decades. Scores of people have been arrested and some killed for daring to speak out against their government.

Mr. Speaker, they have good cause. For far too long, the authoritarian terrorists of Tehran have pursued an aggressive military buildup and a massive police state that oppresses its people.

Since the Iranian Revolution in 1979, their leaders have chosen global and regional conflict instead of promoting a healthy domestic economy and peaceful relations with their regional neighbors. I could spend a long time highlighting the litany of basic human rights violations of the regime as well, but the Iranian Government's malfeasance, public corruption, and betrayal to their citizenry needs to be brought to light on the world stage.

Mr. Speaker, as recently as last year, in the State Department's annual Country Reports on Terrorism, Iran was once again identified as the foremost state sponsor of terror. The crime and terror Iran spreads are conducted at the expense of ordinary Iranians whose taxes go everywhere but to themselves and their prosperity.

The unemployment rate is over 12 percent, according to the World Bank, and youth unemployment is staggeringly high. And all of this, despite Iran being rich in natural resources and having potential for having a great economy.

Two years ago, the U.S. entered a deal in hopes of encouraging a more peaceful Iran, not to mention passing along billions in direct cash payments to them.

Furthermore, if that wasn't enough, it has been recently reported that the Department of Justice, under President Obama, abandoned a massive international narcotics investigation against one of Iran's international terrorist clients, Hezbollah, just to not upset the Iranian regime during the negotiation of the nuclear deal.

That is right, Mr. Speaker. Hezbollah is not just in the global terror business; it is a transnational criminal organization that is a major global drug trafficker, including right here in the Western Hemisphere and Latin America.

For anyone who has not read the recent article in Politico Magazine, titled, "The Secret Backstory of How Obama Let Hezbollah Off the Hook," it is worth your time. You will learn how Hezbollah is operating throughout Latin America and, indeed, facilitating the transfer of drugs into this country.

Despite all of their contrition and dealmaking, the Iranian regime has

not changed. This perilous regime is still exporting and smuggling weapons to its clients in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. Hezbollah and Iran continue to threaten Israel, among other nations, and are still a destabilizing force throughout the Middle East.

After all of the Iranian regime's terror, crime, and corruption, do you think the Iranian people would have benefited from this?

Mr. Speaker, all you have to do is turn on the TV to see the Iranian people's answer, and it is obvious that they have had enough. This kind of tyranny does not belong anywhere, especially in the 21st century.

The everyday people in Iran want the same thing the average American wants: freedom to live without fear of their government, to live and work in peace, to be with their loved ones, and to worship as they see fit.

The good people of Iran are standing up to tyranny, and we should stand with them. I want those protesters seeking freedom from oppression to know that we are with them, that the American people are with them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GARRETT, again, for organizing this Special Order on this very important topic.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD).

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GARRETT) for organizing this in support of those protesters in Iran. It is the ongoing protests that started late last month in Iran that are significant not just for their people, but also for the world.

While these protests started because of a dire economic situation in Iran, with upwards of 40 percent of its youth unemployed, it has grown to be a nationwide movement that is about much more than just the economy.

Over the past couple of weeks, we have seen the Iranian people flood the streets in favor of fundamental freedoms, economic opportunity, and a government that represents their interests, not Hezbollah's. There are even reports of people chanting, "We don't want an Islamic Republic," or, "We will die, but we will take Iran back."

This has been a long time coming. A State Department report in 2016 found that Iran is the top state sponsor of terrorism in the whole world. Whether it is providing financial support to Hezbollah or providing arms to Islamic rebel groups in Yemen, the Iranian Government's priorities are obviously more focused on wreaking international havoc than they are on addressing the pressing issues within their own country.

And while we are talking about issues with Iran, the protesters are pleading for fundamental freedoms. For example, married women aren't even allowed to travel outside the country without permission from their husbands. They also risk being put in

jail or even to death if they take off their hijab in public.

But brave women throughout Iran have been unmasking themselves during the last couple of weeks in protest. To many in our country, this may seem insignificant, but videos of these women and their courage have been shared millions and millions of times around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, those who dislike President Trump have criticized his approach to foreign policy, but these same people fail to praise his strong defense for freedom when it comes to Iran.

As soon as the protests started, President Trump put out a statement that said the Iranian people are hungry for food and for freedom. He also said that it is time for a change, and I couldn't agree with him more.

This is the opposite of the Obama administration that preached moral authority and, yet, sided with the corrupt Iranian regime and the corrupt Iranian Government when anti-regime protesters took to the streets back in 2009.

So now that President Trump has proven his credibility on the global stage by siding with the protesters, the question is: Now, where do we go from here?

Well, Mr. Speaker, first we should increase the sanctions on the Iranian Government in response to their crack-down on protesters for freedom in recent weeks.

President Trump should also strongly consider pulling out of the nuclear deal that was struck by President Obama in 2015.

□ 1730

We have already seen the Iranian Government break parts of the agreement, and we should have a zero tolerance for these breaks because the consequences are just too grave.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Iran are bravely speaking out against their government and they are calling for change. For the United States to continue to be a shining example of freedom and liberty, we must continue to vocalize our support for these protesters in Iran and make sure that they know that we have their back.

Again, I thank my colleague, Mr. GARRETT from Virginia.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding.

I want the folks in Iran to know that the United States of America stands with the people of Iran. As a closed society, I doubt they will hear our words here tonight, but they should know that, in our hearts, in our prayers, and in our thoughts, we have the people of Iran and their best wishes in mind.

I have been here for 7 years in Congress, and during that 7 years, Iran

keeps coming up to the forefront; whether it is the Obama administration's failed Iranian nuclear deal, which is coming up for authorization—I think on the 19th of this month, the 15th, the 19th—or if it is the protests, and since I have been in Congress, this is the second round of uprising protest against the Government within Iran.

Now, the dichotomy is the Obama administration ignored the people in Iran. But the Trump administration has told the people in Iran: We stand with you against an oppressive government.

Iran keeps coming up even in a Politico magazine article. They had a well-sourced account of an alleged Obama administration scandal last month. This prompted review by the Department of Justice and interest by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

The article alleges the Obama administration restrained classified efforts by the Drug Enforcement Administration to shut down an international criminal operation, Hezbollah. Now, Hezbollah, based in Lebanon, is a proxy of Iran. And when you hear Hezbollah, you might as well think Iran. They are one and the same.

So I am deeply troubled by the idea that President Obama's motivation was getting past by any means necessary his failed Iranian deal. He could not get anything in the way of that legacy.

Now, if this article is true, President Obama is more concerned about passing his agenda item opposed by Members of both parties and a majority of the American people than protecting the safety of the American people. We all know about the pallets of cash that were given to Iran. Now, they could have spent it on their economy. They could have paid down debt. They could have done anything, but I would bet that the largest state sponsor of terrorism, the country of Iran, used the bulk of that money to continue funding terrorist operations around the globe.

The number one recipient of Iranian help is Hezbollah. Now, let me bring you a little bit closer to home. In 2012, I authored a bill called Countering Iran in the Western Hemisphere Act of 2012, signed into law by President Obama, directing the State Department to actually do an in-depth study into the Iranian activities in the Western Hemisphere, specifically, South America.

They did a halfway limp-wristed report that even the 2014 GAO reported only 2 of the 12 requirements mandated in that law were fully addressed. The Obama administration acted in complete disregard to the law. Six others of my legislation were only partially addressed; four were not addressed at all. Meanwhile, the activity of Hezbollah in the Western Hemisphere continued, and it is continuing today.

There is an area in South America known as the tri-border region. It is where the borders of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay all come together. Some would even say it is a lawless act area.

It is controlled by elements of Hezbollah. And two acts of terror happened in Argentina, in Buenos Aires. The 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires was the single-largest loss of life from an act of terrorism in the Western Hemisphere prior to 9/11, believed to be hatched in the tri-border region by elements of Iran and Hezbollah.

It was sort of swept under the rug by the Argentine Government of Cristina Kirchner. But there was a brave individual, a special prosecutor named Alberto Nisman, who took this on his own to say: We know what happened at the AMIA. We know Iran was involved.

He set out to prove it. He compiled massive amounts of data. And the morning before he was scheduled to testify in front of the Argentine Congress about his findings, implicating the Kirchner regime for hiding some of this because they wanted to coddle up to Iran—they wanted Iran's help. They wanted to sell Iran nuclear technology, I believe. They wanted Iran's help with money.

The morning before Alberto Nisman was going to implicate the Kirchner regime for the AMIA bombing and hiding the facts from the Argentine people and the world with regard to Iran's activities in that AMIA bombing in 1994, Alberto Nisman was assassinated in his apartment, even though he had multiple security personnel guarding him. Shot behind the ear.

Now, the Kirchner regime tried to say that that was suicide. There was no gunpowder on his hands. And it has now been proven that it was not suicide, that it was an assassination, possibly by elements of Iran as well.

I say all that to let the folks listening tonight here in America and around the world know that Iran isn't just in the area in the Middle East known as Persia. They have elements, like Hezbollah, that are operating globally. Iran has said that they want to wipe the Big Satan and the Little Satan, Israel and the United States, off the map. They don't have our best interest at heart.

But as a free people here in the United States of America, I can tell you that we have the best interest of the Iranian people at heart. When we stand on this floor and we talk about the uprising, the protests that are going on in Iran now, we have the best interest of the Iranian people at heart, because we don't stand to benefit in any way for us standing up for freedom, for folks who want self-government, for folks who want less oppression, who want some say-so in their livelihood and how their government operates. That is what the Iranian people are talking about in these protests.

So, unfortunately, the Obama administration and the State Department did not take the Countering Iran in the Western Hemisphere Act very seriously. But Iran is here. They have opened cultural centers and embassies in Latin America. I don't know the

number right off, but they continue to be more involved here closer to home. There are no cultural ties, very limited economic ties between Iran and Latin America. So you have to question yourself as to why the Persians are here.

You have to be aware that Iran is the largest state sponsor of terrorism with billions—hundreds of billions of dollars that we released to them, pallet-loads of cash that could find their way into terrorist organizations that don't have America's interest at heart.

So I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia for giving us an opportunity tonight to focus on Iran; to focus on its proxy, Hezbollah; to focus on primarily the Iranian people in their quest for more freedom.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 21 minutes remaining.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Mr. GARRETT for yielding.

It is important that we discuss what has been going on in Iran. I recall I was on Active Duty in the United States Army back when President Carter stood by and basically encouraged the taking out of the Shah of Iran. No prince according to his own conduct, but he made a statement welcoming the Ayatollah Khomeini back to Iran as what he called him, I believe it was a man of peace. He could not have been more wrong.

There has been less peace because the Ayatollah Khomeini took over a state government, a national government, and a powerful military than any time since World War II. They have been the largest state sponsor of terrorism. They have, we have been told, probably provided most of the IEDs that have killed and maimed Americans fighting for freedom in the Middle East, especially in Iraq.

They have worked to stir up trouble all over the Middle East, north Africa, and have created massive mayhem, and they are looking to do even more. And with the \$100 billion or more that President Obama sent to Iran, they have been able to make more IEDs to kill more Americans, create more havoc, and stir up more sentiment against the United States since that unconstitutional sending under a treaty that was never ratified was done by the last administration.

Some have blamed President Trump for the problems in Iran. That is a bit ridiculous. The problems are the radical Islamist leadership in Iran. In fact, the same people that would like to blame President Trump are some of the same ones who hailed the \$100 billion sent under a treaty that was never ratified that would be used to kill inno-

cent people around the world, including Americans.

The people of Iran are to be congratulated for saying: Enough is enough.

There is a great article from Commentary magazine titled: "What the Iran Protests Have Already Achieved."

Sohrab Ahmari says: "More than 1,700 arrests and at least two dozen deaths later, the Tehran regime seems to have suppressed Iran's latest mass uprising. Scattered protests and skirmishes continue nationwide, according to the citizen-journalists who, braving regime violence, continued to post footage on social media. But for now, the demonstrations don't seem to be growing in numbers or frequency. Yet outside observers tempted to write off the movement should recall that the 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the Shah began decades earlier. There were lulls through the years, which tempted President Carter at one point to describe the Shah's Iran as an 'island of stability' in the Middle East."

"Whatever the ultimate outcome, however, the protesters have already accomplished a great deal and shattered many myths in the West. Let's review their achievements:

"First, the Iran protests showed that the people are not rallying to the regime under the press of President Trump's hawkish rhetoric."

□ 1745

"Far from being 'swept up in a wave of nationalist fervor,' as The New York Times' Thomas Erdbrink reported a few weeks before the uprising, Iranians still detest their corrupt, repressive regime. As my colleague"—and this is the author, Mr. Ahmari, speaking—"Noah Rothman has noted on our podcasts, Americans have an almost religious conviction that world events revolve around the U.S. and specifically the White House. To be sure, America remains the most important Nation on the world stage. Yet the average Iranian doesn't wake up in the morning cursing Donald Trump for trying to undo the nuclear deal. More likely, he curses the fact that he can't even afford eggs to feed his children, and there are more proximate actors whom he blames for that: namely, the mullahs."

"Second, the uprising revealed, once and for all, that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has been no moderate, and that the reformer versus hardliner distinction is meaningless. Ever since he came to power, Rouhani has been the subject of adulation among members of the Western foreign policy establishment. The media attached the 'moderate' and 'reformer' labels to Rouhani on the night of his first election, in June 2013, and refused to remove them even as evidence mounted that he was no such thing. There was Rouhani's leading role in the violent repression of the 1999 student uprising; his support for the post-2009 crackdown; his long record of anti-American rhetoric ('the

beautiful cry of “Death to America” unites our nation’); his decidedly immoderate cabinet; his work overseeing Iran’s campaign of assassinations targeting dissidents abroad; and much else of the kind.

“But now Iranians themselves are plainly telling the West that Rouhani is no moderate. Their slogans—‘Not Gaza; Not Lebanon; My Life Only for Iran’ and ‘Let Syria Be; Do Something for Me’—are a reminder that Tehran has continued to underwrite terror and bloodshed across the Middle East during the 4-plus years of Rouhani’s Presidency. The people have also been chanting, ‘Reformists; Hardliners; the Whole Game is Over.’ Let’s hope the same realization soon dawns in Washington and Brussels.

“Third, the protesters put the lie to the Obama administration’s claims about the 2015 nuclear deal. Remember when senior Obama officials reassured Americans that Iran would use the sanctions relief under Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to improve the lots of its people? Here is how Obama Treasury Secretary Jack Lew put it in an April 2015 address: ‘Many Americans, and many of our closest allies, are understandably concerned that Iran will use the money it receives as a result of sanctions relief to fund terrorism and support destabilizing proxies throughout the Middle East. We share those concerns, and we are committed to maintaining sanctions that address these activities, even after Iran takes the steps required to get relief from nuclear sanctions. But it is important to note that the connection between nuclear sanctions relief and Iran’s other malign activities is complicated, and most of the money Iran receives from sanctions relief will not be used to support those activities.’”

I would interject here he had absolutely, 100 percent, no basis for making such ridiculous statements.

“Two months later, Colin Kahl, a National Security Advisor to then-Vice President Joe Biden, told the Truman Center: ‘It is our assessment . . . that the Iranians are not going to spend the vast majority of the money on guns. Most of it will go to butter.’”

I would insert here he had no basis whatsoever for making such statements.

The article said: “Millions of jobless and impoverished Iranians now beg to differ. It turns out that the regime was happy to spend the JCPOA”—the Iran treaty that was never ratified—“funds on Hezbollah, Hamas, the Yemeni Houthis, and other nasties, even if that meant Iranians would go hungry. And those hungry people aren’t mistaken about the roots of their hunger. Iran remains the world’s top state sponsor of terror, according to the U.S. State Department. Deal opponents warned of this, only to be brushed aside by Obama and his media allies. The Trump administration now has an opportunity to correct course, by walking

away from Obama’s bad deal. The American people are under no obligation to finance Iran’s terrorist statecraft.

“The mullahs would have no one to blame but themselves. The Iranian people, defeated but unbowed, are sure to have another day.”

So, Mr. Speaker, let me just add here: God bless President Donald J. Trump for recognizing the Iranian treaty for the horrible deal it was and is to peace in our time. He paid for war, he paid for terrorism, and it is time to stop it.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), who is my good friend, for speaking.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to participate in this message to the Iranian people tonight and also a message that we will deliver to the American people as well. To those brave souls who are now in the streets to oppose the mullah dictatorship that now governs Iran, we send you this message: We are with you. We are thinking of you. You are within our vision. We are siding with you against tyranny. Do not think you are alone. The American people, our hearts and our souls, are with you; and, yes, we are proud of our President for making sure the world knows that we are officially on the side of those people who are struggling in the streets of Tehran, as we speak, to make sure that the mullah dictatorship is overthrown and replaced by a democratic government.

These people have a right to democratic government just the same as anyone else. We talked about it in our Declaration of Independence. We talked about rights that are given by God to every individual, and that government only has those powers that are granted to it by the consent of the governed.

Yes, we had our own revolution. Remember, the French helped us in that revolution. The French helped us win our freedom. We owe that to people who have helped us win our freedom to side with people who are struggling in Iran today and against other radical Islamic dictatorships today to help them create a more democratic society.

In fact, as I look around in this Hall tonight, I see that there are only two pictures on the floor of the House. One is George Washington, and one is Marquis de Lafayette. Look into Lafayette’s eyes. This is a picture of a man who came to us 50 years after our revolution and was the ultimate American hero for helping us win our freedom. Are there tears in his eyes tonight? No. But there were tears in his eyes in the picture of Lafayette when we sided with the mullah regime during the last administration when we actually cut a deal with the mullahs keeping them in power, not giving any support to those who were struggling for democracy in order to give them \$1 billion to get

them to go along and sign up for a bogus arms treaty.

Now, this President of the United States today has left those policies behind. We are proud of this President for what he is doing, and we send this message to the American people: We will stand for freedom, and we will be safe. If we cower and we don’t support those people struggling for freedom throughout the world, we will not be safe.

Nowhere is that more evident than in the streets of Tehran tonight.

People of Iran, we are with you, just as the French were with us when we won our freedom. We will make this a better world, we will make it a safer world for all people who believe in any type of democratic, open government.

The mullah regime must be overthrown but by its own people, and we must be true to those patriots who established our own country by supporting those who are struggling for freedom in Iran.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I will conclude. If we were to spend 5 minutes on each of the individuals murdered by the Iranian regime since that regime took power some 39 years ago, we would be here 24/7 for over a year. If we were to name each country and spend 1 day where Iran and their proxies, such as Hezbollah, have taken human life, we would literally be here for months, 1 day per country.

Mr. YOHO articulated basic concepts of natural law, that people are endowed by their Creator with fundamental rights to include the right to life, the right to freedom, and the right to pursue happiness.

Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. ROHRABACHER spoke to the JCPOA, and the circumstances surrounding it, how our Nation turned its back on the multibillion-dollar criminal enterprise wholly subsidized by Iran that is Hezbollah, making a bad deal, ignoring trafficking of deadly narcotics throughout the world and, indeed, in our own country to get a worse deal.

I stand with my colleagues who renounce the JCPOA, and I would point out that it is my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the broad bipartisan opposition to the JCPOA, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which I have referred to repeatedly, and only somewhat jokingly, as the “Joint Comprehensive Piece of Something, JCPOS.”

But if you want to see the JCPOA go away, the best way to do that is to empower the people of Iran to empower themselves, and that is why I thank my colleagues, one and all, for standing with me here today to speak loudly and clearly. Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that people watching at home will take to social media where the youth of Iran have fomented this revolution, that hashtags such as #freeiran, #iranprotests and #iran will pick up steam, that the world can communicate with those who risk their very lives to assert their basic, fundamental, and Creator-granted rights of

life, liberty, and the right to pursue happiness by showing them that we support them.

Mr. Speaker, I would point out that Mr. GOHMERT so articulately spoke to the role of Rouhani in Iran and the fawning Western media that speaks to his role as a moderate. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rouhani, quite literally, represents the mullahs, and so, as such, that would be as if suggesting that Mr. Goering or Mr. Goebbels was a moderate Nazi. There is nothing moderate about the leadership of this regime.

So with this, I conclude: Americans have been killed by Iran or its proxies in this country, in Lebanon, in Iraq, in Kenya, and in Tanzania. People have given their lives at the hands of Iran in Australia, Argentina, Syria, Israel, Germany, the United Kingdom, in Tanzania, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia. It is time for this to end. Enough is enough.

I would quote Edmund Burke: "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

This time we will not stand idly by. Enough is enough.

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

THE TAX SCAM AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chair for the opportunity to talk about a couple of issues here on the floor of the House. I really have two things I want to talk about today. One is the incredible tax bill that was passed by the Congress and signed by the President just before Christmas, a tax bill that has profound effects on the American economy, most of them negative and bad, but also a tax—I will use the word "scam"—that will really—well, if you happen to be super-wealthy, it is terrific.

I guess, Mr. Speaker, the President, when he went to his Christmas party at Mar-a-Lago, spoke to his guests, most of whom I suspect were rather wealthy, and he said: I just made you a whole lot richer.

Indeed, he did. So we will talk about that in a little more detail.

I also want to talk about the ongoing Mueller investigation. On the floor of the House, from time to time, many of my colleagues from the Republican side come here to the floor, or on cable television, and attack Mueller, attack the FBI, and anybody else who happens to be standing nearby, in an effort to discredit the special counsel's investigation of what happened in the 2016 Presidential election.

It seems to me that here in America, since the very first days of our constitutional government, we have always said that we are a country of laws and that the laws dictate what we do.

□ 1800

We are not a country of individuals that dictate what happens but, rather, a country of laws. What is happening here in this effort to discredit the Mueller investigation is to move away from that nearly century and a half of profound importance in how people govern themselves not by the will of an emperor or the will of a king or even the will of a President, but we govern ourselves by the laws that are enacted by elected representatives: Senators, Members of the House of Representatives, in the case of the National Government, or legislatures, county commissioners, county supervisors, or city council members.

We are a country ruled by laws that are enacted by the citizens; however, the effort to discredit, to derail, to stop the investigation of the appropriate entity—in this case, the Department of Justice, acting through the special counsel—is contrary to the fundamental foundation of the way in which we govern ourselves. That is to say that that discrediting, that effort to stop the investigation of whether laws were broken, disobeyed, or not followed completely undermines the foundation of our government and our relationship as individuals.

None of us want to be subject to the whims of an individual like a king or an emperor or a President. We want them—in this case, the President—to act through the law, that is, to follow the law and, in this case, an agency within the executive branch, the Department of Justice, to carry out its responsibility to determine if the laws have been followed, if there has been a breach of law, if there has been some other element that is contrary to the rule of law. It is that simple.

So I would ask my Republican colleagues here in the House of Representatives and in the Senate and those who are constantly on cable television who are attempting to knock down the Mueller investigation, to discredit his investigation, to discredit the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies of the Federal Government to slow down, to stand back, and to let the operation that is fundamental to our well-being, that operation of enforcing the law to occur and see where it goes, let the investigation play itself out and not get caught up in questions of whether the Steele dossier was the reason for the investigation. It was not.

Clearly, today, we have learned from Senator FEINSTEIN, whom I thank and whom all of us should thank, for making public the 10 hours of testimony from Fusion GPS available for all of us to see so that we can, as individuals, judge the validity of the charge that has been made that somehow the Steele investigation is all that this is about. It is not. It was not and is not. It is about information that came to the FBI from multiple sources, including counterintelligence information developed by our intelligence agencies.

That then led to the investigation and eventually to the establishment of a special counsel.

So take a deep breath. Let this process unfold. Let the facts lead the way. Let the development of those facts be done, and let us then judge the outcome of the investigation.

It seems to me that a lot of the heat that has been put on the FBI and the Mueller team comes from a fear that there is something to fear. So the question should be asked: What is it that you fear?

Why is it that you are doing so much to try to waylay, discredit, stop the investigation?

Is there something that you know that the American public should know?

Is there something that you fear that Mr. Mueller will find out about the 2016 Presidential campaign, about connections to Russia?

Do you know something that would cause you to so aggressively try to stop the investigation? Perhaps you do, in which case, come to the floor and share with us.

I will let it go at that. It just seems to me that we ought to recognize that we are a nation of laws. We are not a nation of a king or an emperor or of a President. We are a nation of laws in which the President's task is to faithfully carry out the Constitution and the laws. If you don't like the laws, come here and change them or go to the Supreme Court and get a ruling that somehow that law is not constitutional. That is the way we should do it.

So enough of that. I have taken a few moments to look at this profoundly important issue about the very nature of government in the United States.

Let me take up another issue, which I actually opened on for just a few moments, and that was tax policy.

I have stood here on the floor before, many times, and talked about the tax bill as it was being developed, and I raised the alarm that somehow this tax bill would not be good for American families and working men and women in America.

I always want to start this discussion with this placard. Those of you who have followed me on the floor may have seen it before, but I want to frame what I am concerned about. I want you to understand the scope of this discussion and why it is of concern. I found this to be an extremely useful way to frame my values and, I think, to frame the values of my colleagues in the Democratic Party.

What is it that we want to accomplish?

What is the value that we put forth?

What is our goal?

What are we trying to do with our public policy statements?

What did we attempt to do with our unanimous opposition to the tax bill that the House of Representatives and the Senate passed and the President signed?

This is the framework. If you would, this is the statement of values. It

comes from Franklin Delano Roosevelt. That is actually etched in marble at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial here in Washington, D.C. These are his words: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much."

Let me repeat that: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

For myself, and I know for my Democratic colleagues, this is the touchstone. These words are the touchstone about our policies, about the programs that we push forward. These words are the touchstone that give us a foundation upon which we then analyze the legislation and come to a conclusion to vote "yes" or "no."

In our analysis of the tax scam, we found that that legislation, now law, failed this test. It failed the fundamental test.

Did that legislation help those who have little or did it add to the abundance of those who have much?

The answer is this from the Joint Tax Committee: during the 10-year life of this legislation, the result of the tax scam is that 83 percent of the \$1.5 trillion goes to the top 1 percent.

How can that be? How could it be that a piece of legislation that has been enacted and is now the law of the land will, over the next decade, shift more than \$1.5 trillion to those who are already the richest men and women in this Nation, if not in this world?

Why? Why would we add a king's ransom—no, a national ransom—to those who already have 80 percent of the wealth of this Nation?

Why would we do that? Why?

Why would we ignore this test?

We didn't. We Democrats did not. We said "no" 186 times because it fails the fundamental test of fairness.

We know across this Nation, it is in economic study after economic study, that America has concentrated wealth in the handful of the top 1 percent to an extent only seen once in America's history before this time, and that was the Gilded Age at the turn of the 19th century. Never, other than now and then, did so few have such a high concentration of America's wealth.

Now, there are those who would argue that is a good thing because all of that wealth will be spent and trickle down to the rest of America. There is not one economic study anywhere that says that trickle down will actually happen; but, rather, what the tax scam bill does is to continue the concentration of wealth for the next decade.

So what of the poor, what of the elderly, what of the students in school who are borrowing vast sums of money so they can get an education?

What of the men and women who have been able to acquire a health insurance policy through the Affordable Care Act because they were able to have that cost of the premium subsidized?

What of those people?

The working men and women of America were dealt a very, very bad hand. But, Mr. Speaker, as the President said when he walked into his club for a Christmas party after signing the bill: I have made you so much wealthier.

So here we are. We had meetings today with military. We need to build new nuclear bombs. We need to build new missiles. We need new ships. We need new tanks.

□ 1815

Whether they do or not, you can debate, but there is an incredible demand for money from the military. By the way, we need to fight wars. We need to prepare for conflict on the Korean Peninsula.

Need, need, need, we need—yes, they do need. Not all of it. I would disagree with much of it, but nonetheless, enormous demand.

And in this tax bill, where is the money for that? Where is the money for the military?

If you are a military hawk, ask yourself: Where is the money?

It went to the top 1 percent and American corporations that already had \$2.5 trillion of cash stashed away in their treasury. They didn't need more money. They were not even investing what they had, yet they received even more as a result of this tax scam.

So what is the purpose of all of this?

Oh, did I mention that in this bill—for that family out there that was able to get health insurance for the first time so they could have a baby, so they could have an operation that they needed, so they can have continuing access to preventative care, do you know what was in this bill? Do my colleagues understand what was in this bill?

Six, seven, eight million of our American families will lose their health insurance as a result of this bill, and all the rest of us are going to wind up paying anywhere from 10 to 20 percent more premium cost as a result of the language that was in this bill that restricts and literally guts the Affordable Care Act. A test of our progress.

So what did the tax scam do?

It shifted a king's ransom—excuse me—a Presidential ransom to those who already have much, the top 1 percent. There you have it, 83 percent of it. And it purposely harms millions of Americans because they will lose their health insurance as a result of the language of this bill that guts the Affordable Care Act's programs.

How could it be? How could we do that?

We Democrats didn't. We said: No. This is bad public policy.

Now, guess what. That was step one of what I like to call the Texas Two Step.

Do you know what step two is?

Step two is to suddenly wake up and realize: "Oh, my, we have just added

\$1.5 trillion plus interest, maybe another 3- or \$400 billion of interest to the national debt. Oh, my goodness. We have to do something," they say.

In fact, it has already been said by our esteemed Speaker. Not the gentleman that is in the chair at this moment, but Mr. RYAN. He has already said: We have to take the next step now. We have to cut entitlements.

Oh, my, the entitlements, we have to cut them in order to deal with the huge new deficit that was created by the tax plan. Wait a minute. Mr. Speaker, you just created the deficit and now you want to go after entitlements. Stop. Time out.

Do we understand what an entitlement is? Do we know what an entitlement is?

Let me tell you. Social Security. Medicare. Oh, we are talking about seniors. Social Security. Seniors.

You mean we have got to cut entitlements, Social Security? Oh, Mr. Speaker, that is what you want us to do? You want us to cut Medicare?

You are suggesting we do that by raising the eligibility age, not from 65, but maybe 67, 68. Terrific. And you just cut the ability for these people to get health insurance at the same time? How does that calculate?

In my mind, it doesn't.

Did I mention Medicaid?

You know those programs—Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, education—those are entitlements.

That is what you want to cut? When 60, 70 percent of Medicaid goes to seniors, nursing homes, other disabled people, extended care, and nursing home facilities, that is what you want to cut?

Guaranteed, as sure as I am standing on the floor at this moment, that is the second step.

And I am not dreaming this up. These are the words of the Republican leadership in this House and in the Senate. So be prepared, America, there is a critical fight, an absolutely important fight that is taking place in your National Legislature, the Congress of the United States. It is about the very future of this fundamental notion.

What are we here for? Are we here for the superwealthy, those who have much? Or are we here for the rest of America?

I know where the Democrats are. I know why we are here. I know why we fight every single day for policies that address issues that help those who have little.

We respect those who have much. They are wonderful people. Well, not all of them. But that is not our concern. They are doing quite well by themselves. It is those who have little.

I see my colleague from New York has joined us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES.)

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California for yielding and for his forceful advocacy and brilliant articulation of

the GOP tax scam and all that it represents.

It really is a wolf in sheep's clothing. It is the ultimate hustle. It is nothing but a classic bait and switch. It is a fraudulent Ponzi scheme. The notion that this bill is designed to help benefit middle class folks and working families, those who aspire to be part of the middle class, is such complete fiction when 83 percent of the benefits of the GOP tax scam will go to the wealthiest 1 percent in America.

We know that at least 36 million middle class families, if not more, will experience a tax increase. Medicare, as was just articulated, will be undermined, the deficit will explode, and our children and grandchildren are being asked to shoulder at least \$1.5 trillion in additional debt to pay for tax cuts for millionaires, billionaires, special interests, corporations, and big donors to our friends on the other side.

Don't take my word for it. There have been Members of this House who have indicated they needed to get this massive tax cut for wealthy individuals done or their donors would stop contributing. We didn't say that. That is folks from this Chamber on the other side of the aisle when talking about the urgency of jamming this reckless tax scam down the throats of the American people.

As the Congressman, the distinguished gentleman from California, just articulated, the whole premise that anyone other than the wealthy and the well off is going to benefit is built upon the fraud of trickle-down economics, when there is absolutely no evidence that trickle-down economics has ever done anything for everyday Americans.

When Ronald Reagan cut taxes on millionaires in 1981, we didn't get explosive economic growth. We got an explosion in the deficit.

When George W. Bush cut taxes on millionaires and billionaires in 2001 and 2003, we didn't get explosive economic growth. We got the Great Recession in terms of the legacy of the Bush economy.

Then there was the so-called great Republican experiment in Kansas, where a Republican State Legislature and a Republican Governor massively cut taxes on the wealthiest, top folks in Kansas.

And was there massive economic growth?

No. We got prison riots, overcrowded classrooms, and crumbling infrastructure.

Those are the facts. That is what so-called trickle-down economics has yielded, and now this fraud is being perpetrated on the American people.

It is shameful. It is our children and grandchildren who are going to deal with the consequences of this highly partisan effort to benefit the wealthiest amongst us. It is a raw deal for the American people.

We are going to offer a better deal for the American people; focus on better

jobs, better wages, and a better future; focus on higher pay, lower cost; and giving the American people the tools to succeed in the 21st century economy by focusing on a real infrastructure bill, real training, real community college opportunity, real tax reform for middle class Americans and those who aspire to be part of it.

I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding, for his leadership in this area, and I look forward to working together to deliver to the American people the better deal that they deserve.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JEFFRIES very much for his remarks. If he can stick around, maybe we can have a colloquy here and discuss this a little better.

Mr. JEFFRIES and his two colleagues, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS), developed the Better Deal discussion, and I would like to talk about this in the context of infrastructure.

Now, in the next couple of weeks, the President says he is going to deliver to the Congress his infrastructure plan. Well, we know across this Nation that we definitely need infrastructure. He just talked about it a moment ago. And the question will arise: How do you pay for it?

This year, right now, the current fiscal year where we are talking about "can we fund government before it shuts down," \$150 billion was ripped out of the Treasury. It is gone for the wealthy tax cuts.

So where do we get the money to pay for infrastructure? How do we do that?

Here is my fear. My fear is that the wealthy 1 percent, top 10 percent, the big corporations have already got their big chunk of the pie, 83 percent of it.

Where do you go to get the money?

I think that the proposal coming from the President will be to tax fees on folks who are using the transportation system.

And who are they?

They are the American families. They are the people commuting to work on the trains or in the buses or in the cars. We need to think through how is it that we can do the infrastructure so there are better jobs, better wages, and better life for Americans?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to Mr. JEFFRIES to expand on the way in which the Better Deal proposal that we talked about can accomplish that transportation education.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it certainly is the case that because of the GOP tax scam, because of the \$1.5 trillion in additional debt that we, as a country, will now have to shoulder so that massive tax cuts can be provided to millionaires, billionaires, special interests, corporations, and big donors, that we are not necessarily in a position to responsibly fund the type of infrastructure plan that the Nation deserves to fix our crumbling bridges, roads, and tunnels.

□ 1830

We believe, as Democrats, that the American people, in that regard, deserve a better deal, a better deal, again, focused on higher pay, lower costs, and the tools to succeed in the 21st century economy.

One of the ways that you deliver better jobs is through a meaningful infrastructure plan that is appropriately funded, not on the backs of working families, middle class folks, and everyday Americans. It should be funded in an appropriate way. Those who can afford to pay should be paying their fair share. But we just went through a reverse Robin Hood process as it relates to this tax bill, and that is unfortunate.

I am hopeful that we will proceed in a bipartisan way. The President has indicated that he thinks that would be an appropriate approach. We will see whether that is a genuine articulation of a way forward or not. But we cannot repeat the mistakes that were just attendant to the process of jamming this tax bill down the throats of the American people and jamming us in a way that will hurt everyday Americans.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for laying out the essential agenda of the better deal proposal that the Democrats are putting forth. There are many, many elements to this.

He mentioned education. Infrastructure is a piece of it, medical care, research, and so forth.

Staying with the infrastructure, the Democrats have proposed several different ways to pay for the infrastructure program. Two of those, or one big one, is now gone.

American corporations held \$1 trillion—I think, almost \$2 trillion—of profits offshore. In the tax, bill that money cannot be retrieved. It is going into the coffers of the corporations if they bring it back to the United States, with a very small tax.

One of the proposals brought forward by the Democrats was to repatriate, bring that money back to the United States and use it to support infrastructure, to use it to pay for immediate bonds, that we could then sell those bonds and use that money for infrastructure investment. That, of course, is gone as a result of the tax bill.

There is another proposal that really, I think, dovetails with the extraordinary ramp-up of the stock market. A lot of that has to do with transactions, billions of transactions every day. A small fee of less than one one-hundredth of a penny on each transaction would raise billions of dollars and go directly to deal with what is a problem in the stock market, and that is computerized gambling that goes on in the stock market.

There are other ways that we have proposed to raise the money, but one of the things that I fear is that the President is going to come up with a plan that saddles working men and women of America with the infrastructure cost.

Already, working men and women pay for most of the infrastructure. They are the ones who are driving the cars, paying the fees and so forth. This, we have to tackle. We need to do it in a bipartisan way as Mr. JEFFRIES has suggested, but we ought to do it in a way that tries to claw back as much of that unnecessary wealth that has been transferred to the superwealthy.

I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I think that is exactly right. The gentleman's concerns and suspicions are well-founded based upon the approach that was taken by this Congress on the other side of the aisle in connection with the tax bill.

So the individual tax cuts, to the extent that there are any that will be felt by the American people, are modest; the corporate tax cuts are massive.

The individual tax cuts are temporary; the corporate tax cuts are permanent.

The ability of individuals to take a State and local tax deduction has been decimated; the ability of corporations to use the State and local tax deduction on their corporate tax return is untouched.

The moving expense deduction for individuals has been eliminated, but corporations can continue to take moving expense deductions for closing down a factory or a plant here in America and shipping those good-paying American jobs overseas to China, India, or other parts of the world.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, did I hear the gentleman correctly that an individual who lost their job, for whatever reason, and moves to another State can no longer deduct the moving expense? Is that correct?

Mr. JEFFRIES. That is correct.

Mr. GARAMENDI. However, a corporation that decides to close that plant, that facility, that laid off that individual, and open a factory in China can deduct the cost of doing that?

Mr. JEFFRIES. Absolutely.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Something is radically wrong here.

Mr. JEFFRIES. It is totally outrageous, and it is exactly why the gentleman's concern about what our colleagues may be attempting to do with respect to the infrastructure bill is real. Because what we have just seen is an effort to massively transfer wealth from individuals and from everyday Americans to wealthy Americans and incredibly well-off corporations in ways that should never be possible in the United States of America.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I was reading the tax bill yesterday, which is not a good read, and I found a provision that was of particular interest to me. Back in the 1990s, I was Deputy Secretary for the Department of the Interior, and we were trying to deal with the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska.

We have also, since that time, had this little thing called the Deepwater

Horizon. There has been a small 9-cents-per-barrel fee that the petroleum industry has been paying for the clean-up of oil spills. The big ones, Exxon Valdez and Deepwater Horizon, there was even more money as a result of the legal action taking care of them.

Little oil spills in the rivers and lakes and harbors are cleaned up using that fee. It is about \$400 million a year—small, but absolutely essential. In the tax bill, they eliminated that small fee, and it is a \$400 million windfall to the petroleum industry.

You go: Why would you do that? Who, then, is left to clean up? It is going to be the taxpayer in the State.

Mr. Speaker, did the gentleman mention State and local taxes? He is from New York. I am from California. Perhaps the two of us can get in a bit of a rage that the tax bill forces Californians, New Yorkers, Pennsylvanians, and Illinoisans to pay a tax on a tax that they have paid.

I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Absolutely. And I found this sort of whole discussion of trying to punish taxpayers in California, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Illinois, and Pennsylvania to benefit States in the Deep South or other parts of the country that already receive more from the Federal Government than they give in return to taxes to be outrageous, and this will just continue the inequity.

New York regularly sends \$40 billion more to the Federal Government than we get back in return, and they have just made a bad situation worse. The same for California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, it is probably not really appropriate that we get into a rage about the way in which this tax bill purposefully harms contributor States and forces the taxpayers in those States to pay Federal taxes on the taxes that they have paid to the State governments.

We could probably go on and on here for some time about the inequities and the harm that this tax bill does, and we certainly should. We should probably come back tomorrow and every day thereafter and tell the American people what has happened to them as a result of this tax scam.

In doing so, I really want to thank the gentleman and his two colleagues for developing, within the Democratic Caucus, a set of proposals, legislative proposals, policy changes, that will give the American public a better deal. We can juxtapose that against the tax bill, which is a raw deal for the American working family, but the gentleman has developed a better deal.

In the days ahead, I would love to join the gentleman and his colleagues juxtaposing the tax bill against the proposal that it is beneficial to working men and women in America, so perhaps we can do that.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would like to wrap up, I will follow him with a wrap-up.

I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I look forward continuing to work together for the gentleman's advocacy. We will dissect this tax bill for the American people, continue to discuss it, expose its fraudulent nature, and also lay out in clear terms the better deal we are offering, focused on better jobs, better wages, and a better future.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mrs. BUSTOS for developing the Better Deal program for our caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to end where I started. So, for the American people, I want them to know where we are coming from as Democrats: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." If you want to know where I am coming from, read that sentence.

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

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 140, AMENDING THE WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE WATER RIGHTS QUANTIFICATION ACT OF 2010

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-503) on the resolution (H. Res. 681) providing for consideration of the bill (S. 140) to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 139, RAPID DNA ACT OF 2017

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-504) on the resolution (H. Res. 682) providing for consideration of the bill (S. 139) to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ESTES of Kansas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we keep hearing about action that needs

to be taken on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. I have spent a lot of time down on our Nation's southern border, and I was quite pleased, last year, when Border Patrol friends told me information indicated that, after President Trump was sworn in, the number of people coming into the United States illegally slowed to a trickle, that it was a dramatic decrease, and that continued for awhile. But, during the summer, as discussion about DACA started coming out, I was told, and, apparently, the numbers indicate, the surge began anew.

What I have heard over the years is anytime anyone in Washington starts talking about amnesty, legalization of any kind for people who have come into the United States illegally, there is a fresh surge across our border.

I have been told by border patrolmen, they hear people talking who have come in illegally—whether before processing, during processing, after processing, during the holding procedure, it is made very clear, since they are willing to come into the country illegally in violation of United States laws, that they want to get here before there is any legalization. And it makes sense, as I am told, that they are willing to come in in violation of U.S. law. They are also willing to say that they came in a previous time and, you know, backdate it, different identity, different date they came in, whatever is required in order to get legal status.

□ 1845

I appreciate hearing from my constituents, I always do, and I appreciate getting the opinions and thoughts of constituents from my district, the First District of Texas. They are always welcome.

In the last couple of days, I have gotten a stack of petitions in my office regarding a push to support what they are calling a clean Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals reform, but it raises some questions. The best I can tell by the words "clean bill," they mean one that provides amnesty with no strings attached. However, all these petitions have been provided, actual names and addresses are only on a handful of them, many have names written in the same handwriting in ink, and there are numerous unsigned blank petitions in the stack we were provided.

In addition, I want to point out that, every time DACA legalization is mentioned, we have greater surges of people into our country illegally; and every time there is a surge, there are people who die trying to get into this country illegally, bodies found. We have the reports of a dramatic number of young girls, even some boys, who are pulled into sex trafficking, drug trafficking, as a way to pay off their debt to the drug cartels that control the area of the border that they were allowed to come across by the gang that brought them across.

It should be noted, every young person in America has dreams. The best

way to achieve the greatest number of dreams for the greatest number of people in the United States is if we enforce the law across the board fairly.

I keep being amazed, and I have asked questions at our hearings:

So why did these people come into the United States illegally?

Well, because there are more jobs and opportunity.

No, but why did they leave where they left, where they fled?

Well, there was no opportunity there.

Why was there no opportunity? Why were there no jobs there?

Well, there is so much corruption. They don't enforce the law fairly.

So what we are being asked to do, instead of using political efforts to get these countries that people have fled to fix their political system, we are supposed to change our laws here so that those who have been working—I have helped some people 17 years trying to get into the country legally—they will be treated unfairly, because they have been trying to do things legally, in favor of people who violated the law to get here.

It kind of seems like we are being asked to become the kind of country they fled, where the law is not enforced fairly across the board. It sounds like the ultimate irony.

Until our border is made secure, we should not be discussing passage of any legalization bill. We should stop talking about legalization until the border is secure. When the border is secure, then we can work things out.

It is so ironic to me, the very people who are demanding a big amnesty, legalization, whatever you want to call it, say, "We don't want a wall, we don't want the border secure," which means we will have to come back and have this discussion in the next couple of years all over again.

It was supposed to have ended in 1986. We will get border security in return for the amnesty. We got the amnesty, and we didn't get the border security.

I am joined by a friend, a very dear friend, who wrote speeches for his hero, a hero of mine, Ronald Reagan, who knows very well what happened in 1986.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I also want to thank Mr. GOHMERT for the great courage that he has had on this issue, the fact that he has been willing to speak up for something that the establishment in this country is trying to shut us up about, trying to put blinders on the American people about what is going on and how we are losing our country.

I was there with Ronald Reagan, and, yes, he was sold a bill of goods in 1986. He was told there were 3 million illegals in the country; and that is what we are going to do, we are going to legalize their status. He had a good heart, Reagan had a wonderful heart, and he saw these people were being exploited and living in the shadows.

Three million people, you could take care of that, but the agreement has to be that we are now going to control our borders.

Of course, back then, there was never even any question about whether someone who is here illegally should be getting a government benefit or be able to be treated just like a U.S. citizen, that wasn't even in the works, but Ronald Reagan said: Okay. We will secure the border, and then we will make sure that we take these 3 million people and save them.

Instead, how did it end up? The border security was done not even halfheartedly. We ended up, when all was said and done, with not 3 million people, but 11 million people who eventually came here based on that amnesty program.

Well, today, it is a lot worse what we are facing. Today, the American people are being told a lie. Maybe someone is not just lying directly to them, but they are feeding them a false image of what the issue is today.

How many people have heard about the DREAMers, these wonderful young people, yes, who came here at an early age? The American people are not being told what we are talking about when we talk about the DREAMers. Most Americans think we are talking about 25,000 or 30,000 kids at the most. That is what most Americans think we are talking about.

What we are talking about is 850,000 young people, who, yes, have dreams, and most of them are fine young people, I am sure, but they are here illegally, they have been brought here illegally by their parents, and they want their status legalized.

What will that do? 850,000 young people, not 25,000, almost a million young people, and all right, what will happen when they are legalized? Well, what we are not being told is, as soon as they are legalized, they then have the rights of everybody else, as anyone who is residing here legally should, and, thus, they are eligible for family reunification, and their families that are now being brought in from other countries then have the right to bring in their families. So we have a family reunification that creates a snowball effect and millions and millions more.

Then, of course, we also have, with the legalization, the eligibility for government benefits, which, as I say, during Reagan's time, there wasn't any question you are not going to give benefits to illegal immigrants. Well, now we find illegal immigrants receiving education and healthcare benefits just as if they were American citizens.

In California, they have even treated criminals as if they are citizens, setting up sanctuary cities and sanctuary States.

Let me note that, with free education and free healthcare, there is no limit to the number of people around the world who will want to come here. By the way, there is no securing the border as long as we are giving education and

healthcare benefits to people who have come here illegally.

In fact, what we are talking about now is basically opening up major, major expenditures in our budget, that right now we can't afford even to take care of our own people, yet we are going to have an obligation not just for these 850,000 young people, but all of the people whom they will bring in as well, not to mention the millions of other young people throughout the world who will say: My gosh, if I could get there.

And mothers and fathers throughout the world: We have got to get our child there so they can get the education and healthcare that is being provided to young people even when they come there illegally.

Now, let us note, for funds for our education system, our own young people are suffering from a lack of funds for their education; we lack money to have a very good healthcare plan for our people, yet the millions of other people who have come here illegally, we are going to let them drain that money and invite millions more people to come here from overseas.

This is the most dishonest debate that we have had. That whole concept of having millions and millions more coming in because of DACA, the DREAMers? No, no. This is being kept out of the debate; this isn't going to be part of America's vision of what is going on.

The idea that we now have veterans whom we cannot afford to take care of, we have children of our own people whom we cannot afford to educate, we have seniors whom we are trying to take care of, all of these are expenses that we have, and we are already in the hole, yet we are going to take care of millions of other people who have come here illegally, starting with the DREAMers?

There are not just 10 million, by the way, 11 million people here illegally. Let me be clear. We have got, I am guesstimating, 20 million, but I bet there are other people who are much more sophisticated in their analysis than I am on this who say it is even more than 20 million people who have come here illegally.

So what happens? We are draining our resources for people who have come here illegally.

What does that mean? We don't care enough about our own people. That is what we are really saying. Those people are more important than our own people.

Then, of course, you have the fact that people are coming here, and, yes, they are able-bodied, yet they still get education and healthcare, but they get jobs, and, yes, they bid down the wages of people at the lowest end of our spectrum.

I used to be an ice cream scooper at Marineland snack bar. That is what I did when I was in high school. I scooped ice cream.

You know what, those jobs now, what we have got are people who have gone

into those jobs so that in order to get people to work for them, they haven't had to increase the wages of the people at that level. And if they have increased wages, they haven't increased the wages as much as they would have had to had they not had groups of people there who say: I will do that work at half the price.

Something else I was, I was a janitor in college. I was a janitor, and I cleaned toilets. There is nothing wrong with anybody, whatever work they have got. We know that we respect every working person in this country.

Yes, I cleaned toilets, and guess what? I looked back a few years ago and found that the salary, the wages, of people who clean toilets has not gone up, the janitors are not making more money.

Now, why is that? Are we saying that people who work at lowly jobs aren't worthy of having a pay raise, they shouldn't benefit? The income of our Nation now is three or four times higher than it was, yet those people in the lower scale have not been going up with that. The main reason is those lowly jobs that they get, they have been bid down, the salaries have been bid down by this massive flow of illegals.

Now, if we care about our people, we have to ask: What is America? America is not one race, not one religion, not one ethnic group. America is a country in which we believe in freedom and we have come from every ethnic group and race in the world.

What makes us Americans, then, is that we have to care for each other. We are an American family, but that being an American family means we must take care of those people who are less fortunate in our country before we spend and even borrow more money in order to take care of the needs of people who have come here illegally.

Let us just note the worst part of this whole debate is that Republicans and others who are concerned about this are being labeled like we are anti-immigrant. Well, in fact, we know that immigration is an important part of our country.

□ 1900

But this is the greatest lie of all because we believe that our country has been prospered by having a legal immigration system. We, in fact, take in a million legal immigrants a year. So anyone who is thinking about this should think about it. That represents more legal immigration into our country than all the other countries of the world combined, allowing people to immigrate into their country, all the other countries of the world.

Yet, because we don't want to destroy this system, we don't want it to go out of control, we are being labeled as anti-immigrant, even though we sing praises for those people who have come here legally.

In fact, the people who are the most anti-immigrant are the ones who mix

the title "illegal" and "legal" together. And what we have got now is the worst possible outcome in that we have limited resources being drained away from our own people of every race, religion, and ethnic group, and jobs that are being bid down by illegals; and everyone, including legal immigrants, are being hurt.

But what we have now is a recognition that we cannot even enforce the law. We have sanctuary cities in which criminals are being kept from being arrested by Federal agents.

What is that all about? Who do we care for?

Now we are saying our police can't even protect our families; and that if there is some criminal gang from another country that comes here, that we are going to have a sanctuary State or a sanctuary city for these people.

This is absolutely ridiculous. It is a horror story, and it is up to us to alert the American people that we are losing our country. We are losing our country. And when I say "our country," us, United States is us, every race, every religion, every ethnic group.

Let us care for each other. Let anybody who is saying we care more about someone who is coming here illegally from another country, I don't care how old they are, their children, yes, are less important than our children. Those people's well-being, yes, are less important than the well-being of all Americans, whatever their status in this society. We need to make sure we make that clear.

And DACA, if we bring in 850,000 young people and encourage millions more to come in by doing that, we have betrayed the interests of our own people, and they are looking to us to protect them.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman personally witnessed what happened after the amnesty of 1986. President Reagan rightly said that we can't have an amnesty unless we have proper border security. They put it in the same bill. They got the amnesty and there was no follow-up.

Let's say we want to do the best to help young people, the world over. My friend here has already illustrated what happens. There are rules for radicals. You want to bring down the United States, apparently you bring as many people into being totally reliant on the government, so you bankrupt the government, destroy the government. That is how you eliminate the greatest, most representative government in the history of the world.

Then what happens to young people around the world when there is no America to stand up against repressive regimes? What happens?

Who is benefited by bringing down the United States by overwhelming our system, running the \$20 trillion debt up much higher? Who is benefited?

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I believe that there are people who, with sinister motives, are trying to destroy the United States of America. They are

there. There are people out there who hate us for what we stand for. They have always hated America. We have been what stood between the forces of evil on this planet for 200 years now.

If it wasn't for our guys—my mom and dad left North Dakota, these small farms—out to fight in World War II, we saved the world from Nazism and from Japanese militarism.

And then during the Cold War, we stood firm until communism—that evil that wanted to create atheistic dictatorships throughout the world, thinking that that is going to cleanse us from our profit motive, the idea that we are going to change human nature but we are going to establish dictators and dictatorships and murder millions and millions of people, we defeated that evil. We held firm until it had a chance to collapse on its own.

Now we face radical Islam, which is not a force, by the way, that—it is a powerful force. There are Muslims who hate us. There are Muslims who love us as well. But there are Muslims who hate us, who have lots of money and lots of oil. We cut deals with them, so they have lots of money and resources.

And what did they do?

They have financed terrorism to try to terrorize us into retreat. They hate America. They hate America. These are forces. And there are still forces in the world today that hate us, and that group is applauding when we lose control of our borders.

And you know darn well the terrorists of this world have seen those open borders to the South, and the terrorists are among us.

But we also have lost control of what you are talking about; that loss of control will destroy our chance to have an economic activity that succeeds in establishing a currency and a system in which prosperity and a good life for ordinary people can exist.

No, it is going to go down unless we stop this massive flow. And the massive flow is already gone, but it will become a flood of people if we send the message: Kids who get here get free education, free healthcare, legalized status, and they will bring their parents in.

We will have tens of millions of more people flooding our country. I can't agree to that.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman and I have been to Iraq a number of times together, to Afghanistan, to different places in the world. It seems pretty clear, after our effort to create a democratic republic in Iraq, that if a nation's people have not been properly prepared and educated to maintain a democratic republic, they won't keep it. It seems pretty clear from the places we have been together.

I will never forget Christian friends that I made in west Africa, who sat me down at the end of the week and said they wanted me to understand that they were so thrilled when we elected our first Black President. But since he was elected, they said: We have seen

America get weaker and weaker, and we wanted to make sure you took a message back to Washington that we are Christians, we know where we go when we die. But our only chance of having peace in this life is if America is strong.

I will never forget those words.

They said: Please stop getting weaker. We suffer when you are weaker.

And most of the people who are pouring across the United States for a better way of life, they are not coming to weaken us. They are coming with their own hopes and aspirations.

But I ask: What would be better? What better neighbor would we be to continue until so many come in, our system fails and goes bankrupt, as California is doing now?

Or would we be better to say: Let's build a wall where it is necessary. Let's totally secure our border. Let's cut off the 70 to \$80 billion that is flowing from the United States into the drug cartels of Mexico, that allows them to corrupt the Government of Mexico and the local governments and terrorist people and put police heads on stakes to terrorize us. Let's cut off that 70 to \$80 billion, however much it is.

Let's totally secure the border. And people who love their Mexican heritage are—other countries in Central and South America, they love their heritage, but they can't make it.

Why don't we help cut off the corruption by cutting off the flow of money out and drugs into our country? Why don't we work on that? Wouldn't that be a better neighbor to our friends to the South?

There is no reason Mexico is not one of the top 10 economies in the world. They have got the wonderful people, hardworking folks. They have got the resources. They have got a fantastic location. There is only one reason that they are not, and that is because of the corruption that their drug cartels bring from U.S. money flowing into Mexico.

Maybe we would be better off helping all of those millions of people who want to come here by helping them be a country that is one of the top in the world.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, establishing the rule of law here will not only protect our own people, will not only make sure that our own less fortunate people are bid into low-paying jobs so that people who work as janitors, as I did, and as decent people are doing now, that their wages aren't bid down; they can live a decent life so their families can live with some security here. So by doing that, we will also take away this major instability that we are creating throughout the world by not obeying the rule of law.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I so much appreciate my friend. I don't like to use "colleague" with DANA ROHRABACHER because he is so much more than that. He is a dear friend and a brother, and I will treasure most of the times that we have spent together in

traveling, trying to do right for the United States and the world.

One other thing, Mr. Speaker, I want to touch on before we finish up, and that is the issue that is coming, we are told, this week, regarding Section 702 reauthorization.

We are told that the folks in the deep state have made very clear they want what they call a clean reauthorization. Nothing clean about it when you look at how 702 is spent.

So just spend a couple of minutes here, based on an article entitled "How the FBI and DOJ Intelligence Units Were Weaponized Around Congressional Oversight" from January 8, 2018. It goes through this scenario.

Sometime in early 2016, Admiral Rogers—talking about Admiral Mike Rogers, not the MIKE ROGERS that was here in Congress—became aware of an ongoing and intentional violation of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Section 702 surveillance, specifically item 17, which includes the unauthorized upstream data collection of U.S. individuals within NSA surveillance through the use of "about inquiries," where they do a surveillance of someone foreign, capture American citizens, which would violate our Fourth Amendment rights, except that those names are masked and, supposedly, all kinds of efforts to protect that, so it is not a violation of the Fourth Amendment, supposedly.

But this article points out that they get all of these conversations in the database, and then they can do inquiries about people, subjects, and capture that information about Americans, basically allowing them to get around the Fourth Amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this article. We see what occurs when we don't have proper oversight. And Section 702, as being proposed, does not give us the proper oversight, and I hope that we will look further at that.

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

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MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 30 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I stand with so many of my colleagues today in a call to action for this body to address a crisis that is at its breaking point for pensioners across our country, retired workers, who have come from the building trades, miners, truck drivers, so many more—actually, hundreds of thousands of Americans—losing their pensions or about to lose them.

Millions of American retirees have worked and earned pensions that they contributed to through the multiemployer pension programs. In fact, I met one retiree recently who paid over

\$225,000 into his plan and has not been able to access one penny—not one penny. Yet hundreds of these plans face serious financial shortfalls, leaving millions of retirees facing an uncertain retirement future.

For today, Congress needs to step up and secure the pension benefits these workers have earned. And there should be no pension cuts for workers who contributed to their own plans and should have a right to the money that they invested. Congress can no longer kick the can down the road. There simply is no more time.

This problem does not go away if Congress continues to ignore it. Rather, the financial stress mounts for the retirement funds and, of course, for the retirees and for their families so severely impacted. Indeed, the costs the Federal Government will bear if we don't solve this problem now become exponentially more significant as time ensues.

Over the last 4 years, I have heard extensively from retirees forced to ride this terrible economic roller coaster. It is almost like a corkscrew, right side up, upside down. They are caught in this as their retirement security careens out of their control through no fault of their own.

There are thousands, tens of thousands of Americans who did everything our country asks of its productive citizenry, retirees who worked for decades for a company and thought they would have a secure retirement but now they face a stark reality.

From Toledo, Ohio, such retirees as Carol Jones, who drove a truck for over 30 years and who missed holidays and major life milestones because of his work on the road, the knowledge that he was earning a pension helped in those moments, but now he says it all feels like a pipe dream. And when you drive a truck for over 30 years, things happen to your knees; they happen to your back. Bouncing over concrete for three decades has severe costs for so many. But if a solution is not passed now, Carol won't even be able to continue to care for his disabled daughter.

Or how about Ernest Frye, a teamster for 54 years? He and his wife currently can live on what they earned through his pension, but, with its threatened cuts, everything will fall apart for them. They will have to rely on the government to cover the difference. And with the rising cost of medical expenses, they run the risk of also losing their home if his pension is cut. What kind of cruelty is this?

Or how about Cindy Grimley, who was hired in 1978, and has taken pride in being able to take care of herself? Even with the pension she earned and lives on, she cannot afford medications her doctor tells her she needs, and she can't afford to lose a single dollar of her promised pension.

Or how about Tom Brady, who worked 30 years—30 years—with Roadway Express and is a Vietnam veteran? He faced a 50 percent cut under the

Central States Pension Fund application. They call it MPRA. Any cut to his pension won't only impact him. He has six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren whom he and his wife help support.

I hear countless stories across this country of how retirees are caring for children with disabilities, supporting their own ill and aged parents, or supporting children and grandchildren with life expenses. These cuts impact more than just the individual who earned the pension. And, really, don't these workers who retired have a right to the money that they put into these plans?

You know, there were hundreds of companies that walked away from their pension promises. They didn't keep their promise to the workers. The workers put their money in, and some of the companies walked away. Is it the worker's fault?

Ask any retiree or responsible economist, if we fail to fix this pension crisis, we will create a tremendous deficit to our economy both locally and nationally. Some retirees already live under the financial constraint of us not solving this challenge, and some have already had 70 percent cuts to their pensions.

For example, Ironworkers Local 17 in Cleveland. How about the New York State Teamsters? How about the United Furniture Workers pension and the International Association of Machinists Motor City pension? They have all seen that decisions were made forcing cuts upon their retirees. And millions more live on that precipice: money that should be coming to them because they earned it, they put it away, and then it was taken away.

This House has continued to let these retirees down. There has not been a single hearing to fully understand the financial plight confronting retirees. How irresponsible is that for the leadership of this House? The Senate has only taken a bit of action, but no solution.

Immediately after the House passed the scam pension bill a few years ago—that is the original Multiemployer Pension Reform Act—I set to work to correct the unfairness that it allowed, and we introduced the Keep Our Pension Promises Act, which, back then, had the number H.R. 2412. We called it KOPPA. It would have prevented these draconian cuts to earned pensions by filling the financial gap of many of these plans, such as the Central States Pension Fund, and reinstate the anti-cutback provisions that are contained in the ERISA legislation, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. The bedrock of that law was that, if workers work and they put money aside for their pensions, that pension money will be there for them.

But our bill lacks sufficient bipartisan support. So back last December, it was very reassuring for me to stand with my colleagues Representative RICHIE NEAL of Massachusetts and,

from the other body, Senator SHERROD BROWN as we introduced the Butch Lewis Act, H.R. 4444 and S. 2147.

In the House, this legislation now has two Republican cosponsors, and I hope many more of our colleagues' support will follow. But there is not time to recruit cosponsors one or two at a time. Retirees across our country are waiting for true leadership to push an equitable solution so they aren't led to the guillotine on their pensions. It is time for real congressional leadership to identify the impact this crisis will have and organize an effort here either to create a new bipartisan solution or pass the already bipartisan Butch Lewis Act.

If we fail to act, we can no longer wonder why the middle class is angry at Washington and this Congress, for they see this as just another broken promise by Washington. We can no longer wonder why they believe the system is rigged, because here are more than a million honest Americans who worked for a living decade after decade. They worked hard. They followed the rules, and now they are getting thrown under the bus. The companies they worked for reneged on their promises.

And you know what? Unless we do something, the promise under ERISA will remain unfulfilled, and that is their pension security.

I would say to my colleagues, if you ever wonder why tens and tens of millions of Americans are angry and deeply disappointed or feel betrayed by their government and the companies they worked for, look no further than this issue.

I remember one man who didn't come from my State, but I met him here in Washington. He said: Congresswoman, I earned and put away \$225,000 in my pension plan, and they told me I had to work 20 years. So I drove 20 years, drove a truck 20 years.

And he said: I started to have back problems. And when I got to my 20th year and I made it through, I said to them: Well, I am ready to apply.

And the company said: You know what? We changed the rules. You have to work 2 more years.

So he said: Two more years? Okay.

So he made every effort that he could under great pain to work those 2 years up through his 22nd year of employment as a driver, and then at the 22nd year, the company said: You know what? We changed the rules. Now you are going to have to work an additional 3 years.

Imagine having promises broken all the time.

And now he is disabled. He has difficulty standing, sitting. He has pain all the time. And he has not been able to gain access to a penny of money that he earned. Surely, if someone at the White House is listening to this, if you think about President Trump's travels through Ohio when he talked to the miners and he sought their vote, or in Chicago with those who drove a

truck and paid into the Central States Pension Fund, the promises that were made, surely we can find a way to help keep the pension promises that these workers earned.

I want to thank all of the Members who cosponsored our former bill, the Keep Our Pension Promises Act, and the Butch Lewis Act, and I thank Members of both parties for trying to find a solution, a real solution, for this crisis. We are moving toward it. We really don't have any time to waste because Congress must reach a solution early this year, and we should look no further than including that pension relief in the upcoming spending deal that is being negotiated between the White House and this Congress now.

Pensions now. Pensions now. These workers have earned their pension. Why has the government of the United States made it so difficult and made their retirement years so stressful by not reaching a solution to date? I make a strong appeal on behalf of over a million workers across this country who so justly earned the pension benefits that they deserve.

I thank my colleagues who are listening. I thank the American people for writing us and for sharing their personal stories with us. I have great hope, in these final negotiations on a spending bill for 2018 which is currently under negotiation at the highest levels, that this pension issue finally will be resolved.

Keep the letters and emails and phone calls and visits coming. This is the time to make your weight felt.

Mr. Speaker, thank you so very much, and I yield back my remaining time.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1425. An act to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; in addition, to the Committee on 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.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3759. An act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 27 minutes

p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 10, 2018, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3615. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series) [Docket ID: DOD-2017-OS-0044] (RIN: 0790-AJ88) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3616. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's interpretive rule — Amended Interpretive Rule Under the Military Lending Act Limitations on Terms of Consumer Credit Extended to Service Members and Dependents [Docket ID: DOD-2017-OS-0038] (RIN: 0790-ZA13) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3617. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3618. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's joint final rule — Community Reinvestment Act Regulations [Regulation BB; Docket No.: R-1574] received December 22, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3619. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rules — Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold [Docket No.: R-1580] (RIN: 7100-AD 87) received December 22, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3620. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — Rules Regarding Availability of Information [Docket No.: R-1556] (RIN: 7100-AE65) received December 22, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3621. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rules — Consumer Leasing (Regulation M) [Docket No.: R-1579] (RIN: 7100-AE-86) received December 22, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3622. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rules — Truth in Lending (Regulation

Z) [Docket No.: R-1581] (RIN: 7100-AE-88) received December 22, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3623. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of California Air Plan Revisions; Anti-Idling Regulations [EPA-R09-OAR-2017-0383; FRL-9972-49-Region 9] received December 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3624. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Finding of Failure to Submit a Section 110 State Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport for the 2012 Annual National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Fine Particles; Massachusetts [EPA-R01-OAR-2017-0695; FRL-9972-39-Region 1] received December 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3625. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonably Available Control Technology for Volatile Organic Compound Emissions in the Dallas-Fort Worth Ozone Nonattainment Area [EPA-R06-OAR-2015-0832; FRL-9972-00-Region 6] received December 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3626. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan [EPA-R06-OAR-2016-0520; EPA-R06-OAR-2017-0129; FRL-9971-85-Region 6] received December 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3627. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Arkansas; Revisions to the Definitions for Arkansas Plan of Implementation for Air Pollution Control: Volatile Organic Compounds [EPA-R06-OAR-2017-0699; FRL-9971-86-Region 6] received December 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3628. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Amine salt of styrene acrylic polymer, ammonium salt; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0248; FRL-9970-89] received December 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3629. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; 2017 revisions to NR 400 and 406 [EPA-R05-OAR-2017-0280; FRL-9972-32-Region 5] received December 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3630. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio;

Regional Haze Five-Year Progress Report State Implementation Plan [EPA-R05-OAR-2016-0185; FRL-9972-34-Region 5] received December 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3631. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Volatile Organic Compounds Definition [EPA-R05-OAR-2017-0323; FRL-9972-33-Region 5] received December 19, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3632. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment [WT Docket No.: 17-79] received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3633. A letter from the Division Chief, Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Use of Spectrum Bands Above 24 GHz for Mobile Radio Services [GN Docket No.: 14-177]; Establishing a More Flexible Framework to Facilitate Satellite Operations in the 27.5-28.35 GHz and 37.5-40 GHz Bands [IB Docket No.: 15-256]; and other regulations received December 29, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3634. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — 2014 Quadrennial Regulatory Review — Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 [MB Docket No.: 14-50]; 2010 Quadrennial Regulatory Review — Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 [MB Docket No.: 09-182]; and other regulations received December 29, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3635. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3636. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting reports 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(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3637. A letter from the Staff Director, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, transmitting the 2017 Annual Report of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6912(g); Public Law 106-286, Sec. 302(g); (114 Stat. 897); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3638. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of

Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 17-68, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3639. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2017 Ginnie Mae Annual Management Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)) (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3640. A letter from the Division Chief, Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Effectuating Congressional Nullification of the Resource Management Planning Rule Under the Congressional Review Act [Docket ID: BLM-2016-0002; LLWO210000.17X.L16100000.PN0000] (RIN: 1004-AE39) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3641. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Georges Bank Cod Possession and Trip Limit Adjustment for the Common Pool Fishery [Docket No.: 151211999-6343-02] (RIN: 0648-XF713) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3642. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery; 2017 Illex Squid Quota Harvested [Docket No.: 140902739-5224-02] (RIN: 0648-XF672) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3643. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Adjustment to the 2017 Winter II Quota [Docket No.: 161017970-6999-02] (RIN: 0648-XF651) received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3644. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2018 Standard Mileage Rates [Notice 2018-03] received December 21, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3645. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a Declaration of a Public Health Emergency and Waiver and/or Modification of Certain HIPAA, and Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program Requirements (California wildfires), pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1320b-5(d); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XI, Sec. 1135(d) (as added by Public Law 107-188, Sec. 143(a)); (116 Stat. 628) and 42 U.S.C. 247d(a); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 319(a) (as amended by Public Law 107-188, Sec. 144(a)); (116 Stat. 630); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4577. A bill to establish a working group to determine ways to develop a domestic canine breeding network to produce high quality explosives detection canines, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-488). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4564. A bill to require a threat assessment on current foreign terrorist fighter activities, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-489). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4567. A bill to require a Department of Homeland Security overseas personnel enhancement plan, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-490). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4569. A bill to require counterterrorism information sharing coordination, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-491). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4578. A bill to authorize certain counter terrorist networks activities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-492). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4581. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop best practices for utilizing advanced passenger information and passenger name record data for counterterrorism screening and vetting operations, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-493). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4553. A bill to require a review of the authorization, funding, management, and operation of the National Targeting Center and the Terrorist Screening Center, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-494, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 1486. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide funding to secure non-profit facilities from terrorist attacks, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-495). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4433. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to achieve security of sensitive assets among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-496). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4559. A bill to conduct a global aviation security review, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-497). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4561. A bill to provide for third party testing of transportation security screening technology, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-498).

Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4555. A bill to authorize the participation in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces of personnel of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-499). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4519. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to repeal certain disclosure requirements related to resource extraction, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-500). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP (UT): Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4475. A bill to provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System; with an amendment (Rept. 115-501). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP (UT): Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4568. A bill to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to promote timely exploration for geothermal resources under geothermal leases, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-502). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules: House Resolution 681. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (S. 140) to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund (Rept. 115-503). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 682. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (S. 139) to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-504). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4742. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require the principal campaign committee of a candidate in a general election for the office of President to file a certification that the candidate has undergone a medical examination conducted by a medical office under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Navy; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 4743. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ROYCE of California, and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 4744. A bill to impose additional sanctions with respect to serious human rights abuses of the Government of Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subse-

quently 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:

H.R. 4745. A bill to designate the Emancipation National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 4746. 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; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself and Ms. CHENEY):

H.R. 4747. A bill to prohibit the Government from using or contracting with an entity that uses certain telecommunications services or equipment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 4748. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny a deduction for severance payments made in connection with sexual misconduct; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 4749. A bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to establish a program to enhance transparency and traceability of food products and ingredients that are exported to the United States in order to protect American consumers and American food manufacturers against mislabeling, adulteration, and fraud; to the Committee on Agriculture.

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. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4742.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 4743.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 4744.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 4745.

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, Clauses 3 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 4746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution which grants Congress

the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 4747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, sec 8.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, 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 Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 4749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 113: Ms. BASS and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 184: Mr. CURTIS.

H.R. 365: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 466: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 499: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 506: Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mrs. HANDEL, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 535: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 586: Mr. GARRETT.

H.R. 669: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 788: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 801: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 820: Ms. LEE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.

H.R. 850: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WOMACK, Mrs. HANDEL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. POSEY, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 919: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 975: Mr. BLUM and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1038: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 1192: Mr. BUCK and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 1227: Mr. KIHUEN.

H.R. 1251: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1439: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 1457: Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 1494: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 1542: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1552: Mr. BRAT.

H.R. 1626: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1818: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 1868: Ms. GABBARD, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 1885: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1926: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1939: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 1955: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 2004: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 2184: Ms. ROSEN.

H.R. 2248: Mr. CICILLINE and Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 2259: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2272: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 2366: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 2670: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 2683: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2723: Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2740: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mr. CUMMINGS.
 H.R. 2790: Ms. BASS.
 H.R. 2871: Mr. TAYLOR.
 H.R. 2913: Mr. DESAULNIER.
 H.R. 2996: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. POSEY, and Mrs. HANDEL.
 H.R. 3079: Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 3197: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 3320: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 3378: Mr. COFFMAN.
 H.R. 3552: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 3637: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 3641: Ms. PLASKETT and Mr. ZELDIN.
 H.R. 3671: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 3730: Mr. HARPER.
 H.R. 3871: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
 H.R. 3887: Mr. ISSA.
 H.R. 3976: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. GIBBS.
 H.R. 4078: Mr. GOODLATTE.
 H.R. 4086: Mr. KNIGHT.
 H.R. 4096: Mr. SOTO.
 H.R. 4115: Ms. ROSEN.
 H.R. 4143: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mr. MCEACHIN.
 H.R. 4202: Mr. TIPTON.
 H.R. 4215: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 4240: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 4242: Mr. HUDSON.
 H.R. 4245: Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H.R. 4253: Ms. ROSEN and Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 4256: Mr. COMER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. KING of New York.
 H.R. 4271: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. VISCLOSKY.
 H.R. 4274: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. JONES, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. POSEY.
 H.R. 4318: Mr. ROKITA.
 H.R. 4328: Mr. MESSER.
 H.R. 4340: Mr. PALAZZO.
 H.R. 4345: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HECK, and Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 4392: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 4396: Mr. KENNEDY.
 H.R. 4398: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 4424: Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H.R. 4444: Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. PERL-

MUTTER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. CRAMER.
 H.R. 4473: Mr. KILMER and Ms. MCSALLY.
 H.R. 4525: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 4541: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
 H.R. 4547: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mrs. NOEM.
 H.R. 4549: Mr. PERRY.
 H.R. 4565: Mr. DEFazio and Mrs. WALORSKI.
 H.R. 4575: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 4584: Mr. BUDD.
 H.R. 4607: Mr. WILLIAMS and Mr. TIPTON.
 H.R. 4625: Mr. MESSER.
 H.R. 4666: Mr. LANCE and Mr. UPTON.
 H.R. 4684: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H. Con. Res. 63: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. VARGAS.
 H. Con. Res. 81: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
 H. Res. 188: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H. Res. 252: Mr. KIHUEN.
 H. Res. 369: Mr. DELANEY.
 H. Res. 405: Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H. Res. 466: Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
 H. Res. 632: Mr. STIVERS.
 H. Res. 676: Mr. DESANTIS, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. YOHO, and Ms. HANABUSA.



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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, enter the lives of our lawmakers today and give them pure hearts. Enlighten and illuminate their minds that they may know You, who are the way, the truth, and the life. When they are tired, refresh them; when they are lonely, cheer them; when they are tempted, strengthen them; and when they are perplexed, guide them. Lord, help them so to live that they will be prepared to see Your face in peace. Make our Senators positive people who are expectant of Your best for our Nation and world. Radiate Your hope through them so that America will remain a shining city on a hill. We pray in Your merciful 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 9, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SASSE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

TAX REFORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, I mentioned that, already, 1 million Americans and counting will receive raises or special bonuses, thanks to the incentives created by the historic tax reform law that Congress passed and the President signed just last month.

For example, Darden Restaurants, Inc., which employs 175,000 people, announced it is preparing to invest \$20 million in its most important asset—its employees. AT&T announced that 200,000 employees would receive \$1,000 bonuses. In Kentucky, Turning Point Brands announced that their workers would also receive \$1,000 bonuses. So far, more than 100 companies have announced similar plans.

Across the country and a variety of different industries, workers are receiving significant one-time bonuses, permanent pay raises, more generous retirement contributions, or other benefits. And their employers confirm that it was tax reform that made this possible.

How is all this happening? How is it happening? After all, those who were

intent on opposing tax reform painted an apocalyptic picture. Over in the House, the minority leader said tax reform was “Armageddon.” Here in the Senate, my friend the Democratic leader said there was “nothing about this bill that suits the needs of the American worker.”

Fortunately, a majority in the House and a majority in the Senate knew better. We know that the economy is not a zero-sum game. We know it is completely backward to think that American businesses need to lose in order for American workers to win. To the contrary, in the 21st century economy, Americans are all in this together.

When our economy grows stagnant and when taxes and regulations make it harder for companies to compete with foreign ones, that is when wages fall flat and job opportunities dry up. But when Washington gets out of the way, cuts back regulations, and modernizes the Tax Code, when we give businesses more flexibility to invest and expand, then, as we are already seeing, workers reap the benefits.

This is not some partisan talking point. As one economist wrote just before we passed tax reform, “It’s the consensus view of professional economists” that “lowering corporate income taxes would increase the wages of workers.”

Tax reform became law less than 1 month ago—1 month ago—and thanks to tax reform, as this chart points out, 1 million American workers and counting are getting a bonus or a raise. That is what is happening, and this is just the beginning.

Raises and bonuses are not the only way tax reform is providing a big help to middle-class families, like the Kentuckians I represent. The law also cuts taxes substantially for individuals and families, so they can keep more of their own money and send less to Washington.

We reduced marginal rates. We doubled the standard deduction, effectively creating a new zero tax bracket

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



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for the first \$24,000 a family earns—zero taxes on the first \$24,000 a family earns. We significantly increased the child tax credit. We expanded the deduction for medical expenses, and the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act repealed the punitive individual mandate tax penalty at the heart of ObamaCare. That law penalized hard-working Americans twice—first by failing to create health insurance options that met the needs of working families and then by imposing a heavy fine on the families who didn't want or couldn't afford the coverage. By zeroing out that unfair penalty, we have repealed a core piece of ObamaCare and restored families' flexibility to choose the health insurance that works for them.

The result of all this is significant savings for middle-class American families. A typical family of four earning a median family income will keep more than \$2,000 this year that they would have otherwise sent to the government. Workers will begin to see the difference in their paychecks as soon as February. Less of their money will be deducted and sent to the IRS. More will be deposited into their own bank accounts.

So the early impact of this historic tax reform legislation is quite clear. Job creators and entrepreneurs are more optimistic, more than 1 million Americans are already getting raises and bonuses, and the groundwork is being laid for a more powerful and more competitive U.S. economy that attracts more investment and creates more homegrown jobs.

It is no surprise that, historically, tax cuts have enjoyed bipartisan support. This time, unfortunately, none of our Democratic colleagues chose to vote for this once-in-a-generation tax relief—not a one in the House or in the Senate. But I am proud that the majorities in Congress were able to pass this bill so that the President could sign it into law. One million Americans, and soon to be many more, will be grateful.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, there are a number of outstanding matters before the Senate that must be addressed by January 19. We must pass an

extension of government funding. We must reach a deal to lift the spending caps to spare devastating cuts to our military support and funding for urgent domestic priorities. We must extend the Children's Health Insurance Program and community health centers and the 702 FISA Court program. We must pass disaster aid, and we must resolve the future of the Dreamers.

Some of these issues, particularly CHIP and FISA, could have been dealt with by the majority a long time ago. There are bipartisan majorities that would have voted to extend those programs, but the majority leader chose not to put them on the floor because they were busy pursuing a partisan "favor the wealthy" tax bill.

Some of these issues still require further compromise. It is no secret that we haven't come to final agreement on the spending caps. Both Democrats and Republicans want our troops to have the resources they need to do the tough job we ask of them. At the same time, we Democrats want to make sure that we are making the right kinds of investments in the middle class. The whole campaign was about the middle class, and now we are going to abandon them because there are such needs for defense. The two are not mutually exclusive. We don't believe they are, and our Republican colleagues have sort of lost their grip on saying: Well, we can't increase the deficit, after a \$1.5 trillion tax cut mainly for the wealthy and powerful corporations.

So we are fighting hard to make sure we are making the right kinds of investments in the middle class. That is why we are pushing hard to raise the spending caps on the domestic side, so we can do more in the fight against the opioid crisis, so we can do more to help our brave veterans get quality healthcare, and so we honor the promise made to over a million pensioners who contributed to and earned every penny of their pensions. These are all very important issues. Ask a mom or dad whose kid is addicted to opioids whether that can wait. Ask a pensioner who is so nervous that he or she will not get enough dollars to retire on and feed themselves. Ask a veteran who has been waiting in line for healthcare because the Veterans' Administration is not fully funded for the healthcare needs of our veterans. They all think those are just as important—not more, not less than funding defense. We will stand firm and strong that both are important. The only argument our colleagues seem to have against this is that it increases the deficit and, as I said, they lost all claim to that one with the tax bill.

Now, teamsters, carpenters, and miners have worked their entire lives under the expectation that they could retire with a sense of dignity afforded by a modest pension. These are the ones our colleagues seem to be just adamantly opposed to. Let them go home to their miners, to their teamsters, to their food workers and tell

them: You don't deserve a pension even though you paid in every month.

We can't just shrug our shoulders and do nothing. We ought to fix it.

My friend, the majority leader, thinks defense is important, but the other is not. We Democrats believe both are important, and we must and should do both together. Surely, the deficit, again, can't be the problem after adding over \$1.5 trillion in red ink. So let's make investments we know are essential in our military and in our middle class.

We will also have to make sure the disaster package treats all our States and territories fairly; that California and Puerto Rico and the Mountain West and the U.S. Virgin Islands get the aid they need, just like Texas and Louisiana and Florida.

We have to reach agreement on a new healthcare package that admits the new reality of our healthcare system. The Republicans repealed the individual mandate in their tax bill, an act that will raise premiums and lower coverage. The old healthcare compromise legislation was crafted before the Republican tax bill. PATTY MURRAY has said, under new circumstances, we need a new proposal. We cannot just enact the previous Alexander-Murray bill because of the change our Republican colleagues made to the healthcare system.

Then, of course, there is the DACA issue. That is going to require further compromise. There are many Republicans in this Chamber who want to enshrine DACA protections into law—as every Democrat does—just as there are many Democrats who would pass additional border security measures into law—smart, reasonable, and practical border measures. A deal on this issue can be reached if both parties are committed to good-faith negotiations.

The problem thus far has been President Trump's insistence on a completely ineffective and absurdly expensive wall as part of any deal on DACA.

In fact, we learned this morning, in a stunning New York Times article by Ron Nixon, that the Trump administration is proposing to cut back from smart border security measures to pay for a border wall. I ask unanimous consent that the article by Mr. Nixon in the New York Times be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

According to the Times, which reviewed internal budget guidance from the OMB, the Trump administration would cut or delay funding for border surveillance, cut or delay funding for radar technology, patrol boats, and, maybe more crucially, Customs officers, all to ask taxpayers to pay for the wall—funding to upgrade surveillance aircraft, extremely effective at stopping illegal crossing at the border, particularly drugs, denied; funding to hire new Customs officers, denied; funding for video surveillance with infrared cameras in areas with high incidents of border crossings, cut to "offset the

costs of Presidential priorities.” What an absurd proposition.

Security experts have testified for decades that effective border security includes a variety of technologies and resources, drones, infrared sensors, Customs and Border Patrol agents, and officers. In some places, secure fence is appropriate. We agree with that. These were all ideas included in comprehensive immigration reform. That the Trump administration would cannibalize funding for these smart border security measures to pay for a wall that will not work makes no sense.

He said he campaigned on it. Oh, no, Mr. President. You campaigned on a wall that Mexico would pay for. We are waiting, but, again, to take away the things that are needed to protect the border for a symbolic and ineffective political gesture is wrong. There is nothing to this than politics. President Trump is fighting for an empty symbol rather than smart policy that will actually produce better security at our borders. We Democrats are willing, able, and eager to work with our Republican colleagues and the administration on smart, effective border solutions.

As I have said, there may be a few defined places where a secure fence makes sense, but a medieval wall that you can't see through across the length of the southern border will not make us any safer. Walls can be scaled over. Walls can be tunneled under. There are, as I have been told, many tunnels under the wall in San Diego, some of which have not been detected.

There is also the issue of eminent domain. The Federal Government would have to conscript hundreds of square miles of land from American citizens to build a wall. The administration still hasn't produced plans for where to put it, and, of course, President Trump promised, once again, that Mexico would pay for it, not taxpayers. If you can read anything into the election, it was for that. The polling data shows the majority of Americans don't believe the wall is the right thing to do.

It is not responsible to insist that American taxpayers pay for an absurdly expensive and ineffective border wall or else the government shuts down. If the President goes down that path and insists on the wall or shuts down the government, which he said back in September, make no mistake about it, a government shutdown will fall entirely on his shoulders.

If President Trump can find a way to get Mexico to pay for the wall, while American taxpayers pay for things that really make a difference to secure the border, he should reveal that to the American people. Until that time, Democrats will work with our Republican colleagues on smart border security, effective border security, just as we fight to protect the Dreamers.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Jan. 8, 2018]
TO PAY FOR WALL; TRUMP WOULD CUT
PROVEN BORDER SECURITY MEASURES
(By Ron Nixon)

The Trump administration would cut or delay funding for border surveillance, radar technology, patrol boats and customs agents in its upcoming spending plan to curb illegal immigration—all proven security measures that officials and experts have said are more effective than building a wall along the Mexican border.

President Trump has made the border wall a focus of his campaign against illegal immigration to stop drugs, terrorists and gangs like MS-13 from coming into the United States. Under spending plans submitted last week to Congress, the wall would cost \$18 billion over the next 10 years, and be erected along nearly 900 miles of the southern border.

The wall also has become a bargaining chip in negotiations with Congress as lawmakers seek to prevent nearly 800,000 young undocumented immigrants from being deported.

But security experts said the president's focus on a border wall ignores the constantly evolving nature of terrorism, immigration and drug trafficking.

“People that are dealing with this issue know that a third-century solution to a 21st-century problem is not going to fix this long-term,” said Representative Will Hurd, Republican of Texas and a former C.I.A. officer. Mr. Hurd, whose district includes more than 800 miles of border territory with Mexico, has pushed for more funding for sensors and other border security technologies.

Homeland Security officials have long and frequently described border security as a holistic system, made up not just of walls and fencing but also patrol routes, lighting, cameras, sensors and personnel.

David Bier, a policy analyst with the Cato Institute, said a border wall would do little to stop the drug trade. Most of the cocaine, heroin and methamphetamines smuggled into the United States come through legal ports of entry rather than areas that would be stopped by a wall, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Nor would a wall stop illegal immigration, other experts said. Data from the Department of Homeland Security and research groups like the New York-based Center for Migration Studies show that most undocumented immigrants now simply overstay legally obtained short-term visas—and did not sneak across the border.

“So unless the wall is 35,000 feet high, it's not going to do much to stop those overstaying these visas,” said Robert Warren, a fellow at the Center for Migration Studies who has worked on immigration issues for Republican and Democratic presidents.

Additionally, Mr. Warren said, many people who have been stopped by the Border Patrol in recent years are seeking asylum—including some who simply walk up to agents and surrender.

Mr. Trump's budget request for a wall represents more than half of the \$33 billion spending blueprint for border security over the next decade. It either eliminates critical funding for border security programs or shifts money from them, threatening to leave gaping holes. A Government Accountability Office study released last February found that Customs and Border Protection has not shown how much fencing and walls bolster border security.

An internal budget guidance document for the 2019 fiscal year shows that the White House Office of Management and Budget asked officials at the Homeland Security Department to reduce or delay funding requests for additional border security technology

and equipment. Instead, the document instructed, Homeland Security should dramatically increase funding for a wall on the Mexico border.

Homeland Security officials said the plans are subject to change. Still, the document underscores the priority that a border wall remains for Mr. Trump, who promised its construction during his presidential campaign. It also instructed the department to seek \$1.6 billion in the upcoming fiscal year to build 74 miles of a border wall—about \$700 million more than Homeland Security officials felt they needed to build that.

Parts of the document were viewed by The New York Times; the rest of it was based on reports by the Democratic staff of the Senate Homeland Security Committee.

The cuts include money for a remote video surveillance system in the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas, an area known for high numbers of border crossings and drug smuggling. The system is composed of infrared cameras mounted on poles, towers and buildings, allowing Border Patrol agents to track attempted smuggling and border crossings.

In the internal document, the White House budget office called the surveillance system important but said its funding requests were lowered “to offset the costs of presidential priorities not funded in the D.H.S. request.”

Customs and Border Protection faces several cuts.

Its \$7.9 million request for technology upgrades to its P-3 surveillance aircraft—which operates thousands of miles beyond American borders to track narcotics being shipped from Colombia, Peru and other drug producing countries—was denied. In 2016, the latest data available, the P-3 aircrews contributed to 145 drug seizures, helping American and foreign authorities capture a combined 34,108 pounds of marijuana and 193,197 pounds of cocaine.

The internal document also suggested delaying a request to buy 15 new Coastal Interceptor boats to catch drug smugglers. The agency had sought nearly \$15 million to replace its aging fleet to keep up with drug smugglers' smaller, faster boats.

It also would cut nearly 200 of the 500 canine units that customs officials say play a key role in programs to prevent terrorism and drug smuggling. The dogs' handlers would then be reassigned to ports on the southwest border to help with staffing shortages.

“The lack of funding and the elimination of the canine teams is shortsighted and poses a serious threat to border security,” said Tony Reardon, the president of the National Treasury Employees Union, which represents customs officers. “If you are going to focus on border security, you can't do that without talking about the men and women who man these ports of entry.”

Perhaps most significantly, the proposed budget would not fund the hiring of new customs officers—the agents who denied 200,000 people from entering the United States at ports of entry in fiscal 2017 and who stopped 600,000 pounds of drugs, including cocaine, heroin, meth and fentanyl. Customs officers also intercepted nearly \$70 million in illicit currency, much of it headed back across the border to fill the coffers of Mexican drug cartels.

Experts said the absence of hiring funds could potentially have the most impact on border security; the agents form a crucial line of defense against smugglers and terrorist threats. An internal Customs and Border Protection review showed that the agency's ranks were about 3,700 officers below required levels, according to the National Treasury Employees Union.

By comparison, Mr. Trump has called for hiring 5,000 additional Border Patrol agents

and 10,000 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

"A wall is the single most expensive thing you can do in terms of trying to secure the border, and not necessarily the most effective on its own," said Doris Meissner, who was the top immigration official during the Clinton administration. "If you want to be strategic about it, you want to invest in technologies and programs that can stop threats well before they can actually get to the border."

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. 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.

TAX REFORM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, just over 2 weeks ago, President Trump signed a historic tax reform bill into law. Some, not really knowing what was in the bill and people who were determined to find fault with it, were let's just say a little skeptical at first. They wondered what this whole thing was about and who would actually benefit. But now the verdict is starting to come in. Many folks are pleasantly surprised, for the first time in a while, knowing that Congress and Washington, DC, actually have produced something that will make their lives better. They are appreciative because they are seeing the immediate consequences. In response, more than 100 companies have announced they will give wage increases, they will increase their charitable contributions, and they will give bonuses to their employees. One million Americans are receiving money they previously didn't have, thanks to passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

But it is not just about bonuses, of course. We expect that once the IRS updates its withholding tables, wages will rise, too, take-home pay will go up, and hopefully people will see that in their paychecks in February. As my colleague the junior Senator from Ohio wrote last week, "With this tax reform, the proof will be in your paycheck." Families can spend that extra money any way they wish, of course. That is the point. They can spend it on projects long delayed. They can spend it on their kids. They can give it as an allowance or some modest compensation for chores performed or apply it to their kids' future education, or people may just figure out they want to save for a rainy day. The number is pretty shocking as far as how many Americans are living paycheck to paycheck and cannot sustain a \$400 loss in income and make things work for them. So this will provide them, if they wish, a little bit of cushion for a rainy day. They can donate it to their house of

worship. They can help a neighbor or a friend who has fallen on hard times.

In some places, we are learning that families will enjoy lower utility rates based on what gas and electric companies are doing for their residential customers in light of their new tax savings. In places such as Michigan, Montana, Minnesota, Kansas, Kentucky, South Dakota, and Arizona, the utility regulators in those States are looking at the tax reduction of those investor-owned utilities and how that will calculate into the rate of return that they are guaranteed under the law. But it looks to me as if it will be good news for consumers, that lower heating bills will be the result during the chilly times of the year and lower air-conditioning costs and other electricity costs when spring and summer come around. So it is encouraging to see this sort of perhaps unexpected consequence of tax reform but one that will directly benefit consumers.

This is real, it is significant, and it is like priming our economic pump—a little push here and a pull there because of tax reform, and all of a sudden, the entire engine of the American economy is chugging along and will soon be running at full speed.

In Texas, you can hear the economy humming along healthily, and we should listen. We should listen to the voices of the job creators like one in New Braunfels, which is between Austin and San Antonio. It is called Rush Enterprises. Rush Enterprises specializes in commercial vehicles. It reported last month that it planned to give each of its 6,600 employees a \$1,000 bonus after President Trump signed the tax reform into law—\$1,000 each to 6,600 employees. The chief financial officer of Rush Enterprises talked about the additional savings the company would incur as a result of the reduction in its tax rate, which fell from 35 percent to 21 percent. He said:

You've got a choice. We could've kept it and stuffed it in the company bank account or coffers, or we can share it with the people. We chose to share it with the people because it's the right thing to do.

Well, I couldn't be prouder of that demonstration of the great Texas spirit—employers paying it forward.

This gentleman went on to say that his company believes tax reform will be beneficial not only for his office and his employees but also for his community and for overall economic growth. To him, it is about the bigger picture.

New Braunfels, though, isn't the only place where companies are paying it forward. A telecom giant, AT&T, headquartered in Dallas, TX, and two prominent airlines—American Airlines and Southwest Airlines—have responded in similar fashion, offering large bonuses to hundreds of thousands of their employees and promising to make significant capital investments in the future and update their fleet of aircraft—all with the savings they will incur as a result of this Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Meanwhile, a restaurant company that owns a chain of popular steakhouses in Texas and elsewhere has announced it will use its savings from lower rates—about \$70 million—to improve customer service and to provide additional benefits to its employees. The restaurants will be spending a significant amount of money to make sure the dining experience is more worthwhile, hopefully providing not only jobs to the people who prepare the food but those who serve it and the vendors who sell it. Not only will this legislation have the effect of improving a waiter's and waitress' salary, but I think this demonstrates once again how the impact of tax reform is far-reaching, perhaps in ways we really didn't necessarily think about. But this is what happens when people get to keep more of the money they earn. They spend it in a way that improves their quality of life and improves their economic security.

In Texas, our economy hopefully will continue its steady ascent. In its annual economic freedom index, an organization called the Fraser Institute just ranked Texas as No. 2 in the country. I am not too happy about that. We don't like being No. 2 in anything. But we have been in the top five of this list for 11 straight years, and it has been because of our lower taxes, our fiscally conservative approach to spending, and our commonsense approach to regulation that makes it easier for investors and entrepreneurs to succeed. When they succeed, that means more jobs are created and people can do the work that provides them the means to support their family and improve their quality of life. We call that the Texas model. Although it is not particularly unique, you would think it would be common sense. But as they say, here in Washington, DC, common sense is not all that common.

Nationally, the situation is looking up, too, in part because the Trump administration shares this Texas approach. The U.S. economy added 2 million jobs in 2017, and unemployment is at a 17-year low. Consumer confidence is at an alltime high since it was first recorded—I believe it was about 16 years ago. Over the last two quarters, the economy has grown by more than 3 percent. That is up from roughly 1.9 percent during the previous administration. People are excited to see the economy continue to improve in 2018 thanks to tax cuts and other regulatory reform and a government that is no longer hostile to private business and job creation.

I am glad to hear how many positive steps have been taken over the past few weeks in response to tax reform, but it is early. As I pointed out, it has only been a couple of weeks. I look forward to hearing many more such stories in the days ahead.

I intend to spend this next year, when I travel around the State of Texas, looking for the small businesses and individuals who benefit from this

important piece of historic legislation. I look forward to coming back to the floor of the Senate to continue to share the stories of this success. Letting people keep more of what they earn, having more take-home pay, improving their standard of living, and making the United States more competitive in the global economy—rather than seeing businesses and investment move overseas, let's see that come back home, which I think we will see in droves, and the American people will be better off for it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William L. Campbell, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Without objection, it is so ordered.

STOP ENABLING SEX TRAFFICKERS ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, every day in America—the greatest Nation in the history of the world—children, young women, and teenagers are sold for sex. That is not a proud fact about America, but it is the stark reality. Every day in America, young women, children, and teenagers are trafficked, in large part because they are advertised now on the internet, in the open, visibly, and obviously. Even though code words may be used and sometimes doctored photographs, they are sold for sex because the traffickers are able to do so using the internet. We are here to stop it. We are here today to stop the trafficking and, most importantly, to stop the advertising.

In support of a measure, known as the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act, SESTA, we have a strong bipartisan coalition. This bill is about as bipartisan as any bill is. I have worked on this legislation together with my colleague and friend, Senator ROB PORTMAN of Ohio, from the very begin-

ning. We have been joined in this effort by two Democrats and two Republicans—Senators MCCASKILL, HEITKAMP, CORNYN, and MCCAIN. We are passionate about this effort, and so are our colleagues who have joined us, because it is about those victims—those children, teenagers, and young women—who are sold for sex, who are trafficked on the internet. We want to give those victims a voice and a day in court, a right of action, a defense against this absolutely heinous, atrocious, inhumane crime. It is a crime and it can be prosecuted, but the victims deserve a day in court and a voice as well. That is the fundamental, core purpose of this legislation. It is about the victims.

We have been joined in this effort by advocates for those victims—sex trafficking survivors themselves and a diligent, bipartisan coalition of colleagues. In fact, more than 60 of our colleagues have joined this as cosponsors. We are now at a critical milestone for this bill. We have reached a point of momentum that makes this bill unstoppable if those survivors are to be heard and heeded, and I urge my colleagues to do exactly that. SESTA is really the product of stakeholder consensus. It has the support of every major human trafficking organization, of law enforcement, and of all of the major tech companies.

In essence, SESTA would clarify that section 230 of the Communications Decency Act was never intended to protect websites that facilitate sex trafficking, and it would ensure that those survivors get their day in court. It stands in stark contrast to a measure in the House of Representatives that has been approved by the relevant committee there, which would fail in that effort. Websites that knowingly facilitate sex trafficking should be afforded no protection under the Communications Decency Act. They should be given no harbor or implicit approval, which is what the legislation now does. The House bill, unfortunately, would fail to give those survivors and victims their day in court and the voice that they so desperately need.

Senator PORTMAN and I—and I am proud to be joined with him today on the floor—have championed this cause as a result of what we have seen and heard. In fact, in going back almost a decade, when I was attorney general for the State of Connecticut, I saw firsthand the way that websites can knowingly facilitate sex trafficking. I saw firsthand how challenging it was for law enforcement to develop cases against sex traffickers and employ anti-trafficking laws given the constraints on their resources, especially when those sex traffickers were able to use the internet to reach their customers. My experience in combating sex trafficking as attorney general at the State level led me, in my working with Senator PORTMAN, to co-launch and co-chair the Senate Caucus to End Human Trafficking so as to help find

solutions to this problem and others around the world whereby children and teenagers and others are sex-trafficked and victimized.

As the State attorney general, I concluded that facilitating sex trafficking must face repercussions. I was joined by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which reported and has since reported the numbers. For example, there has been an 846-percent increase in reports of suspected child sex trafficking from 2010 to 2015—a spike it found to be “directly correlated to the increased use of the internet to sell children for sex.” We have heard of some of those instances, of some of the histories and the stories of these young people.

In 2012, a 15-year-old girl ran away from home. Over the next 2 years, pimps trafficked her for sex through these ads. As a result, she was raped over 1,000 times while she was moved from one site to another with the aid of the internet. In 2010, another 15-year-old girl ran away from a residential program. A pimp began to traffic her for sex by posting online ads. As a result, she was raped 900 times over the next 2 years.

These two young women and a third mustered the courage to tell their stories and to bring a lawsuit against backpage.com, which is the website that has profited most prominently from these online ads. These advertisements graphically emphasized the survivors' and victims' youth and other characteristics in trafficking them for sex. Yet the courts, understandably and perhaps rightly, have held that backpage.com and these internet sites generally have no legal responsibility. The First Circuit Court of Appeals found that backpage.com was immune from civil liability because of section 230 of the Communications Decency Act.

Websites that facilitate sex trafficking unconscionably and intolerably are now immune from legal action by survivors. That is unacceptable in America. No matter how terrible the harm they cause, no matter how horrific the consequences to these young people, they are protected by a shield from moral and legal responsibility. In a sense, these women were victimized as much by backpage.com and the internet as they were by the pimps who more directly sold them.

Senator PORTMAN and I, through SESTA, would implement three key reforms: No. 1, allow victims of sex trafficking to seek justice against websites that knowingly facilitate their victimization; No. 2, clarify that it is illegal to knowingly facilitate a violation of the Federal sex trafficking laws; and No. 3, enable State law enforcement officials, not just the Federal Department of Justice, to take action against individuals or businesses that violate Federal sex trafficking laws.

If websites are not knowingly facilitating sex trafficking, they should have nothing to fear from the law. If

websites are doing their best to avoid facilitating sex trafficking, they have no worry about their liability. Yet, if they knowingly facilitate, they ought to face survivors and victims in court, and they ought to acknowledge and recognize their legal and moral responsibilities.

I want to be very blunt with my colleagues here about the House bill because my feeling is that we owe it to those survivors and victims to give them not just nice words and rhetoric but real rights. Congress must not only pass an online sex trafficking law; it must pass real sex trafficking internet protection. Unfortunately, the House Judiciary Committee recently passed legislation that fails to accomplish that goal.

My colleagues should not be fooled—the House bill is in no way an adequate alternative to SESTA. It is, unfortunately, completely insufficient in protecting survivors and victims and giving them that day in court and that voice they now lack. The difference between the House and Senate bills is stark and clear, like night and day. The Senate bill gives victims of trafficking their day in court. The House bill does not give a single survivor or victim access to justice. It fails to open the courthouse doors; it leaves them shut. In fact, it may even deny victims and survivors their right to file legal action. The Senate bill has the support of every major human trafficking organization, as well as of all of the major stakeholders. The House bill is supported by none—zero—no major group. In fact, 47 organizations and more than a dozen survivors and family members recently sent a letter that calls for the House bill, as it is presently written, to be rejected.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join this bipartisan group of more than 60 of us who are supporting SESTA to help pass this essential legislation as soon as possible. We owe it to those survivors and victims. We owe it to ourselves. We owe it to America.

I am proud to yield to my friend and colleague who has joined in this effort and has been such a steadfast champion, Senator PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I want to thank my friend and colleague, Senator BLUMENTHAL, for his commitment to this issue. We started this caucus to end trafficking 6 years ago, and during that time period there has been some significant progress made here in the Senate and the House. We have been able to pass legislation to help crack down on trafficking.

Unbelievably, in this century in this country, sex trafficking is increasing, not decreasing, despite our good efforts. We have increased the penalties on those who purchase sex from underage children. We have changed the dynamic of how the Federal Government and HHS look at this issue and these girls who get engaged in trafficking

and get trapped into the system and to treat them like the victims they are rather than as criminals.

We have done more to increase awareness of this issue. We have required for missing kids, which are probably the most vulnerable of all, that there be a photograph or another identifier, which, unbelievably, for the most part there was not prior to that. We have made some progress.

Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have written legislation with regard to Government contractors who overseas engage in human trafficking—and our tax dollars go for that. So we have made some progress, but it is still increasing.

Why? Senator BLUMENTHAL talked about it. The experts are unified on this. The main reason we see an uptick is because of the dark side of the internet. The Senator quoted the statistic earlier about an 850-percent increase in reports of sex trafficking over the last several years prior to 2015. The reason that was true was because we saw the emergence of these companies like backpage.com, which probably has about 75 percent of the commercial sex traffic on one site, and the ruthless efficiency of the internet getting engaged on this issue. So we have to address this issue.

Here is the tragic part of this. Not only are more and more lives being ruined and there are more and more heartbreaking stories, but it is because of a Federal law that provides immunity to these websites. So it comes right back here, right to these desks, right to this Congress, right to us as legislators to fix this problem, not to try to smooth it over but to actually fix the problem, which is that some of these online trafficking sites are immune from prosecution because of a Federal law. It was a well-intended law that was written 21 years ago, I think. It is the Communications Decency Act. Ironically, it was put in place to make it a crime to send pornography to kids online, but it has been twisted and used by these trafficking sites to provide them the ability to say: You can't touch us; you can't go after us. That is so because part of what the law says in trying to promote the internet is that if you post somebody else's material on your site, you are not liable. All we are saying is that if you know this involved trafficking—and Senator BLUMENTHAL talked about his experience as a prosecutor; this is a high bar, a known standard—then you can't get away with this. The standard we use, by the way, for Federal trafficking is the Federal law. So we allow victims to have their day in court, but they can't get it now.

The stories are really sad. Let me tell you one. We spent 18 months investigating this in the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and what we learned was truly tragic. You had girls who were trafficked on these sites. In one case a mom testified that her daughter had gone missing for about 10 weeks, as I recall—missing.

This is a 14-year-old girl. What would you do as a parent if your daughter was missing for 10 weeks? You would go crazy. She tried everything, and someone finally told her: There is this website called backpage.com; you might want to check it out.

She did, and she was aghast at what she saw, but she was relieved by one thing. She saw a photograph of her daughter, knowing, then, that she was still alive. So she picked up the phone and called backpage.com and said: I just saw my daughter. She has been missing for 10 weeks. I saw her on your website. Thank you for taking down that ad that is trying to sell my daughter for sex online. This is my daughter. She is underage.

Do you know what the backpage operator said at the other end of the line, according to this mom? They said: Did you pay for the ad, ma'am? She said: No, I didn't pay for the ad. This is my daughter. They said: Well, we can't take down the ad. We can't take down the ad.

What kind of evil is behind that kind of a business practice? Well, what we learned, as we increasingly dug into this issue, is that it is all about profit, and you can imagine this is a very profitable business. Profits came first, to the point that people would place ads with backpage that indicated that it was for an underage girl, and backpage would then get to the purchaser of the ad and say: You know what, we need to change your ad a little bit. You need to edit out this word "schoolgirl" or "cheerleader" or "Lolita," referring to a novel about an underage girl. So they knew these ads were being run by people who were advertising underage girls, and they not only ran the ads but they sanitized the ads first.

That just shouldn't happen in this country. It shouldn't happen anywhere in the world, but certainly not with a Federal law providing protections for organizations like that.

That is all we are saying. We want Congress to pass a law that says that if you engage knowingly in facilitating this kind of activity, you are subject to liability. You have to be held to account. Is that too much to ask?

Senator BLUMENTHAL talked about it as a former prosecutor. We allow State prosecutors to go after these sites, which they cannot now. They have to use the Federal standard. So we are not trying to create a whole new area of law. It is a Federal standard that has been passed by this body.

When these victims go to court, they are rebuffed: Sorry, ma'am. In one court last August, a Sacramento judge basically invited our legislation. He said to Congress: The way that law reads, even somebody who exploits women and children online has immunity. Congress, this is your job.

So that is all this legislation does. Senator BLUMENTHAL talked about the House legislation. There was strong House legislation that was introduced

that still bears that same H.R. number. Then it was changed in the Judiciary Committee. Look, I am glad that there is more awareness and consciousness about this issue and that both the House and Senate want to act, but let's not water this legislation down. Let's not take away this core element of our legislation that simply says that under the Communications Decency Act, we should have the opportunity to allow people to sue and allow prosecutors to go after these evil websites.

We can set up new causes of action. That is fine. We can do more things as we have done in this body. As I said, over the last 5 or 6 years, we passed a number of important bills to try to raise the consciousness and to try to help on this issue, but if we don't deal with this internet part, we will continue to see an increase, which is a stain on our national character—that at this time in our Nation's history, we are seeing an increase in people being sold for sex online, often underage.

Another story came not from testimony before the permanent subcommittee where we spent 18 months studying this, but it came before the Commerce Committee, and Senator BLUMENTHAL was there for part of this. This woman came forward. By the way, you could have heard a pin drop in that room when she talked about her 16-year-old daughter who was sold on backpage.com and was sold to a man who murdered her on Christmas Eve of 2016. This is what this mom said: My daughter never should have been on that site; that should never be allowed. She is right. It should never be allowed. How can we allow that to happen?

So Senator BLUMENTHAL and I introduced this legislation. We had 24 cosponsors almost right away, and it was bipartisan from the start. This is not a political or partisan issue. As of yesterday, I think we had 64 cosponsors. These are thoughtful Members, including the Presiding Officer today, who looked at this legislation. They have heard the arguments from both sides. The other side of the argument is from the tech community, some of whom are supporting our legislation, some of whom are not. But for the people in technology who are concerned about this, I just have to state: I don't get it. This is very narrowly crafted for this issue. We are not trying to affect the freedom of the internet—just the opposite.

If you don't start cracking down on this obvious crime against humanity, which is what I believe trafficking is, I think we are going to see much broader legislation to deal with the internet. This just says: If you are violating a Federal law on trafficking and you are doing it knowingly, you are facilitating it, you are assisting it, then you have to be held liable and held to account.

In fact, we keep in the law a Good Samaritan provision that says if a website wants to clean up its site, it is

protected. The good guys should be protected. We want them to clean up their site. We want to be sure that we continue to have freedom of the internet, but we don't want to allow—nor do I think it was ever intended in this law to allow—criminal activity to occur that affects our children and our constituents over the internet without any sense of accountability or responsibility. It is narrowly crafted. It is focused on a real issue that affects real people.

On Friday I was back home in Ohio, and I was at a drug treatment center. I had an opportunity to meet some of those who are recovering addicts. As often happens when I am in those kinds of settings, it turns to what kind of treatment options are out there for trauma. Why? Because there is a link between opioids—particularly heroin and fentanyl—and trafficking. This is what has been told to me many times by some of these women, sometimes underage: Senator, trafficking has moved from the street corner to the iPhone, from the street corner to the cell phone. That is a reality.

I met a woman on Friday who was going through treatment, and part of it is to treat the trauma that is associated with this. Drug treatment is one thing, but the trauma associated with sex trafficking, repeated rapes is a course that is a deeper and even more difficult road to recovery. I believe she will recover. She has a great attitude. She gets it. She is going to have to focus on it and dedicate herself to it.

I will just tell you that this is a real issue in our communities today. It is affecting every single State in this body, and we cannot continue to ignore the reality that while the internet has brought a lot of good things to us and the internet has helped our economy to grow, there is a dark side and this dark side of the internet is why we think it is so important for us to address this issue and address it now so that the next mom who is out there right now wondering, "Where is my daughter? She has gone missing," will not find that she has been advertised online to multiple men, that her life is forever changed, and that she will never achieve her God-given potential in life because of the trauma she has experienced. That is happening right now today.

We have to pass this legislation. It will help. I am convinced it will help. It will help to avoid the reality today, which is that these websites in your communities don't care and they are not going to care until we make them accountable.

This month is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month—January. President Trump just wrote a beautiful proclamation about it. It was a call to action. President Obama did previously. Thursday is the day in which a lot of the advocates will be here in town talking about this issue. I just urge my colleagues and their staff, if they are listening today,

please sign up on this legislation if you haven't already. To our leadership, let's get this to the floor for a vote. This should not be an issue that we drag out. Let's deal with it. We spent years studying this. We know what the issue is. We know what the problem is. Then, to my House colleagues, let's work together to actually solve this problem.

For those in the tech community who continue to oppose this legislation, I ask you to look into your hearts and think about the impact this is having on families all across the country. Yes, we all want a better world, and that is part of what many of these internet companies are professing to want, and many of them, by the way, have spent considerable resources in fighting trafficking. But if you don't get at this issue—it has moved from the street corner to the smartphone. If you don't get at this issue, I don't believe we will see the progress that all of us desire.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE).
The Senator from South Dakota.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the beginning of a new session of Congress provides a good moment to look back at the previous year and take stock of the challenges ahead, and today what I would like to do is just take a few minutes to talk about the national security challenges facing our country and the importance of equipping our military to meet them.

By the end of the Obama administration, our military was facing a serious readiness shortfall. The Obama administration's failure to prioritize defense had left our armed services with manpower deficits and delayed the acquisition of 21st century weapons and equipment. Military effectiveness had been compromised by a culture of micro-management in the Obama administration that seriously hampered the ability of troops and commanders to respond to conditions on the ground in a timely fashion, but within days of his inauguration, President Trump made clear that all this was going to change.

You can look at the situation we faced in the Middle East. The timeframe I am referring to right here, the mound of ground that is held by ISIS, that is in January of 2017.

Well, just a week after his inauguration, President Trump issued a Presidential memorandum on rebuilding the military. He directed a review of our military's readiness, and he set out an action plan to address manpower shortfalls, maintenance backlogs, acquisition costs and delays, and other drains on our military capabilities. President Trump also acted to free up military commanders to make decisions and to respond to conditions on the ground.

The fruits of his commitment to rebuilding our military and trusting our military leaders are already evident, most notably in the significant gains made against ISIS in 2017.

If you look at the chart I just showed, in January of 2017, and then you look at December of 2017, in terms of territory held, ISIS has been routed. In the first 11 months of the Trump administration, over 15,000 square miles were liberated from ISIS control, exceeding the total area freed in the preceding 2½ years. ISIS has lost over 98 percent of the territory it once held, and it hasn't gained any back.

Just a month ago, Iraqi Prime Minister al-Abadi declared his country "fully liberated" from ISIS. In Syria, ISIS has lost control of its strongholds and now only remains in small pockets of the country.

All told, in the last year, more than 5.3 million people have been freed from the brutal grip of ISIS—more than double the previous gains. Families who have spent years fearing for their lives are seeing a chance for stability, peace, and order. If this year has shown us anything, it is that we can trust our military to do its job and deliver results.

President Trump delegated tactical authority and permitted our military to take action when action was needed, and military leaders credit this tactical authority for significant gains made on the ground.

The swift rise of ISIS was enabled, in part, by the Obama administration's shortsighted desire to withdraw from the fight against terrorism in the Middle East. The withdrawal of U.S. troops—on a timeline the Obama administration announced to our enemies—left a power vacuum in the region, and ISIS stepped in to fill the void. This is a mistake we cannot repeat.

While we have made tremendous strides against ISIS in the last year, we cannot simply take these wins and let our guard down. We know ISIS and other dark actors can operate in the shadows of the internet and social media, using their extensive networks to recruit and influence other would-be attackers in the United States and around the world.

As chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, which shares jurisdiction over some of these matters, I am committed to looking at what steps we can take to thwart terrorist recruitment and planning efforts and to keep America safe. Next week, I am holding a Commerce Committee hearing on what social media companies can do in this fight.

While we focus on combating terrorism, we cannot forget the conventional threats faced by our Nation and our allies. I mentioned gains against ISIS and Syria, but there remains the alarming challenge of growing Iranian influence there. Syria provides a convenient land bridge to connect Iran with Hezbollah in Lebanon, which is well on its way to being a proxy for the Iranian Army.

Of course, we continue to see the deadly consequences of Iran's continued smuggling of arms to Houthi

rebels. Iran is a serious threat to stability in the Middle East and to our allies there, and we need to keep that in mind as we consider the failed Iran nuclear deal and the ongoing protests in Iran.

We also have to stay focused on the threat posed by North Korea. South and North Korea reestablished communications and just met to discuss the upcoming winter Olympics in South Korea. They announced, in addition to North Korea sending a delegation to the winter games, the two countries have agreed to hold military talks, but North Korea said it will not discuss its nuclear program at this time.

I think North Korea's nuclear program has to be addressed as a condition of any lasting peace, and the United States should lead its allies in making that crystal clear. While the talks are a notable development after 2 years of no communication between the two countries, we obviously need to be wary of North Korea's motives. We will have to see what actions follow and if the talks lead to any substantive steps by North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program.

President Trump and Ambassador Haley have made it clear that North Korea must abandon its dangerous ambitions, and increased sanctions are providing additional pressure. We should make no concessions without fundamental progress. Of course, this will require cooperation from China to help exert pressure on North Korea and uphold U.N. resolutions.

China has sought to tip the regional balance in its favor by objecting to the installation of missile defense platforms that would defend the United States and our allies against North Korean missiles. Meanwhile, it has been simultaneously expanding its own military, continuing to develop islands in international waters and exercising economic coercion.

President Trump's national security strategy correctly acknowledges both China and Russia as challengers to American influence, interests, security, and prosperity.

I have spoken on the Senate floor more than once to denounce Russia's continued annexation of Crimea, its subversion of Ukrainian sovereignty, and its efforts to undermine NATO, not to mention its continued denial of attempting to meddle with our election. Both the conventional challenges that our Nation continues to face and the persistent threat of radical terrorism underscore the perennial need to ensure that our military is the best prepared and the best equipped fighting force in the world.

I have said it before, and I will say it again. If we don't get national security right, the rest of what we do here is just conversation. We have to be able to defend our country and our allies.

Yes, investing in our national security and restoring our military, especially after years of neglect, will come at a cost, but as Army Chief of Staff

GEN Mark Milley has said, "The only thing more expensive than deterrence is actually fighting a war, and the only thing more expensive than fighting a war is fighting one and losing one."

In the next few weeks, the Senate will have a chance to vote to increase funding for our troops and to take real steps to restore our military readiness. I hope my colleagues across the aisle will work with us. If there is any issue—any issue—in this Chamber that should be bipartisan, it is this one. It is not an exaggeration to say the security of our Nation, our ability to live as a free people, depends upon the strength of our military. It is time to make sure our military men and women have the resources they need to defend our Nation.

RECESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess as under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:25 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BURR).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer, the Senator from North Carolina.

I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes on the nominees on whom we are about to vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on December 1, 2016, Judge Todd Campbell stepped down as a district court judge for the Middle District of Tennessee. On April 15, 2017, Judge Kevin Sharp stepped down, creating a second vacancy in the Middle District. Those two vacancies have resulted in increased caseloads for the only two remaining full-time Federal district court judges, Waverly Crenshaw and Aleta Trauger.

Things are almost as bad in Tennessee's Western District, where we have two vacancies. Fortunately, help is on the way. In July of last year, President Trump nominated Chip Campbell to serve in Tennessee's Middle District and Tommy Parker to serve in the Western District. I was pleased to see the President select such qualified individuals, and I thank him and his counsel, Don McGahn, for working with us throughout this process. I was equally pleased to see the Senate Judiciary Committee approve both nominations by voice vote last October. And it is easy to see why Tennesseans are excited about these nominees, too.

Chip Campbell is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and the University of Alabama School of Law. Before attending law school, Mr. Campbell

served as a naval flight officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. He began his career in private practice with Maynard, Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, before moving and joining the Nashville firm of Riley, Warnock & Jacobson. Today he is a partner at Frost Brown Todd in Nashville, where he chairs the competition law section of the business litigation practice group.

Tommy Parker received his undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina before going to law school at Vanderbilt. Upon graduation, he joined the Memphis law firm of Waring Cox. In 1995, Mr. Parker left his position with the firm to serve as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Tennessee. Today he is a partner at Baker Donelson in Memphis.

I want to note that President Trump has also made two other nominations to fill the remaining vacancies in the Middle District—Eli Richardson—and in the Western District—State Senator Mark Norris—and I encourage the Senate to act quickly on their nominations. But today's votes are a good start.

Chip Campbell and Tommy Parker will be assets to the Federal bench, and Tennessee is fortunate to have such well-qualified nominees. These are men of good character and good temperament, and today I encourage my colleagues to support their nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PORTMAN). Under the previous order, all postcloture time is considered expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Campbell nomination?

Mr. ALEXANDER. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 3 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Alexander	Cochran	Flake
Baldwin	Collins	Gardner
Barrasso	Coons	Gillibrand
Bennet	Corker	Graham
Blumenthal	Cornyn	Grassley
Blunt	Cortez Masto	Harris
Booker	Cotton	Hassan
Boozman	Crapo	Hatch
Brown	Daines	Heinrich
Burr	Donnelly	Heitkamp
Cantwell	Duckworth	Heller
Capito	Durbin	Hirono
Cardin	Enzi	Hoeven
Carper	Ernst	Inhofe
Casey	Feinstein	Johnson
Cassidy	Fischer	Jones

Kaine	Nelson	Smith
Kennedy	Paul	Stabenow
King	Perdue	Sullivan
Klobuchar	Peters	Tester
Lankford	Portman	Thune
Leahy	Reed	Tillis
Lee	Risch	Toomey
Manchin	Roberts	Udall
Markey	Rounds	Van Hollen
McCaskill	Rubio	Warner
McConnell	Sanders	Warren
Menendez	Sasse	Whitehouse
Merkley	Schatz	Wicker
Moran	Schumer	Wyden
Murkowski	Scott	Young
Murphy	Shaheen	
Murray	Shelby	

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz Isakson McCain

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative 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 nomination of Thomas Lee Robinson Parker, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

Mitch McConnell, Deb Fischer, John Barrasso, John Thune, Roger F. Wicker, James M. Inhofe, Johnny Isakson, Mike Crapo, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, Michael B. Enzi, James Lankford, Lindsey Graham, Pat Roberts, Todd Young.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Thomas Lee Robinson Parker, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 96, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 4 Ex.]

YEAS—96

Alexander	Blunt	Cantwell
Baldwin	Booker	Capito
Barrasso	Boozman	Cardin
Bennet	Brown	Carper
Blumenthal	Burr	Casey

Cassidy	Heller	Reed
Cochran	Hoeven	Risch
Collins	Inhofe	Roberts
Coons	Johnson	Rounds
Corker	Jones	Rubio
Cornyn	Kaine	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Sasse
Cotton	King	Schatz
Crapo	Klobuchar	Schumer
Daines	Lankford	Scott
Donnelly	Leahy	Shaheen
Duckworth	Lee	Shelby
Durbin	Manchin	Smith
Enzi	Markey	Stabenow
Ernst	McCaskill	Sullivan
Feinstein	McConnell	Tester
Fischer	Menendez	Thune
Flake	Merkley	Tillis
Gardner	Moran	Toomey
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Udall
Graham	Murphy	Van Hollen
Grassley	Murray	Warner
Harris	Nelson	Warren
Hassan	Paul	Whitehouse
Hatch	Perdue	Wicker
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden
Heitkamp	Portman	Young

NAYS—1

Hirono

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz Isakson McCain

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 96, the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Thomas Lee Robinson Parker, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS CAMPBELL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a trio of excellent staffers, all of whom served with distinction on the Senate Finance Committee for a number of years and who recently left the committee to pursue other ventures.

First, Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about Chris Campbell, a longtime friend and trusted adviser, who until recently served as the Republican staff director on the committee. Last summer, he was nominated and confirmed to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions.

I have known Chris for more than 17 years, and I cannot overstate his importance and contributions to my years of work here in the Senate. Chris joined my campaign for President back in 2000, where I immediately recognized his talent and leadership abilities and appointed him to be my national field director, although he was relatively young and inexperienced at the time. Needless to say, I don't blame Chris for how that particular campaign turned out. In fact, that same year, I asked him to serve as director for my Senate reelection campaign, which thankfully met with much better results. After that, he came to Washington to serve on my staff on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I have long urged my staffers to get as much education as possible to enhance their understanding and gain new perspectives. I nagged Chris about this during my Presidential campaign. Eventually, after working on my staff for a few years, he wanted to upgrade his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California at Santa Barbara with an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

A short time after receiving his MBA and a brief stint in the private sector, Chris desired to return to public service, and when he returned to Washington, I hired him back without hesitation and asked him to serve as my legislative director, a post he held until 2011 when I took over as the lead Republican on the Finance Committee and appointed him to be the staff director.

During his time on the committee staff, Chris quarterbacked every major effort we undertook. This includes successes like the approval of free-trade agreements, the bipartisan renewal of trade promotion authority and the modernization of U.S. trade laws, the repeal and replacement of the Medicare sustainable growth rate, and the long-term funding of the Federal highway trust fund, just to name a few.

Of course, his work on the long-term tax reform effort was invaluable. We began our work on tax reform right out of the gate in 2011 and worked with Chairman Baucus and others to drive it forward. Chris was a key part of all of the work we did over the years to advance tax reform. While his move to Treasury came just before the final stages of that effort, I was fortunately able to benefit from his continued advice and counsel as we moved closer to and eventually crossed the finish line.

Chris is a shrewd but effective negotiator and a brilliant legislative strategist. Congressional Quarterly named him one of the seven most influential non-elected people working in Congress, and Roll Call put him on its list of the 50 most influential staffers on Capitol Hill for 7 straight years. Clearly, I am not the only one who recognizes his abilities. I know the other members of the Finance Committee—on both sides of the aisle—have also acknowledged and benefited from his years of work.

Still, even with all of his accomplishments, what stands out most to me about Chris Campbell is his life story. He is a great example of how hard work and education can help a person become much more than what some statistician might predict. Chris grew up in Hemet, CA, as one of six children who struggled—and that is putting it lightly—to make ends meet. He didn't grow up with family connections or powerful benefactors, but thanks to his diligence and determination and no shortage of natural ability, he became one of the most effective and influential staffers on Capitol Hill, and he now serves in a key leadership role in the administration.

While it pained me to see him head off to Treasury, I have been comforted to know that the President knows how to pick the best people and that the Department of the Treasury is being well served.

I personally want to thank Chris for his years in working with me, for his candid and thoughtful advice, and for his commitment to public service. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors, which I am quite sure will be just as successful as his time here.

TRIBUTE TO BECKY SHIPP

Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about another former staffer, Becky Shipp, who also left the Finance Committee staff a few months ago to pursue another venture.

While I have known Becky for more years than either she or I would like to count, I can tell you that she served tirelessly on the Senate Finance Committee for more than 10 years. She saw chairmen come and go and was an institution here in her own right.

In my time on the Hill, I have come to know many different staffers, all of whom got involved in the government for all types of well-meaning and patriotic reasons. They each have some expertise, some interest, and some motivation that helps them get through the hard times that staff encounter with the stressful conditions and the below-market pay.

I have long said that Senators and staff take on sacred obligations when we come to work here, and I cannot think of many who have taken that sacred obligation to heart more than Becky Shipp. She spent her time in Congress working on welfare and human resource issues. Her dedication and zealousness in defending the less fortunate should serve as an example to all of us.

While issues surrounding child welfare, child and family services, and foster care programs are often overlooked, anyone in Washington who knows anything about these issues knows that Becky has played a singular role in the creation and preservation of the safety net we now have in place. Too often, welfare issues become bitterly partisan, but during Becky's time here, she always strove to find common ground no matter the personal sacrifice.

Her time on the Hill was extremely productive and impacted far more children and families than most any of us could probably ever count. Still, it was not without moments that, when looking back, seemed pretty lighthearted. One such moment came just a few years ago after many in Congress had become aware of the fact that welfare funds distributed through electronic bank transfers had been used by some to purchase alcohol, food, or other illicit items from strip clubs and other less than savory establishments. Becky quietly began developing a proposal to prevent this type of abuse. Eventually, her idea gained more traction than she thought it would initially.

Once members of the Finance Committee and in the House began to realize the nature of this problem, her proposal caught on like wildfire. The problem was that the Social Security Act did not have a definition for these establishments. After quite a bit of wrangling and putting herself in the shoes of some of the more seedy clientele and business owners, Becky developed a definition, more or less, from scratch. Specifically, the bill, now a Federal statute, prohibited the distribution of Federal welfare funds at "any retail establishment which provides adult-oriented entertainment in which performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state for entertainment." Now, many have chuckled at the specificity of that definition and at the fact that someone, somewhere had to come up with and write down that type of legal terminology, but Becky was not playing a joke or trying to be facetious; she was addressing a legitimate concern. That story, to me, epitomizes the type of person Becky Shipp is and the type of congressional staffer she was when she worked in the Senate.

I am quite certain that, even in her new endeavors, Becky will remain committed to promoting the same type of no-nonsense, proper governance, with an equal eye toward helping those in need to find meaningful work, care, and assistance. While Becky's work ethic, persistence, and friendliness have already been missed on the Finance Committee, I am quite certain that she will continue to do many great things and help many more people.

I personally thank Becky for her years of service and for all that she has done for me, for others in the Senate, and for those in our country who have been in need of a helping hand.

TRIBUTE TO PRESTON RUTLEDGE

Finally, Mr. President, I want to say a few words about Preston Rutledge, my former tax counsel who was recently nominated and confirmed to serve as Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

Preston began his career in public service as a teenager when he worked in the national forests. Later, he served honorably as an officer in the U.S. Navy. After graduating from law school, he was a law clerk on the Fifth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals and spent more than a decade working at the IRS, focusing on tax-exempt organizations and employee benefits.

He came to the Finance Committee about 7 years ago. During that time, he worked on a number of issues that many people, quite frankly, consider to be tedious or mundane, but Preston is an expert on these issues, and he has always taken great pleasure in the issues and work before him.

As a staffer, Preston was, more than anything, committed to advancing reforms to our Nation's pension and savings programs in order to ensure a stable and reliable retirement savings system. Toward that end, he was a lead

staffer in the drafting and passage of key pieces of pension and savings legislation, including the Retirement Enhancement and Savings Act, which provided a number of key reforms to our Nation's retirement savings system, and the ABLE Act, which provided savings enhancements for children with disabilities and their families.

Preston's knowledge of tax policy and ERISA issues is unsurpassed. I was not the only one to benefit from and rely upon his expertise. Indeed, the entire Finance Committee relied on Preston whenever these types of issues came up because, once again, there just aren't many people in Washington with that particular focus and expertise.

I wish Preston good luck in his new position at the Labor Department and thank him for the work he performed on the committee. I am confident his expertise, as well as his open-minded and inclusive approach, will help improve the situations of workers and families across the country. I can think of no one more capable to serve in this important capacity.

As you can see, I have been fortunate to have worked with some excellent staffers in recent years—well, really throughout my whole service in the Senate. That has been true of my entire time at the Senate.

Of course, I have many great staffers still working in the Senate, both in the Finance Committee and in my personal office. I am grateful for each of them as well. I am very fortunate to have them with me as we have some important work ahead of us.

The Finance Committee's current workload is, quite honestly, mind-boggling. There is much to do over the next several months. I will have more to say on that in the coming days. For now, I will simply say, I look forward to working with my colleagues and staff on the vitally important tasks that lie ahead.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DACA

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of nearly 800,000 Dreamers, young people who were brought to this country as children who today are living in fear and uncertainty. As a result of the Trump administration's decision to end the DACA Program, these young people are at risk of losing their legal status and, in fact, face deportation from the only home that most of them have ever known, and that home is the United States of America.

This is one of the great moral issues of our time, and it is an issue that

must be dealt with now as part of the budget negotiations. It cannot be kicked down the road any longer. We must pass the Dream Act now as part of the current budget negotiations.

In the last 6 years since the DACA Program was established, these young people—again, people who were brought to this country as infants, in many cases—were finally able to breathe a sigh of relief. For the first time in their lives, they could walk the streets of this country without fear, without worrying about being arrested, without worrying about being deported. Think about what it means to live in this country every single day knowing that, at any moment, you could be arrested or deported. What DACA finally did is to give these 800,000 young people a legal status and a protection so they could go out and work, so they could go to school, and so they could serve in the U.S. military without fear.

As we all know, tragically, on September 5, 2017, President Trump announced the end of the DACA Program through Executive order. President Obama had established it through Executive order, and President Trump ended it through Executive order. In his announcement, President Trump noted:

I look forward to working with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to finally address all of these issues. As I have said before, we will resolve the DACA issue with heart and compassion, but through the lawful democratic process. It is now time for Congress to act.

That is Donald Trump.

The President was right. It is time for Congress to act. It is time for Congress to not kick the can down the road.

Our Republican President, Mr. Trump, told the Republican-led Congress to get to work on a DACA fix, and I say today to the Republican leadership: Let's do it. Let's do it now. That is what President Trump asked you to do. Listen to him, and let's do it—not next month, not in March, but right now—as part of the budget agreement.

People are working on this issue now. We can come to a consensus. We can pass the Dream Act if there is a political will to do it.

Let us also be very clear. Despite what some have said, this is an urgent matter that must be addressed now. Since President Trump rescinded the DACA Program in September, more than 15,000 Dreamers have already lost their DACA status and are now subject to deportation. Each day the Congress does not act, 122 people lose their DACA protections, and 851 people each and every week. This is a matter of urgency, and we have to act accordingly.

But I want to assure my Republican colleagues that not only is this the right thing to do from a moral perspective and from an economic perspective, but it is also exactly what the American people want. Nobody here is asking anybody in the Senate to rise up

and to be extraordinarily brave and courageous. Why don't you just do what the American people want us to do? No profiles in courage are needed now. Poll after poll has shown that the overwhelming majority of the American people want to provide legal status to the Dreamers and to protect them from deportation. From a political perspective, this is not a difficult decision.

A Washington Post-ABC poll from September 2017, a few months ago, found that 86 percent of Americans support allowing Dreamers to stay in the United States. So 86 percent of the American people support providing legal status to Dreamers. This is not a tough political decision.

Another recent poll conducted by Quinnipiac found that 77 percent of voters and 65 percent of Republicans support legislation to protect Dreamers and provide them an opportunity to work, to go to school, and to pursue a pathway to citizenship.

Another poll conducted by CNN last month found that by an 83-percent to 13-percent margin, Americans support efforts to allow Dreamers to remain in the United States instead of facing potential deportation. Only 15 percent believed that Dreamers should be deported.

Passing the Dream Act is also in our national security interests. Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recently noted:

The United States faces extraordinary security challenges that are placing growing pressure on our Armed Forces. That is why we need legislation that will provide a pathway to citizenship for those immigrants who, among other attributes, are serving or have served in the military, whether they are in America legally or were brought here illegally as children.

That is former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

In addition, just last week three former Secretaries of Homeland Security wrote to House and Senate leadership expressing both their strong support for a DACA fix and for the urgency of acting now. Secretaries Chertoff, Napolitano, and Johnson warned of the need for Congress to act immediately and emphasized how the agency needs time to implement a new program. Without it, they caution that the delay will sow uncertainty in the business community and drive undocumented individuals further into the shadows, with immediate deportation looming for tens of thousands every single month.

Let us be very clear that when we talk about the DACA Program and when we talk about these young people receiving legal status, these young people are vetted, they pay a fee, and the vast majority of them are now at jobs important to our economy. They are in school or they are in the military. In order to get DACA status, they could not be convicted of a felony or a significant misdemeanor or pose a threat to national security or public safety. As almost everybody recognizes, these

are fine young people whom we should be very proud of and should not be talking about deporting them.

DACA gave these young people a shot at the American dream, and having been given that opportunity, they seized it and they are excelling and contributing to our country—to their country—in so many ways. With 91 percent of DACA recipients in the workforce, they play an important role in our economy. Many hundreds of Dreamers have taken up the call to serve in our Armed Forces. Can my colleagues imagine a young Dreamer now serving in the Armed Forces, putting his or her life on the line to defend this country, and then reading about Members of Congress who think we should deport them? How outrageous is that?

Furthermore, there are some 20,000 DACA recipients who are currently teaching in our schools. We desperately need good teachers, and 20,000 DACA recipients are doing just that.

Yet, because of President Trump's cruel decision to rescind the DACA Program, as well as the Republican-controlled Congress's failure to act, these young people's lives and livelihoods have been thrown into chaos and uncertainty.

It is our job to enact a legislative fix now. The President has called for a fix. The vast majority of the people of this country want to see a fix. A fix is important to our national security. It is the right thing to do. Let us do it.

I am, however, very concerned that President Trump is using the 800,000 Dreamers as a bargaining chip to force the taxpayers of this country to pay for an \$18 billion wall. Now, some may remember that during his campaign for President, Donald Trump told the American people that it was the Mexican Government that would be paying for the wall. Well, it turns out that it didn't quite work out that way, and now it is the taxpayers of this country who are supposed to pay for a wall.

Let me be as clear as I can be. We cannot and we must not hold the lives of 800,000 young Dreamers hostage in order to fund a wall that the vast majority of the American people oppose. We cannot and we must not allow Donald Trump to shut down the government to fund this wall, but that, it appears, may very well be—for whatever reason—what Donald Trump wants.

Let me remind my colleagues what Donald Trump said last August at a rally in Arizona, the Presiding Officer's home State: "Believe me, if we have to close down our government, we're building that wall." August 22, 2017, Donald J. Trump.

Now, I do not know why Donald Trump may be pushing for a government shutdown. Maybe he thinks it will work well for him or work well for the Republican Party politically. I have no idea, but I do know that the idea of a government shutdown is a very bad idea. Maybe Republicans will gain from it, maybe Democrats will politically gain from it. I do not have a

clue. What I do know is, the American people will lose from a government shutdown, and, in a bipartisan manner, we must do everything we can to prevent that shutdown.

A shutdown would harm tens of millions of Americans who would be unable to access vital government services; it would disrupt the lives of hundreds of thousands, or more, Federal employees who depend upon a check to provide for their families; and, in fact, it would endanger members of the U.S. military who are putting their lives on the line to defend our country.

The U.S. Congress has a responsibility to the American people to prevent a government shutdown and to work in a bipartisan manner to reach a budget agreement that is fair and that addresses the very serious problems facing not only DACA recipients but the working people of our country.

So I say to my Republican colleagues, you control the White House, you control the U.S. House, and you control the U.S. Senate. You have a responsibility to govern.

For President Trump and the Republican leadership to allow DACA to expire without a new program in place is not only a failure to govern, it is an act of extraordinary cruelty.

We know President Trump wants to build a wall, I guess somewhat like the Great Wall of China. The problem is, building walls may have made sense in the 14th century, but I would inform the President that technology has somewhat changed since then, and our job is to provide strong border security in the most cost-effective way we can, and that way is not building a wall. Ironically, while the President wants to spend \$18 billion to build a wall, he is taking money away from other far more important and effective border security measures.

Let me quote from an article that appeared in today's New York Times:

The Trump administration would cut or delay funding for border surveillance, radar technology, patrol boats and customs agents in its upcoming spending plan to curb illegal immigration—all proven security measures that officials and experts have said are more effective than building a wall along the Mexican border.

The wall also has become a bargaining chip in negotiations with Congress as lawmakers seek to prevent nearly 800,000 young undocumented immigrants from being deported.

But security experts said the president's focus on a border wall ignores the constantly evolving nature of terrorism immigration and drug trafficking.

In other words, if we want strong border security, if we want to keep people out of this country who should not be coming into this country, if we want to keep drugs out of this country, building a wall is not the most cost-effective way. It may have been a great idea in the 14th century in China when they built their Great Wall, but it is not a great idea in 2018, in the United States of America.

So let me just conclude by saying, we are at a very important moment in his-

tory. If we do not do the right thing, if we do not do the moral thing, if we allow some 800,000 young people—people who have spent virtually their entire lives in this country, who know no other country, who see the United States of America as their home—if we betray them, if we take away their legal status, if we allow them to be deported, this will be a moral stain on this country that will never ever be wiped out.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, for the past decade, health policy, unfortunately, has proven to be one of the most bitterly partisan issues. It doesn't have to be this way.

I want to take a few minutes to discuss some health-related issues that Congress left unfinished before the holidays: providing relief from the medical device tax, reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program, funding for community health centers, and doing more to address the opioid crisis. Each has strong bipartisan support and could provide help to our constituents now.

First, many of us, on both sides of the aisle, agree on the need to provide relief from the medical device tax, which went back into effect on January 1. The medical device tax is one of these issues that leaves most Hoosiers scratching their heads. First adopted as part of the Affordable Care Act, the device tax was one of the few issues Republicans and Democrats agreed needed to be fixed, and in 2015, with bipartisan support, President Obama enacted a 2-year suspension of the tax.

The argument was really pretty simple. The medical device tax was making it harder for innovative companies to invest in the research and development of new technologies, and, in the process, we were stifling job creation. If there was a question as to whether this was the case, the last 2 years provided evidence. When we agreed to suspend the tax in 2016 and 2017, manufacturers used that additional money to hire new workers, invest in research and technologies, and continue producing innovative, lifesaving products in the United States.

For example, Zimmer Biomet, headquartered in Warsaw, IN, my home State, used the money from the device tax suspension to invest in new innovation to improve musculoskeletal health across the world. They were also able to upgrade their manufacturing equipment and facilities. Perhaps more importantly, these investments not only supported existing jobs, but they also helped to create new jobs—new, good-paying jobs.

Yet, despite this evidence, despite this strong bipartisan support for repeal, and despite a wide-ranging package of changes to the Tax Code becoming law in recent days, Congress has failed to address the medical device

tax, which went back into place on January 1.

As we again discuss the policy priorities that were left unaddressed in 2017, I strongly urge my colleagues to work with me to quickly and meaningfully address the medical device tax. This would allow these innovative companies to make the long-term investments that not only lead to life-changing technologies but support thousands of high-paying jobs across the country, including in my home State of Indiana.

Another issue that has garnered bipartisan support is a healthcare program that covers millions of our children. We must reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program—also known as CHIP—that expired in September.

I have long supported the CHIP program. It provides health coverage for millions of kids, including nearly 115,000 children from Indiana. I am not alone in my support for this program. The fact is, CHIP has had strong bipartisan support for the past 20 years, and Democrats and Republicans in both the Senate and the House have shown they support a 5-year reauthorization of the program. That gives States the certainty they need to plan their budgets and provide high-quality care to these children.

Despite this shared commitment for the program and agreement on the need for a long-term reauthorization, we were only able to fund the program through March before Congress departed for the holidays. This short-term extension bought some time, but according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—CMS—some States will start running out of money after January 19. This means families and States will very soon face the harmful consequences of congressional inaction.

Just last week, the Congressional Budget Office said that funding the CHIP program for the next 5 years will cost significantly less than previous estimates. This program is vital to our families and vital to our children. We should reauthorize the CHIP program right away.

Like the CHIP program, community health centers have enjoyed long bipartisan support for the high-quality care they provide to our families. Also, like CHIP, the funding for community health centers expired on September 30, leaving many health centers across Indiana worried about if they will have the resources they need to continue to serve Hoosiers.

We have the ability to work together now to ensure that our community health centers can continue to provide cost-effective, high-quality healthcare to people all across the country.

Finally, we have demonstrated a common desire to address the needs of the opioid and drug abuse crisis. It is a scourge. It took the lives of 63,000 people just in 2016—63,000 of our brothers and sisters, our husbands and wives, our sons and daughters. It is a heart-

break that is crushing the entire country.

I welcomed President Trump's declaration of a public health emergency, and both Republican and Democratic Senators have highlighted the need for Congress to do even more to help those struggling with addiction.

Like many other States, the opioid epidemic has been particularly devastating in underserved areas in Indiana that lack adequate treatment providers.

Senator MURKOWSKI and I have partnered on a bipartisan bill that would encourage addiction treatment professionals to serve in underserved areas by making addiction treatment facilities eligible for National Health Service Corps student loan repayment and forgiveness.

We can show our commitment to increasing access to treatment by reauthorizing the National Health Service Corps program, which expired in September. We also must recognize that a meaningful response to the opioid crisis will require robust and meaningful funding to help our communities as soon as possible.

I have often said that most people think Congress can do something to help make life better—to provide working parents with the peace of mind that their children can grow up healthy and to instill confidence in our communities so that they will have the tools they need to respond to this heart-breaking crisis. At the very least, Congress should not make this situation worse.

By failing to take action in 2017, medical device companies are once again paying a counterproductive tax that inhibits growth in Indiana.

On all of these issues—medical device taxes, our families and our children and this opioid crisis, community health centers—we can work together as Democrats, as Republicans, but more than either of those, as Americans to make sure that our families can get decent healthcare, to make sure that no one else dies because of this terrible opioid scourge we are dealing with. These are critically important issues. These are issues that know no political party, that know no special agenda. What we do know is that we need this Congress, this Senate, to deal with them now.

Mr. President, I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). The Senator from North Dakota.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY BISON FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE FCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I will be submitting a resolution in the U.S. Senate honoring the North Dakota State University Bison football team, who just won their sixth national championship in 7 years.

Mr. President, I know you are a football fan, so you can truly appreciate what a fantastic achievement that is. What NDSU has accomplished over the

last 7 seasons is absolutely extraordinary. With our victory on Saturday, the Bison have now won six national football championship series division I national titles in 7 years. That ties them for the most of all time. Also, in each of the past 7 years, they have won or shared the top spot in the Missouri Valley Football Conference championship.

We also want to congratulate the James Madison University Dukes on an outstanding year. We had five championships in a row. The Dukes managed to beat us last year in a semifinal game, and we came back and avenged that loss in a thrilling championship game in Frisco, TX. It went down to the final play. It was a very, very exciting game.

Winning a national championship is not easy, and this success, reflected both on and off the field, is earned through hard work and dedication. We recognize and congratulate all of the incredible players and Coach Klieman and his tremendous coaching staff, who put in countless hours of practice and preparation.

We also recognize the importance of good leadership from athletic director Matt Larsen, NDSU president Dean Bresciani, and everyone at NDSU, all the coaches and the staff, team members, and really everybody who is part of Bison Nation. North Dakotans travel with our team. They show up in Bison Nation, and their cheering and supporting our great team is a huge part of our incredible victories.

We congratulate Easton Stick, the quarterback, for achieving MVP honors and leading a tremendous offensive effort by the Bison and also Nick DeLuca, middle linebacker, for leading an incredible defensive effort. These were two tremendous defenses—James Madison and North Dakota State Bison—fast, strong, and it was a thrilling game and fun to watch.

I want to compliment James Madison not only on their program but on all their fans and supporters—a real class act. I am very impressed with James Madison University—their students, their team, and all of their alumni, who also turned out in force for what was a tremendous game in Frisco, TX.

With that, I submit this resolution to the U.S. Senate honoring the North Dakota State Bison.

Mr. President, I have just one other thing to say: Go Bison.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
CONVENTION AND NAFTA

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I was fortunate enough this week to attend the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual convention in Nashville, where I had the opportunity to headline a discussion of the farm bill, along with my colleague from Kansas on the

Senate Ag Committee and the gentleman from Texas, Congressman CONAWAY, who is leading on the House Agriculture Committee, during the President's commodity meeting. The American Farm Bureau hosted other farm groups and commodity organizations from across the country to talk about the next farm bill and to try to bring consensus as to what agriculture is looking for in farm policy.

In my opportunity to visit with people at the Farm Bureau's annual meeting, in my remarks, I paid particular attention to the farm bill. It is a farm safety net. When we talk about a farm bill, I suppose we ought to highlight that only a small portion of the farm bill is actually related to farm programs. There are a number of titles to the farm bill, and most of the money in a farm bill is spent on nutrition programs and mostly SNAP, but there are other important components of a farm bill—rural development and conservation. In addition to that topic, which I have been on the Senate floor speaking about before, are food aid and support for those who are experiencing famine around the globe. My opportunity to be with farmers and ranchers from across the country gave me an opportunity to not only speak about my views as to what a farm bill should contain but, more importantly, for me to hear what they had to say that was important to them.

Farm Bureau members from across the country made it clear to me, first of all, that they would like to see Congress—Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate—and the administration work together in a bipartisan fashion to get a farm bill done and, prior to that, to get a disaster relief bill completed, which I hope we will do yet this month on the Senate floor—both the disaster bill that needs to get to the President's desk as soon as possible and also a farm bill that needs to be completed in a timely fashion. The current farm bill under which we are operating expires in 2018.

Of the things I want to highlight that I heard from Farm Bureau members while I was there is certainly the importance of crop insurance and the value it provides, particularly for those of us who live and farm and work in places where the weather is not often our friend, as well as just the challenges the current farm bill is creating in Kansas.

Particularly, the safety net programs PLC and ARC don't work as well as they should or could. Part of that has to do with timeliness, and part is the inability and the difficulty in farmers having to choose between two programs and to predict for a long period—the life of the farm bill—which makes the most sense to them economically. Whether they are going to have high prices, low prices, good weather, or bad weather is a hard thing to know in the life of a farm bill. Again, because of the issues we have with the current farm bill, timeliness

is important because those provisions that are less than satisfactory today will be extended if we aren't successful in completing a farm bill this year.

While the topic of conversation generally revolved around the farm bill, I want to indicate to my colleagues that so much of what I heard was about trade, particularly about NAFTA. The reality is, 98 to 99 percent of the mouths to feed are outside of the United States. Farmers and ranchers earn their livings by feeding a hungry world, and exports matter to us. There was a lot of concern expressed to me and among the farmers and ranchers who were gathered there about the potential of the withdrawal by the United States from NAFTA. Kansas is a good example. Our largest importer—the place to which we export the most agricultural commodities—is Mexico.

It is not just about commodities. In addition to the commodities, there are manufacturing jobs related to food and food products. There are 36,000 jobs that generate more than \$5.7 billion in economic activity, and approximately 14 percent of all jobs and 10 percent of all manufacturing jobs are tied to the food and agricultural sectors. So, when we talk about trade and exports, we are not just talking about shipping a ton of wheat or a carload of wheat to another country; we are also talking about all of the jobs here in the United States. It is not just in growing commodities and not just in raising cattle but all of the jobs that come from taking those commodities, turning them into food, and exporting the food to other countries as well.

I have had this conversation with people within the administration and with my colleagues in the U.S. Senate. I do believe the tax bill we passed will improve the economy and that farmers, lots of other business men and women, manufacturers, and others will experience greater economic opportunity as a result of the passage of the tax bill. I would highlight that the tax rates are a lot less important if we don't have income. If something would happen in which we would not be exporting—for example, if there would be a withdrawal from NAFTA—the outcome could be that the tax rates would become semi-irrelevant because the income levels of farmers and ranchers and those who would have jobs in the food sector would be significantly diminished. Less income means tax rates don't matter as much as they otherwise would.

Things are really difficult in agriculture today. Commodity prices are at low prices historically. The challenges are great. Weather, as I said earlier when speaking about crop insurance, is not always our friend. Across Kansas, the plea is for rain or snowfall or moisture. It is dry statewide. The challenges the producers in my State but really those across the country face are low commodity prices and weather, which are significant. What that means is, we need every additional market.

We cannot afford to lose any market to which we sell those commodities. More markets mean higher prices, and more demand means higher prices. Today, we need every penny we can gain on a bushel of corn or wheat or soybeans or grain sorghum. We need to make certain we don't lose markets but that we gain markets.

I commend the President for traveling to Nashville and speaking and meeting with the American Farm Bureau. I believe it has been 30-plus years since a President attended a Farm Bureau annual convention. I know, in my own experience both in the House and the Senate, reporters have often asked me to analyze what I have heard or haven't heard in a President's State of the Union Address. It has always been my practice to listen to a State of the Union Address and hear whether a President speaks about agriculture, about farmers, about ranchers, about rural America. Here we had a President who traveled to Nashville and spent time with those farmers and ranchers of America, and I am pleased the President did so.

I continue to encourage the administration to remain mindful of the role agricultural trade plays in our economy. I would indicate that our withdrawal from NAFTA is a high-risk strategy—a negotiating tactic, perhaps. It is true we have the highest quality of agriculture products available in the world, but other countries are very interested in taking our markets, and any indication that our markets are not going to continue gives countries like Argentina, Brazil, and others the opportunity to make the case that they will be stable suppliers. The things we raise in the United States they can sell and provide in those countries as well. My point is, we don't have a corner on the market, and any suggestion that we are not a stable supplier or that the trading relationship is going to diminish or disappear between two countries means that others are eagerly seeking to take those markets away from us.

Given the impact on our Nation's economy, I urge those conference attendees, those people I visited with in Nashville, to continue to convey to all of those policymakers the importance of trade and the importance of trade agreements.

The administration has a desire to develop bilateral as compared to multilateral trade agreements, and I encourage those negotiations to be ongoing today. We don't have any time to waste when it comes to finding new markets and trading relationships with other countries.

Again, I appreciate the President traveling to Nashville and spending time with farmers and ranchers, and I appreciate the agenda he outlined in regard to regulatory relief, as well as the issue of broadband, on which the President spent a significant amount of time, providing technology to a part of

the country that has, in many instances, been lacking or woefully inadequate.

But the bottom line is that rural America needs income. We can do lots of things to improve the quality of life in rural America, but in the absence of farmer success, in the absence of a farmer and rancher earning a living, the ability to attract our children or others to come back to the farm and the ability to retain our young people in the community to work on a farm diminishes greatly.

One of the questions I received was from a young lady studying in Texas, and this was her question: What are you doing to make certain that young people have a chance to be farmers? While my answer was less than perfect—it is a hard one to answer—it is an important question. The reality is that the chances of young people having the opportunity in agriculture to earn a living is totally dependent upon the economic success of those individuals in agriculture today and what the future holds. We can find a few programs that might encourage young people to be able to enter agriculture as a profession and as a career, but the reality is that it will only work when they are earning a good living, and that comes, once again, from the safety nets, including crop insurance, which will be included in a farm bill as it works its way through Congress this year, but also in the opportunity to see that every market around the globe is available to the U.S. farmer and rancher so that he and she will earn a living and so that they will increase the chances that their sons and daughters have the opportunity to work side by side with them into the future.

I especially want to thank a few people from the American Farm Bureau Federation for allowing me to attend and inviting me to attend and to speak—certainly, President Zippy Duvall, the president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, from Georgia; Dale Moore, a Kansan who is at the American Farm Bureau Federation; and Mary Kay Thatcher, their long-time government affairs person. All of those individuals at the American Farm Bureau Federation do their job so well, but I especially want to acknowledge the friendship and support of those three individuals.

I am reminded that no matter where we go, farmers and ranchers have a lot in common. In addition to their economic importance to communities across Kansas and around rural America, it is farmers and ranchers that still today provide a sense of what is right in America—an understanding of right and wrong, an understanding of the value of life, integrity, character, and values. It is something that is important not just to rural America but to our entire United States of America. So thank you to the farmers who visited with me. Thank you to the farmers who gave me the opportunity to speak with them and listened to me.

Please know that I am happy and will continue to roll up my sleeves to work with my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats—the Senator from Kansas, the chairman of the Ag Committee; and the Senator from Michigan, the ranking member, Ms. STABENOW. Let's get a good farm bill done. Let's get it done on time, and let's all work together to make sure economic activity is alive and well and trade flourishes between the United States and the rest of the world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill 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.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I believe that my distinguished colleague and friend, Senator BLUMENTHAL, will be joining me on the floor. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business for such time as I may require and, at the conclusion of my remarks, that Senator BLUMENTHAL be recognized to make his remarks on the same subject.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SAFEGUARDING OUR ELECTIONS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, 2018 is going to be an election year. In just 10 months, Americans will go to the polls to exercise their franchise, believing in the integrity of our democratic process. I am here today to discuss a threat to the integrity of that process, which is getting little attention here in Congress—nothing near what it deserves. We really ought to be acting with some expedition to safeguard our elections this November. Yet, instead, the effort is one of chasing down partisan investigative rabbit holes.

What ought to be our job? Well, national security, intelligence, election, and law enforcement officials, many of them testifying before us here in Congress, have made what our job is very clear. We must counter Russia's well-established election interference playbook. Russia will hack. Russia will bully. Russia will propagandize. Perhaps more insidiously, Russia will seek to corrupt, particularly by exploiting cracks in our incorporation and campaign finance laws. We are warned: Russia will seek to interfere in 2018's election.

I ask unanimous consent that an article entitled "CIA's Pompeo says Russia and others trying to undermine U.S. elections" be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

To quote the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Heather Conley, testifying before Congress last spring, corruption is the "lubricant" for Mos-

cow's election interference, so "the battle of Western democracies to defeat corruption" must be seen as "a matter of national security."

Testifying before our Crime and Terrorism Subcommittee, former Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, agreed, saying of Russia's 2016 election meddling:

I believe [the Russians] are now emboldened to continue such activities in the future, both here and around world, and to do so even more intensely. If there has ever been a clarion call for vigilance and action against a threat to the very foundation of our democratic political system, this episode is it. I hope the American people recognize the severity of this threat and that we collectively counter it before it further erodes the fabric of our democracy.

How to counter it? Well, there are two important solutions that witnesses have identified in recent testimony before the Judiciary and other committees here in the Senate.

First, guard against the use of phony shell corporations as facilitators of corruption. Ms. Conley, as I said, wrote that corruption is the "lubricant" with which the Russians operate their interference schemes. She and her colleagues warn that to fight the corruption that gives Russia this channel of influence—and I quote her here—"enhancing transparency and the effectiveness of the Western democratic tools, instruments, and institutions is critical." One central way to cut off this channel of improper influence would be to require companies to disclose who their real owner is so that Russian influence can no longer hide behind anonymous American shell companies.

Another would be to crack down on the dark money that is flooding into American elections. It is illegal for foreign nationals to spend money or participate at all in American elections. Yet, post-Citizens United, the same dark money avenues that allow domestic election interference—for instance, that the Koch brothers use to manipulate American elections—are right out there to be used by Vladimir Putin. If they can hide their identity behind 501(c)(4)s and other dark money channels, so can operatives for the Russians.

Instead of taking up these important measures or even ensuring a thorough investigation into the 2016 election meddling, we are—to paraphrase the legendary Senator Sam Ervin of Watergate fame—chasing rabbits when we should be on a bear hunt.

Let's look at a few rabbits that have distracted us from the task at hand. Remember, when Michael Flynn, the President's former National Security Adviser, illicitly communicated with the Russian Ambassador about sanctions during the transition. Then in the White House, he lied to the FBI about it, which concerned the Justice Department so badly that the Acting Attorney General warned the White House Counsel personally, after which she was fired, but the President then

waited 18 days until all of this had become public in the media to ask for Michael Flynn's resignation. Out of all of that, the topic for many Republicans was the alleged leaks of classified information that allowed the story to come to light—not the story itself of problems at the highest level of our national security establishment. Off people went after the “leaks” rabbit.

Republicans then pivoted to talking about the “unmasking”—remember that word; we heard a lot of it around here—of identities in intelligence reporting and the purported misconduct of Obama administration officials. Trump even publicly suggested that former National Security Adviser Susan Rice may have committed a crime. So off people went after the “unmasking” rabbit.

Next, the President accused President Obama of wiretapping Trump Tower, an allegation so outrageous that even congressional Republicans have refused to stand by it, but my, what a bright and shiny rabbit it was for the weeks that it was still a distraction.

By the spring and summer, Republicans were railing against purported conflicts of interest by FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, a distinguished career public servant.

I ask unanimous consent that this article, “FBI ruled McCabe had no conflict of interest in Clinton probe,” be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

So off everybody went after the “McCabe's wife” rabbit.

After President Trump fired FBI Director James Comey to impede the Russia investigation and then told the Russian Foreign Minister and NBC that was why he had done it, the President launched another leak rabbit: a coordinated effort with his lawyers, congressional Republicans, and the rightwing media to suggest that Comey had leaked classified information by sharing with a friend his own contemporaneous notes of conversations with Trump.

Just last week, the President again suggested on Twitter that Comey should be charged with a crime—another bite at the “leaks” rabbit.

In early July, we learned of the June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower between Russian lawyer and operative Natalia Veselnitskaya and senior Trump campaign leaders seeking dirt on Hillary Clinton. Republicans tried to distract attention from that mess by suggesting that Veselnitskaya was in the country on a visa issued by Obama administration officials, with some rightwing media—aided by some congressional Republicans—even whipping on the “visa” rabbit by suggesting there was a setup orchestrated by the Obama administration against the Trump campaign.

Then came the “Fusion” rabbit. Because Fusion GPS had worked on separate projects—one with Christopher Steele and a separate one with Natalia

Veselnitskaya—some Republicans began suggesting either that Russia had been Fusion's client for the Steele dossier or that Steele was the unwitting victim of a Russian disinformation campaign.

Then there is the “Uranium One” rabbit, which began when a rightwing author suggested, without evidence, that Hillary Clinton may have been responsible for a Russian state company acquiring uranium mines in the United States. This rabbit remains a topic of investigation in Congress and in rightwing media.

Then there are the attacks on Bob Mueller, which, like rabbits, multiply by the hour. As the special counsel's investigation started heating up over the late summer and fall, the rightwing began investigating the investigation—alleged conflicts of interest, history of campaign donations, inappropriate text messages, questions about spouses' employment. But the big one was that the FBI was corruptly involved in the procurement of the Steele dossier and that this had launched the “witch hunt.” This, of course, is a very shiny rabbit.

However, a week ago, reporting by the New York Times confirmed that the FBI did not begin its investigation into Donald Trump's connections to Russia because of the so-called Steele dossier. This should not come as a surprise. We have already been told that U.S. allies warned American national security officials about Russian interference in our 2016 elections.

In response to a question from Ranking Member FEINSTEIN at our Crime and Terrorism Subcommittee hearing on May 8, former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper confirmed that “Britain's intelligence service”—Britain's intelligence service—“first became aware in late 2015 of suspicious interactions between Trump advisers and Russian intelligence agents,” and the Brits passed that information on to U.S. intelligence agencies. Clapper confirmed that in “the spring of 2016, multiple European allies passed on additional information to the United States about contacts between the Trump campaign and Russians.” Clapper said that these reports were accurate and that “the specifics are quite sensitive.”

Now we have learned that Trump campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos, who pled guilty last year to lying to the FBI, apparently told a senior Australian official in the spring of 2016 that Russia had dirt on Hillary Clinton. This is something he said he had been told by an intermediary for the Russians. When hacked emails started showing up that summer, Australia's Government became sufficiently concerned to let U.S. officials know about what they had learned from Papadopoulos.

So you have the British intelligence community warnings, the European intelligence community warnings, the Australian warnings, and Carter Page's travels to Russia. You have the attri-

bution of the DNC hack, the intrusion into those emails, to Russian hackers. You have the leaking of the stolen emails. You have abundant evidence out of all of that for the FBI that the Trump campaign's links to Russia required further investigation. It would have been a complete failure of their duty to not have looked further based on all of that evidence.

That is not to say that Christopher Steele and his work are not taken seriously by U.S. intelligence and law enforcement officials. U.S. security agencies have relied on Steele's analysis long before any dossier appeared. Steele is a leading Russia expert. Beginning in 1990, as an undercover officer in Moscow, he watched the Soviet Union unravel. He observed Russia's current leaders ascend through the Russian security services during the 1990s and 2000s. He rose to a senior position on MI6's Russia desk in London. Since leaving MI6, his reports on Russia and Ukraine have been shared widely within the U.S. Government as credible reporting. A U.S. official told the Guardian that Steele's reports were “consistently reliable, meticulous, and well-informed.”

But you would never know this from listening to congressional Republicans. They have been repeating, in chorus with the White House and conservative media, the disproven claim that the Russians somehow commissioned the Steele dossier or that Steele somehow got suckered by the Russians or that some deep-state FBI set up the whole thing to pressure Trump. They have pushed to discredit Steele. They have pushed to discredit Fusion.

As one example, rewind to the Judiciary Committee's hearing on the Foreign Agents Registration Act, or FARA, last July. On the morning of the second day of that hearing, the President tweeted: “One of the things that has been lost in the politics of this situation is that the Russians collected and spread negative information about then candidate Trump.” This is Trump tweeting about himself. His tweet came shortly after a segment on FOX News centered on the same question. Other rightwing outlets parroted the same message.

That same day, Republicans in Congress spun out the same premise that Russians paid for the dossier and that the dossier was, to use their word, the “genesis” of the FBI's inquiry. I hope we have made it clear that this was not the genesis.

While the FARA hearing was still going on, that same day, the *gop.gov* website published this post:

[W]e now know a Russian backed, Democrat connected research firm, with a history of smearing individuals and pitching fake information to reporters, was hired by opponents of President Trump to compile a “dossier” of supposed Trump ties to Russia.

The information that was compiled was taken seriously by the highest level of our intelligence community along with our media, despite obvious signs that the firm behind it was tied to Russia.

As a reminder, this phony “dossier” helped spark the investigation now led by Special Counsel Mueller.

That is the rabbit we are chasing now.

The uniformity of the rightwing message that day with the White House was telling, but the message—the content of it—is simply not true. In fact, at that hearing, the witness denied any knowledge of any link between Russians and the clients of the Steele dossier.

In the months that followed, Fusion GPS’s founder, Glenn Simpson, spent over 20 hours speaking with congressional investigators, including investigators from the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I ask unanimous consent that his op-ed be printed in the RECORD as a third and final item at the conclusion of my remarks.

During these interviews, he specifically told Democratic and Republican staff alike that the dossier was taken seriously by the FBI because it corroborated reports the Bureau had already received from other sources—remember the British, the European, the Australian we have talked about—and a source inside the Trump campaign. From the Time’s recent reporting, we can conclude that that source was George Papadopoulos. This has all been known for months, but the narrative about Fusion GPS and the FBI grinds on, unhinged from fact.

The revelation about George Papadopoulos and the Australian Government should serve as a clarifying moment about the rightwing effort to undermine Bob Mueller’s investigation of the ties of the Trump campaign and his Presidency to Russia. The FBI investigation did not begin because of opposition research. It did not begin because researchers or journalists or American national security officials fell victim to Russian disinformation. It did not begin because of fake news or because Democrats needed an explanation for losing an election. It began when multiple allies, friends of the United States, warned us that the Russian Government was interfering in our democratic process—something many of them knew about from Russia’s interference in their own democratic process.

We still do not know to what extent that interference may have been facilitated or even simply known to members of the Trump campaign or other Trump associates. We still have done nothing to prevent further interference in our elections in 2018. The special counsel’s investigation and the investigations going on in Congress must be allowed to continue until all of the facts are known.

Here in the Senate, we should stop looking for new distractions, stop chasing rabbits, and start thinking about how we are going to protect our future elections—our 2018 election—against a repeat performance, which we have been warned about, by the Russians or

another foreign adversary, for that matter.

As the Center for Strategic and International Studies warns in its report, “The Kremlin Playbook,” we must fight the avenues for corruption that give Russia influence. We must “enhanc[e] transparency” in government and build “resilience against Russian influence” in our elections and elsewhere in American society.

I will conclude by saying that the best measure of our success in Congress will be an America defended against foreign election interference in time to protect our 2018 elections. If we have not achieved that, we have failed at our duty. I do not see us presently on a path to meet that goal. We are less than a year out from election day. We have work to do. Enough with the rabbits.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CIA’S POMPEO SAYS RUSSIA AND OTHERS
TRYING TO UNDERMINE U.S. ELECTIONS
(By Susan Cornwell)

WASHINGTON (REUTERS).—The head of the Central Intelligence Agency said on Sunday that Russia and others are trying to undermine elections in the United States, the next major one being in November when Republicans will try to keep control of Congress.

U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election to try to help President Donald Trump win, in part by hacking and releasing emails embarrassing to Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, and spreading social media propaganda.

CIA Director Mike Pompeo told CBS that the Russian interference is longstanding, and continues. Asked on “Face the Nation” if Moscow is currently trying to undermine U.S. elections, Pompeo responded: “Yes sir, have been for decades.”

“Yes, I continue to be concerned, not only about the Russians, but about others’ efforts as well,” Pompeo said, without giving details. “We have many foes who want to undermine Western democracy.”

Moscow denies any meddling in the 2016 elections to help Republican Trump win. U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller is investigating whether any crimes were committed. Two Trump associates, former national security adviser Michael Flynn and campaign aide George Papadopoulos have pleaded guilty to lying to FBI agents in the probe. Trump denies any campaign collusion with Russia.

Trump has at times suggested that he accepts the U.S. intelligence agencies’ assessment that Russia sought to interfere in the election but at other times has said he accepts Russian President Vladimir Putin’s denials that Moscow meddled.

Trump has frequently spoken of wanting to improve relations with Putin, even though Russia has frustrated U.S. policy in Syria and Ukraine and done little to help Washington in its standoff with North Korea.

Pompeo told CBS that the CIA had an important function as a part of the national security team to keep U.S. elections secure and democratic. “We are working diligently to do that. So we’re going to work against the Russians or any others who threaten that very outcome,” he said.

Trump said on Saturday that he planned an active year on the campaign trail on behalf of Republican candidates running in the mid-term elections, in which all of the House

of Representatives and one-third of the Senate will be up for election. Republicans hold majorities in both.

[From The Hill, Jan. 5, 2018]

FBI RULED MCCABE HAD NO CONFLICT OF
INTEREST IN CLINTON PROBE: DOCS
(By Julia Manchester)

The FBI said in documents released Friday that Deputy Director Andrew McCabe did not have any role in the probe into Hillary Clinton’s private email server while his wife ran as a Democrat for state office in Virginia.

The documents note that Jill McCabe announced her candidacy for state Senate in Virginia in March 2015, while Andrew McCabe’s role as deputy director started in February 2016, three months after his wife lost her electoral bid.

Andrew McCabe had asked ethics officials if his wife’s candidacy would lead to a potential conflict of interest while he was working as an assistant director at the FBI Field Office in Washington, D.C., the documents show.

“From the first contemplation that his wife would run for office in Virginia, [McCabe] sought out and consulted with ethics officers, which included briefings on the Hatch Act,” the records state.

A “system of recusal” was also put in place to prevent any potential conflicts of interests, according to the documents.

The release of the documents comes after President Trump and other Republicans have claimed McCabe had a conflict of interest due to his wife’s electoral bid, noting that her campaign was supported by a super-PAC associated to Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), a Clinton ally.

“How can FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, the man in charge, along with leakin’ James Comey, of the Phony Hillary Clinton investigation (including her 33,000 illegally deleted emails) be given \$700,000 for wife’s campaign by Clinton Puppets during investigation?” Trump tweeted last month:

“How can FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, the man in charge, along with leakin’ James Comey of the Phony Hillary Clinton investigation (including her 33,000 illegally deleted emails) be given \$700,000 for wife’s campaign by Clinton Puppets during investigation?” 3:27 PM—Dec. 23, 2017

Trump’s tweet and others he sent targeting the No. 2 FBI official amid the federal Russia probe came after it was revealed McCabe would be retiring from his post in the coming months.

Trump interviewed McCabe to be FBI director in May after he fired James Comey from the top post. The president ultimately tapped Christopher Wray for the bureau’s top spot.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 2, 2018]
THE REPUBLICANS’ FAKE INVESTIGATIONS
(By Glenn R. Simpson and Peter Fritsch)

A generation ago, Republicans sought to protect President Richard Nixon by urging the Senate Watergate committee to look at supposed wrongdoing by Democrats in previous elections. The committee chairman, Sam Ervin, a Democrat, said that would be “as foolish as the man who went bear hunting and stopped to chase rabbits.”

Today, amid a growing criminal inquiry into Russian meddling in the 2016 election, congressional Republicans are again chasing rabbits. We know because we’re their favorite quarry.

In the year since the publication of the so-called Steele dossier—the collection of intelligence reports we commissioned about Donald Trump’s ties to Russia—the president

has repeatedly attacked us on Twitter. His allies in Congress have dug through our bank records and sought to tarnish our firm to punish us for highlighting his links to Russia. Conservative news outlets and even our former employer, *The Wall Street Journal*, have spun a succession of mendacious conspiracy theories about our motives and backers.

We are happy to correct the record. In fact, we already have.

Three congressional committees have heard over 21 hours of testimony from our firm, Fusion GPS. In those sessions, we toppled the far right's conspiracy theories and explained how *The Washington Free Beacon* and the Clinton campaign—the Republican and Democratic funders of our Trump research—separately came to hire us in the first place.

We walked investigators through our year-long effort to decipher Mr. Trump's complex business past, of which the Steele dossier is but one chapter. And we handed over our relevant bank records—while drawing the line at a fishing expedition for the records of companies we work for that have nothing to do with the Trump case.

Republicans have refused to release full transcripts of our firm's testimony, even as they selectively leak details to media outlets on the far right. It's time to share what our company told investigators.

We don't believe the Steele dossier was the trigger for the F.B.I.'s investigation into Russian meddling. As we told the Senate Judiciary Committee in August, our sources said the dossier was taken so seriously because it corroborated reports the bureau had received from other sources, including one inside the Trump camp.

The intelligence committees have known for months that credible allegations of collusion between the Trump camp and Russia were pouring in from independent sources during the campaign. Yet lawmakers in the thrall of the president continue to wage a cynical campaign to portray us as the unwitting victims of Kremlin disinformation.

We suggested investigators look into the bank records of Deutsche Bank and others that were funding Mr. Trump's businesses. Congress appears uninterested in that tip: Reportedly, ours are the only bank records the House Intelligence Committee has subpoenaed.

We told Congress that from Manhattan to Sunny Isles Beach, Fla., and from Toronto to Panama, we found widespread evidence that Mr. Trump and his organization had worked with a wide array of dubious Russians in arrangements that often raised questions about money laundering. Likewise, those deals don't seem to interest Congress.

We explained how, from our past journalistic work in Europe, we were deeply familiar with the political operative Paul Manafort's coziness with Moscow and his financial ties to Russian oligarchs close to Vladimir Putin.

Finally, we debunked the biggest canard being pushed by the president's men—the notion that we somehow knew of the June 9, 2016, meeting in Trump Tower between some Russians and the Trump brain trust. We first learned of that meeting from news reports last year—and the committees know it. They also know that these Russians were unaware of the former British intelligence officer Christopher Steele's work for us and were not sources for his reports.

Yes, we hired Mr. Steele, a highly respected Russia expert. But we did so without informing him whom we were working for and gave him no specific marching orders beyond this basic question: Why did Mr. Trump repeatedly seek to do deals in a notoriously corrupt police state that most serious investors shun?

What came back shocked us. Mr. Steele's sources in Russia (who were not paid) reported on an extensive—and now confirmed—effort by the Kremlin to help elect Mr. Trump president. Mr. Steele saw this as a crime in progress and decided he needed to report it to the F.B.I.

We did not discuss that decision with our clients, or anyone else. Instead, we deferred to Mr. Steele, a trusted friend and intelligence professional with a long history of working with law enforcement. We did not speak to the F.B.I. and haven't since.

After the election, Mr. Steele decided to share his intelligence with Senator John McCain via an emissary. We helped him do that. The goal was to alert the United States national security community to an attack on our country by a hostile foreign power. We did not, however, share the dossier with BuzzFeed, which to our dismay published it last January.

We're extremely proud of our work to highlight Mr. Trump's Russia ties. To have done so is our right under the First Amendment.

In is time to stop chasing rabbits. The public still has much to learn about a man with the most troubling business past of any United States president. Congress should release transcripts of our firm's testimony, so that the American people can learn the truth about our work and most important, what happened to our democracy.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I now yield, per the pending agreement, to my distinguished friend from Connecticut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE for his very erudite and insightful summary of the bright, shiny toys and rabbits and rabbit holes that a number of our colleagues have attempted to use to distract the Judiciary Committee and this body from what should be its quest for the truth; that is, the truth about the Russian attack on our democracy during the last election and potential collusion in that attack—specifically, collusion by the Trump campaign—and obstruction of justice. Indeed, obstruction of justice is within the direct purview of the Judiciary Committee.

I want to thank my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE for joining me in a letter that we wrote to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, asking that he very simply make public the transcript of the interview with Glenn Simpson conducted by our staff. Senator GRASSLEY declined. But, earlier today, Senator FEINSTEIN released the interview, advancing the American people's right and need to know the full truth.

I want to applaud Senator FEINSTEIN's leadership in using her proper authority as the ranking member to serve this vital public interest. I am grateful to her for her courage and strength in moving forward and disclosing the transcript to prevent its use as a dangerous distraction from the critical work of our committee. I want to thank at least one of our colleagues across the aisle, Senator CORNYN, for apparently supporting that step.

The toys and rabbits and rabbit holes are hardly new to efforts by defenders

of an administration against an investigation, and perhaps for some amusement as well as enlightenment, I want to cite a satiric column done by Art Buchwald in 1973.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the column be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HERE ARE HANDY EXCUSES FOR NIXON BACKERS

(By Art Buchwald)

WASHINGTON.—These are difficult times for people who are defending the Nixon administration. No matter where they go they are attacked by pseudo-liberals, McGovern lovers, heterosexual constitutionalists and paranoid John Dean believers.

As a public service, I am printing instant responses for loyal Nixonites when they are attacked at a party. Please cut it out and carry it in your pocket.

- 1—Everyone does it.
- 2—What about Chappaquiddick?
- 3—A President can't keep track of everything his staff does.
- 4—The press is blowing the whole thing up.
- 5—Whatever Nixon did was for national security.
- 6—The Democrats are sore because they lost the election.
- 7—Are you going to believe a rat like John Dean or the President of the United States?
- 8—Wait till all the facts come out.
- 9—What about Chappaquiddick?
- 10—If you impeach Nixon, you get Agnew.
- 11—The only thing wrong with Watergate is they got caught.
- 12—What about Daniel Ellsberg stealing the Pentagon Papers?
- 13—It happens in Europe all the time.
- 14—People would be against Nixon no matter what he did.
- 15—I'd rather have a crook in the White House than a fool.
- 16—L.B.J. used to read FBI reports every night.
- 17—What's the big deal about finding out what your opposition is up to?
- 18—The President was too busy running the country to know what was going on.
- 19—What about Chappaquiddick?
- 20—People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.
- 21—McGovern would have lost anyway.
- 22—Maybe the Committee for the Re-Election of the President went a little too far, but they were just a bunch of eager kids.
- 23—I'm not for breaking the law, but sometimes you have to do it to save the country.
- 24—Nixon made a mistake. He's only human.
- 25—Do you realize what Watergate is doing to the dollar abroad?
- 26—What about Harry Truman and the deep freeze scandal?
- 27—Franklin D. Roosevelt did a lot worse things.
- 28—I'm sick and tired of hearing about Watergate and so is everybody else.
- 29—This thing should be tried in the courts and not on television.
- 30—When Nixon gives his explanation of what happened there are going to be a lot of people in this country with egg on their faces.
- 31—My country right or wrong.
- 32—What about Chappaquiddick?
- 33—I think the people who make all this fuss about Watergate should be shot.
- 34—If the Democrats had the money they would have done the same thing.
- 35—I never trusted Haldeman and Ehrlichman to start with.

36—If you say one more word about Watergate I'll punch you in the nose.

A—If the person is bigger than you: "If you say one more word about Watergate I'm leaving this house."

B—If it's your own house and the person is bigger than you: "What about Chappaquiddick?"

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. Buchwald wrote a satirical list of tactics Republicans were using to keep Americans from focusing on the Watergate scandal. The list is eerily familiar. The tactics being employed by the Trump supporters today ring of those same tactics used in Watergate. Buchwald suggests focusing on accusations made against prominent Democrats or individuals who had accused Richard Nixon of wrongdoing. He suggests attacking the media. He suggests saying: "The Democrats are sore because they lost." He suggests deflecting blame to a "bunch of eager kids"—perhaps sounding like the reference to "coffee boys" today—and saying that this investigation is "bad for the dollar," much like bad for America abroad.

I am very confident—and I want to emphasize this point very emphatically—that the special counsel will be in no way distracted from his investigation and his team will be undeterred by these tactics. But the American people should not be distracted or deterred either and, equally important, the Judiciary Committee, the U.S. Senate, and the Congress as a whole has a duty here that is, in fact, vulnerable to that same distraction. We must persevere.

What our Republican colleagues are doing at this point is indicated by a recent New York Times article. The article describes President Trump's efforts to persuade congressional allies to drop their investigations, and it says:

Another Republican Senator said Mr. Trump had not urged him to help bring the Russia inquiry to a halt. Instead, the Senator said, the President nudged him to begin an investigation into Hillary Clinton's connection with the intelligence-gathering firm Fusion GPS, which produced a dossier of allegations about Mr. Trump's ties to Moscow.

The goal was to stop the investigation of Russian meddling, but the implication in the article is that the President knew he could achieve that goal as effectively, or at least more practically, by distracting from those investigations, diverting resources to other issues, and muddying the waters for the American people. That is the playbook from 1973 that is referenced by Art Buchwald in his 1973 column.

Here is the danger: Distractions are dangerous, and efforts to discredit law enforcement are equally perilous. Those efforts have included not only the urging for an investigation of Uranium One and Fusion GPS but also attacks on the integrity of some members of the FBI and the FBI as a whole and attacks on individual members of the special counsel's team, on the team as a whole, and on Robert Mueller himself. The effort plainly is to discredit the investigation before it reaches a

potentially incriminating conclusion and to stop the investigation, but if not stop it, at least to demean its credibility before charges are brought.

It is standard operating procedure. We know as prosecutors. The distinguished Senator from Rhode Island and I served as U.S. attorneys and then attorneys general for our States. We know going into the courtroom that we can expect to be attacked and that our teams can be expected to be attacked. That is what defense lawyers do. That is what they do because they hope to demean and discredit and dismantle the credibility of prosecutors before the jury in the courtroom. Here, the courtroom is not a court of law but the court of public opinion. Our Republican friends have launched that preemptive strike, methodically and meticulously, just as the special counsel is engaging in his investigation methodically and meticulously.

Now, I referred to Republican colleagues, and I believe strongly and passionately that many, if not most, of our Republican colleagues share our zeal for the rule of law and for a just outcome to this investigation. The reason is very simple. The Russian attack on our democracy imperils not just this administration and not just one election. It imperils our democracy as a whole. The meddling in our elections was perhaps done to advance the Trump candidacy in 2016, but it can be used against the Trump candidacy in 2020. It can be used against another Republican candidate in that year. It could be used in 2018 against other candidates for Congress or for State election.

My Republican colleagues have been as eloquent as any of us in defining that threat because there is no doubt in the intelligence community that it is a threat, that the Russians did interfere, and that they sought to advance the Trump candidacy. Whether there was an impact and what the impact was may never be known, but the effort is clear. It involved a massive campaign of disinformation, propaganda, cyber attack, and other means. That is what the FBI learned was happening, not as a result of Christopher Steele but from sources within the Trump campaign, including George Papadopoulos, and from other intelligence sources, and that is what we must make sure is known to the American public. We must make sure that anyone who aided the Russians pays a price and that the Russians themselves pay a price, because if there is no price, it will be done with impunity again.

So there should be—and I believe there is—bipartisan apprehension about that threat to our Nation's security. That is the reason that the Judiciary Committee's investigation, along with the special counsel, is so important, because our purview includes obstruction of justice and the integrity of the Department of Justice. Any interference politically with the FBI's investigation into Russian meddling

must be prevented in the future as well. Only the Judiciary Committee can frame and craft legislation that will help to protect the FBI.

Senator WHITEHOUSE and I, and Senator FEINSTEIN and others on the committee, will be proposing such legislation based on what we know so far. It is legislation that essentially protects the rule of law against such efforts to obstruct justice and politically interfere.

The intelligence community's conclusions about Russian meddling did not rely on the credibility of Glenn Simpson or Christopher Steele. The two guilty pleas and convictions that the special counsel has already secured do not rely on the credibility of Simpson or Steele. Without fear of contradiction, I can predict that additional convictions and indictments will be based on fact and law, not on the credibility of Simpson and Steele. The conclusions reached by Simpson, Steele, or anybody else are relevant only insofar as they are supported and backed and proved by facts and consistent with relevant law.

Now, in fact, as we know, Christopher Steele tried to blow the whistle on the Russians. He brought to the FBI's attention information that he thought was relevant to protecting the United States of America against Russian interference. As my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE has outlined in detail, the FBI already knew of it and courteously heard from Christopher Steele and later interviewed him.

The effort to undermine the credibility of the FBI by pointing to Christopher Steele completely misses the mark. In fact, I am deeply disappointed that the first major action by our Republican colleagues on the Judiciary Committee was aimed at someone who reported wrongdoing, not committed it, and it was done without any cooperation or even consultation with Democratic colleagues. It is really a betrayal of the spirit that I think should characterize this very serious investigation, because it should be bipartisan.

My hope is that these distractions, dangerous as they are, will, in fact, not divert either our committee or the special counsel. The pace of our committee's investigation—again, to be very blunt—has been shamefully slow. I hope that its pace will quicken and that it will intensify and that there will be hearings in public with witnesses under oath and subpoenas of documents. I have said it repeatedly. I hope we will use those tools because only by relying on our powers to investigate effectively and comprehensively will we protect the goals of upholding integrity and justice.

As for the special counsel and our law enforcement community, I think they should know that we support them and that we will protect the special counsel against political interference. That is why there is legislation I have proposed, along with my

colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE and others. It is bipartisan legislation. I thank Senators TILLIS and GRAHAM, as well as Senators COONS and BOOKER, for joining in this legislation. That legislation has already had a hearing. It should be voted to the floor and passed by the Congress so that there is no question that the special counsel will be protected against interference or firing.

As that investigation moves closer to the Oval Office, as it tightens its grip on members of the administration, there will be increasing threats and efforts to intimidate. The FBI and the Department of Justice, as well as the special counsel, have a well-earned reputation for integrity and zeal. It is part of our rule of law that a law is enforced. Enforcement of a law depends on thorough and independent investigations that are pursued without fear or favor, without efforts to distract or demean. This body, the U.S. Congress, has an obligation to support those kinds of values. They are uniquely American values. They are the underpinning of all of our laws, all that we hold dear, and all that we celebrate in this body and in this country.

My hope is that we will be part of the effort to avoid politicizing the pursuit of justice. Politicization of the pursuit of justice diverts energy and attention away from credible criminal investigations. It sends a message to this President and future Presidents—and everybody who occupies any office—that there are no repercussions for diverting and distracting and for the ploys and rabbit holes that may be used to squander resources or undermine credibility.

Republicans and Democrats alike should join in the effort to preserve the rule of law. My hope is that we will and will do so without delay because every day that passes when these kinds of false, baseless, and biased innuendos and rumors are raised and given credence is a day that undermines those values that we hold dear.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank Senators WHITEHOUSE and BLUMENTHAL for their remarks.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. President, it has been 100 days since this Congress allowed the Children's Health Insurance Program to expire. Congress did nothing in September, October, November, and December, and now we are more than a week into January—100 days of anxiety for parents, 100 days of wondering if their kids will be kicked off their coverage, 100 days of worrying if they will be able to afford their child's prescriptions or worrying whether they can take them to the doctor if they get the flu.

Members of Congress—new Members, such as Senators SMITH and JONES, Members like Senator HATCH, who has been here for 40 years, and all of us—have healthcare paid for by taxpayers.

We remember the discussion of the tax bill written down the hall in the office of Majority Leader MCCONNELL. The Senate found plenty of time in December to pass a massive handout for corporations. The Presiding Officer, the Senator from Florida, has since questioned whether too much of this bill went to corporate interests. More than 80 percent of the tax cut bill went to the richest 1 percent.

In addition, we know it was a massive handout for corporations that sent jobs overseas. We are going to see more companies shut down in Mansfield, Lima, Zanesville, Chillicothe, Portsmouth, and in big cities like Columbus, Cleveland, and Cincinnati. We are going to see more plants close and move overseas because this Senate and the House passed a tax bill that encourages more corporations to ship jobs overseas. All the while, this body couldn't be bothered to give families more than a short-term funding Band-Aid for CHIP, which experts have said will not even last the last 3 months they promised.

I applaud the Presiding Officer, the Senator from Florida, for his efforts to enlarge at least some of the tax bill to put more money into the pockets of working families, particularly low-income working families. It was not enough, but at least some effort was made.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are reporting that some States will run out of money by January 19, next week. In my State of Ohio, 209,000 children rely on CHIP. Who are these kids? These are sons and daughters of Ohioans, who are working, in most cases, making \$8, \$10, or \$12 an hour. They are the sons and daughters of parents who don't have insurance not because they aren't working as hard or harder than we do, but they don't have insurance simply because their parents happen to work at a job where they are not provided insurance.

There are 209,000 Ohio children who rely on CHIP, a program that has been bipartisan for 20 years. It was without controversy in the past. Families in some States already got letters last year and early this year warning them that their children could lose their healthcare.

Think about these families. The parents of some of these millions of children around the country come home from work, working in a \$10-an-hour job, not making a lot of money. They are working every bit as hard as we do. They go to the mailbox and see a letter from their State government. I will read one of these letters, a copy of which went to tens of thousands of parents: Because Congress has not acted yet, we need to let you know there is a chance that the CHIP Program may have to be shut down. In other words, there is a chance that your children's health insurance will be cut off.

Remember, this is because of the inaction in this body. This is because Senators, who have insurance paid for

by taxpayers, would rather vote for tax cuts, would rather do whatever we do all day instead of renewing the Children's Health Insurance Program.

This letter goes on: If Congress does not renew Federal funds for CHIP in time, you will get another letter in January telling you your benefits will end.

So first, it is a warning. Some parents got this warning right around Christmastime. They are already struggling financially. They are not giving their children nearly as much as they want for Christmas because they are making \$8, \$10, or \$12 an hour. They are just trying to stay above water. They are just trying to raise their kids. They get a letter like this at Christmastime saying: If Congress doesn't act, there is really bad news; your kids are going to lose their insurance. Then the same letter says: If Congress doesn't act, in January you will get another letter saying your insurance is cut off.

It is already an expensive time of year. There is record cold in Ohio. Several of our grandchildren live in Columbus, one of them in St. Croix, and two in Providence, RI. When a number of our grandchildren were around, it was too cold to go outside. It was that kind of winter in Ohio. The day after Christmas, temperatures dropped to single digits for 5, 6, or 7 days running. Families are paying more for their heating bill. At Christmastime, of course, it is more expensive. Now their government adds to this list of worries.

How do they plan their budget for this year if they don't know whether or not they will have to shell out thousands of dollars more for care for their kids? Remember, 9 million children are at risk because of Republican inaction.

Senator PORTMAN, my Republican colleague from Ohio, and I and almost every other Senator on the Finance Committee voted to move forward on CHIP, to renew it for these 9 million children for 5 years. That was a good thing. It passed out of committee, but Senator MCCONNELL, for whatever reason, didn't think this was important enough to actually put it on the floor, move on it, and get it to the President.

I have no idea if the President will sign it. I don't think he knows much about the Children's Health Insurance Program, but I assume his advisers will say that it is probably a good idea to sign it. But he hasn't had a chance to sign it because the majority leader doesn't think this bill is important enough—that these 9 million children are important enough—that Congress should take action.

These are often families with two working parents. They might make \$8, \$10, or \$12 an hour, but they are working in jobs where they are not lucky enough to have health insurance. They work for companies or many for small businesses that, for whatever reason, can't afford it. Whatever the reason, they are working for companies that don't offer health insurance coverage

for their families, or they are families with children with special needs.

I have introduced to my colleagues before Crystal Lett. This is Crystal's son Noble, a first-grader in Dublin, OH, a small, prosperous suburb west and northwest of Columbus.

I met Crystal and Noble last year, when they made the trip from Ohio to Washington to talk to Members of Congress about CHIP. Crystal's life is not easy because she is taking care of a child with a disability whom she so clearly and dearly loves. I could see, watching Noble, how much he loves his mother and how important they are to each other.

Noble was born with a rare genetic disorder. He needs three therapy sessions every week. He gets daily hormone injections. His medications cost \$1,500 a month. I talked to Crystal when she visited. I talked to her again. We talked about how she and her family are scared to death about what will happen to them if Congress doesn't save CHIP.

This is not difficult. Congress has renewed it every year for 20 years. It is bipartisan. It has never had much of any opposition. There are a lot of people like Noble's mother. Crystal said CHIP is "the difference between living a middle class lifestyle, or being part of the poverty line."

Congress had time to hand out massive permanent tax cuts to the richest Americans and the biggest corporations that send job overseas, but it could only manage to scrape together just a little short-term 3 months of funding for these families.

It is really what is wrong with this city. Folks here listen too much to the lobbyists. I remember—and the Presiding Officer remembers, too—seeing the stream of lobbyists from drug companies, from insurance companies, from the big banks, and from the oil industry, in and out of Senator McConnell's office, writing a tax bill. We remember that from just a couple of months ago. But for some reason, Crystal and Noble couldn't get in that line—the line of lobbyists asking for huge tax breaks, saving billions of dollars for their employers while these lobbyists are paid very well. But, frankly, there was nobody having the political wherewithal to convince the majority leader that we ought to move on the CHIP bill.

Healthcare for our kids shouldn't be controversial. It never was until this recent Senate and until this recent President was sworn in. It shouldn't be partisan. It should be easy. It is a program created 20 years ago. It was bipartisan. It has always been bipartisan. It still has bipartisan support today, except that the Speaker of the House down the hall and the majority leader a little closer to us just simply don't want to pass it.

We passed the CHIP extension out of the Finance Committee. It is ready to go. Republican leaders could put it on the floor today, and it would pass. I am

guessing that it would pass with no more than 5 or 10 "no" votes.

I want my colleagues to explain to Noble's mother Crystal and to explain to other mothers and fathers like her why corporate tax cuts are more important than their children's health.

This is about whose side you are on. Do we work for the corporations that send our jobs overseas, do we work for those companies that line up hungrily for tax breaks, or do we work for families who just want the peace of mind so they can take their kids to the doctor?

It is past time for folks in Congress, with taxpayer-funded healthcare, to do their jobs and extend CHIP. I don't want more families to get a letter like this from their capital city, from the Department of Welfare or the Department of Job and Family Services, whatever it is in each community in each State. I don't want any more parents to go to the mailbox, to open this letter, and to have that fear and anxiety hit them in their gut, thinking: Oh, my God, my children's health insurance may be canceled.

We can do better than that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-69, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$133.3 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-69

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$123.0 million.

Other \$10.3 million.

Total \$133.3 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Four (4) Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IIA Missiles.

Non-MDE: Also included are four (4) MK 29 missile canisters, U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical assistance, transportation, engineering and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (JA-P-ATB).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 9, 2018.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Japan—Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IIA Missiles

Government of Japan has requested a possible sale of four (4) Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IIA missiles. Also included are four (4) MK 29 missile canisters, U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical assistance, transportation, engineering and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total case value is \$133.3 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that has been, and continues to be, a force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region.

The proposed sale will provide Japan with an increased ballistic missile defense capability to assist in defending the Japanese homeland and U.S. personnel stationed there. Japan will have no difficulty absorbing these additional munitions and support into the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF).

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Raytheon Missile Systems, Tucson, AZ (SM-3); and BAE Systems, Minneapolis, MN (MK 29). There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require annual trips to Japan involving U.S. Government and contractor representatives for technical reviews, support, and oversight for approximately five years.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-69

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The proposed sale will involve the release of sensitive technology to the Government of Japan related to the Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IIA missile. The ship- or ground-launched SM-3 Block IIA is the most recent iteration in the SM-3 family. It has two distinct new features: larger rocket motors that will allow it to defend broader areas from ballistic missile threats; and a larger kinetic warhead. The kinetic warhead has been enhanced, improving the search, discrimination, acquisition and tracking functions, to address emerging threats. Once enclosed in the canister, the SM-3 Block IIA missile is classified CONFIDENTIAL. The optics hardware and signal processor are classified SECRET.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of specific hardware, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapons system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. A determination has been made that Japan can provide substantially the same degree of protection for sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sustainment program is necessary to the furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the policy justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Japan.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-50, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Oman for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$62 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-50

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Oman.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.
Other \$62 million.
Total \$62 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Oman has requested a possible sale of items and services to support an incremental Operational Flight Profile (OFP) software upgrade for F-16 subsystems, as well as Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) and secure communications equipment for Mode 5 operations, on twenty-three (23) F-16 aircraft.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE includes: Non-MDE items and services consist of twenty-nine (29) KIV-78 cryptographic/timing modules (twenty-three (23) installed and six (6) spares); twenty-nine (29) KY-100M cryptographic radio encryptors (twenty-three (23) installed and six (6) spares); twenty-nine (29) AN/APX-126 Combined Interrogator Transponders (twenty-three (23) installed and six (6) spares); Classified and Unclassified Computer Program Identification Numbers (CPINS) upgrades; OFP upgrades for IFF Mode 5 capable systems; Joint Mission Planning (JMPS) upgrade; Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod software, service support, support equipment, spares, and training; systems support and test equipment; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; logistics and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (MU-D-QAR).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 5, 2018.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Oman—F-16 Operational Flight Profile and Identification Friend or Foe Mode 5 Upgrade

The Government of Oman has requested a possible sale of items and services to support an incremental Operational Flight Profile (OFP) software upgrade for F-16 subsystems, as well as Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) and secure communications equipment for Mode 5 operations on twenty-three (23) F-16 aircraft. Non-MDE items and services consist of twenty-nine (29) KIV-78 cryptographic/timing modules (twenty-three (23) installed and six (6) spares); twenty-nine (29) KY-100M cryptographic radio encryptors (twenty-three (23) installed and six (6) spares); twenty-nine (29) AN/APX-126 Combined Interrogator Transponders (twenty-three (23) installed and six (6) spares); Classified and Unclassified Computer Program Identification Numbers (CPINS) upgrades; OFP upgrades for IFF Mode 5 capable systems; Joint Mission Planning (JMPS) upgrade; Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod software, service support, support equipment, spares, and training; systems support and test equipment; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; logistics and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost is \$62 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has

been, and continues to be, an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale allows the U.S. military to support the Royal Air Force of Oman, further strengthen the U.S.-Omani military-to-military relationship, and ensure continued interoperability of forces and opportunities for bilateral training and exercises with Oman's military forces.

This proposed sale of items and services will enable Oman's twenty-three (23) F-16s currently using Mode 4 IFF to become interoperable on Mode 4/5. Mode 5 IFF allows U.S. and partner airborne and surface armed forces to conduct complimentary air operations. Incremental OFP software upgrades required to support Mode 5 will provide additional incremental improvement for other associated F-16 subsystems. Oman will have no difficulty in absorbing these upgrades into its F-16 fleet.

This proposed sale of equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Lockheed Martin of Fort Worth, Texas. There are no known offset agreements proposed in conjunction with this potential sale.

The proposed sale will not require the long-term assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Oman.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-50

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. This proposed sale of items and services to upgrade Oman's F-16 aircraft will involve the release of sensitive technology related to the Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) and secure communications equipment.

2. The AN/APX-126 Combined Interrogator Transponder is an IFF dual Mode 4 and 5 capable system. It is UNCLASSIFIED unless/ until Mode 4 and/or Mode 5 operational evaluator parameters are loaded into the equipment, which are classified up to SECRET. Classified elements of the IFF system include software object code, operating characteristics, parameters, and technical data. Mode 4 and Mode 5 anti-jam performance specifications/data, software source code, algorithms, and tempest plans or reports will not be offered, released, discussed, or demonstrated.

3. KIV-78 is a crypto appliqué for Mode 5 IFF. The hardware is UNCLASSIFIED unless loaded with Mode 4 and/or Mode 5 classified elements, which are classified up to SECRET.

4. KY-100M is a cryptographic encryptor for voice radios to provide secure communication capabilities. The hardware is UNCLASSIFIED unless loaded with cryptographic keys, which are classified up to SECRET.

5. Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) is a multi-platform, PC-based mission planning system. JMPS hardware is UNCLASSIFIED, but the software is classified up to SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Oman can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance

of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the policy justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Oman.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 17-63, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Mexico for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$98.4 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-63

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: The Government of Mexico.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$55.0 million.

Other \$43.4 million.

Total \$98.4 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Six (6) RGM-84L Harpoon Block II Surface Launched Missiles.

Twenty-three (23) Block II Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) Tactical Missiles.

Six (6) MK 54 Mod 0 Lightweight Torpedoes.

Non-MDE includes: Also included are eight (8) MK 825 Mod 0 RAM Guided Missile Round Packs (GMRP) tri-pack shipping and storage containers; RAM Block 2 MK 44 Mod 4 Guided Missile Round Pack (GMRP); two (2) MK 32 Surface Vessel Torpedo Tubes (SVTT) triple tube launchers; two hundred and fifty (250) rounds of AA98 25 mm high explosive and semi-armor piercing ammunition; seven hundred and fifty (750) rounds A976 25mm target practice and tracer ammunition; four hundred and eighty (480) rounds of BA22 57mm high explosive programmable fuze ammunition; nine hundred and sixty (960) rounds of BA23 57mm practice ammunition; containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical assistance; engineering and logistics support services; installation services; associated electronics and hardware to control the launch of torpedoes; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy.

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid. Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 5, 2018.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Mexico—Harpoon Block II Missiles, RAM Missiles, and MK 54 Torpedoes

The Government of Mexico has requested to buy six (6) RGM-84L Harpoon Block II surface launched missiles, twenty-three (23) Block II Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) tactical missiles and six (6) MK 54 Mod 0 lightweight torpedoes. Also included are eight (8) MK 825 Mod 0 RAM Guided Missile Round Packs (GMRP) tri-pack shipping and storage containers; RAM Block 2 MK 44 Mod 4 Guided Missile Round Pack (GMRP); two (2) MK 32 Surface Vessel Torpedo Tubes (SVTT) triple tube launchers; two hundred and fifty (250) rounds of AA98 25 mm high explosive and semi-armor piercing ammunition; seven hundred and fifty (750) rounds A976 25mm target practice and tracer ammunition; four hundred and eighty (480) rounds of BA22 57mm high explosive programmable fuze ammunition; nine hundred and sixty (960) rounds of BA23 57mm practice ammunition; containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical assistance; engineering and logistics support services; installation services; associated electronics and hardware to control the launch of torpedoes; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost is \$98.4 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner. Mexico has been a strong partner in combating organized crime and drug trafficking organizations. The sale of these ship-based systems to Mexico will significantly increase and strengthen its maritime capabilities. Mexico intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces and expand its existing naval and maritime support of national security requirements and in its efforts to combat criminal organizations.

Mexico intends to use the weapon systems on its Mexican Navy Sigma 10514 Class ship. The systems will provide enhanced capabilities in effective defense of critical sea lanes. The proposed sale of these systems and support will increase the Mexican Navy's maritime partnership potential and align its capabilities with existing regional navies. Mexico has not purchased these systems previously. Mexico will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The equipment will be provided from U.S. stocks. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require annual trips to Mexico involving U.S. Government personnel and contractor representatives for technical reviews, support, and oversight for approximately two years.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-63

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The MK 32 SVTT system is UNCLASSIFIED, but the system has one classified firmware card that controls launches. The system is currently in service in the U.S. Navy and in various other foreign nations that utilize shipboard launched torpedoes.

The firmware card is essential to the ability of the system to successfully launch torpedoes when directed by the shipboard command and control system.

2. The RGM-84L Harpoon Surface Launched Block II missile system, to include publications, documentation, operations, supply, maintenance, and training to be conveyed with this proposed sale have the highest classification level of CONFIDENTIAL. The Harpoon Block II missile is a non-nuclear tactical weapon system currently in service in the U.S. Navy and in 29 other foreign nations. It provides a day, night, and adverse weather, standoff surface-to-surface capability and is an effective Anti-Surface Warfare missile. The RGM-84L incorporates components, software, and technical design information that are considered SENSITIVE.

3. The following components being conveyed by the proposed sale are considered sensitive and are classified CONFIDENTIAL:

a. The Radar Seeker

b. The GPS/INS System

c. Operational Flight Program Software

d. Missile operational characteristics and performance data

These elements are essential for the Harpoon Block II missile to selectively engage hostile targets under a wide range of operational, tactical and environmental conditions. The version being sold to Mexico is not the Coastal Target Suppression land attack missile version.

4. MK 54 All-Up-Round Lightweight (Warshot) torpedoes and associated support equipment, training, test equipment, and technical support; Recoverable Exercise Torpedoes (REXTORPs); and Exercise Torpedoes (EXTORPs) are associated with this sale. The MK 54 Lightweight Torpedo (LWT) can be launched from surface ships, helicopters, and fixed wing aircraft. The MK 54 LWT is an upgrade to the MK 46 Torpedo. The MK 54 LWT contains new sonar, guidance and control systems with modern technology. The new guidance and control system uses a mixture of commercial-off-the-shelf and custom-built electronics. The warhead, fuel tank, and propulsion system from the MK 46 torpedo are re-used in the MK 54 configuration with minor modifications. The MK 54 is highly effective against modern diesel and nuclear submarines. It has advanced logic that allows it to detect and prosecute threat submarines operating in challenging littoral environments. It is also effective in the presence of advanced countermeasures that may be deployed by threat submarines. The assembled MK 54 torpedo and several of its individual components are classified CONFIDENTIAL. The MK 54 operational software is classified as SECRET as is any hardware upon which the software has been installed. Mexico has not requested nor will it be provided the source code for the MK 54 operational software. The MK 54 has a feature referred to as "Memory Scuttle" that erases the operational software at the conclusion of any exercise firing so that the software will not be compromised if the torpedo is not recovered after the exercise firing. Possession of MK 54 Torpedoes and associated equipment should not lead to any vulnerability disclosures.

5. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

6. A determination has been made that the Government of Mexico can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary to the furtherance of the U.S. foreign

policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

7. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Mexico.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA BOARDMAN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Sandra Boardman of Chinook, MT. Originally from Chinook, Sandi has served as the Blaine County clerk and recorder for 44 years. As she steps into retirement, she will be remembered for her many years of service.

Thank you, Sandi, for your commitment to Blaine County and Montana. Your years of dedication and service show the true meaning of being a Montanan, and, for that, I am very grateful. You are an inspiration to us all. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement, and I wish you all the best in the days ahead. •

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:04 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 678, resolving that the Clerk of the House inform the Senate that a quorum of the House is present and that the House is ready to proceed with business.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:09 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 bill:

H.R. 3759. An act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

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-3918. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Activities, Progress and Plans: September 2013 to August 2016"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3919. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Rough Service Lamps and Vibration Service Lamps" (Docket No. EERE-2017-BT-STD-0057) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3920. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of

Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Effectuating Congressional Nullification of the Resource Management Planning Rule Under the Congressional Review Act" (RIN1004-AE39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3921. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Waste Management System; User Fees for the Electronic Hazardous Waste Manifest System and Amendments to Manifest Regulations" ((RIN2050-AG80) (FRL No. 9965-27-OLEM)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3922. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Louisiana's Request to Relax the Federal Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) Gasoline Volatility Standard for Several Parishes" ((RIN2060-AT61) (FRL No. 9971-92-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3923. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Notification Requirements for Combined Sewer Overflows to the Great Lakes Basin" ((RIN2040-AF67) (FRL No. 9972-51-OW)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3924. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Refrigerant Management Regulations for Small Cans of Motor Vehicle Refrigerant" ((RIN2060-AT43) (FRL No. 9972-48-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3925. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Refrigerant Management Regulations for Small Cans of Motor Vehicle Refrigerant" ((RIN2060-AT43) (FRL No. 9972-48-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3926. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Wool Fiberglass Manufacturing; Rotary Spin Lines Technology Review and Revision of Flame Attenuation Lines Standards" ((RIN2060-AT13) (FRL No. 9972-44-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3927. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting,

pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Full Withdrawal of Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; City of Philadelphia; Control of Emissions from Existing Sewage Sludge Incineration Units" (FRL No. 9972-52-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3928. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Right-to-Know; Adopting 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes for Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Reporting; Final Rule" ((RIN2070-AK32) (FRL No. 9970-02)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3929. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Tennessee's Request to Relax the Federal Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) Gasoline Volatility Standard for Shelby County (Memphis)" ((RIN2060-AT69) (FRL No. 9972-06-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3930. 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; Maryland; Continuous Opacity Monitoring Requirements for Municipal Waste Combustors; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule" (FRL No. 9972-55-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3931. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oklahoma: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 9972-29-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3932. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination to Defer Sanctions; Arizona Department of Environmental Quality; PM2.5" (FRL No. 9972-78-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3933. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Nevada Air Plan Revisions, Washoe Oxygenated Fuels Program" (FRL No. 9972-82-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3934. 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 Designation for the 2010

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards - Round 3" (FRL No. 9972-73-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3935. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; NC; Open Burning and Miscellaneous Revisions" (FRL No. 9972-85-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3936. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3937. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Medicare Shared Savings Program: Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances Policies for Performance Year 2017" ((RIN0938-AT51) (CMS-1702-IFC)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3938. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of a group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State (OSS-2017-1316); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3939. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of a group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State (OSS-2018-0009); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3940. 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 2017-0214 - 2017-0219); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3941. 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 2018-0001 - 2018-0006); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3942. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of Inertial Measurement Units to the Republic of Korea for integration into 2.75 inch guided rockets by the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 16-088); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3943. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the

export of Intelligence and Surveillance Aircraft and associated Ground Stations to the Republic of Algeria in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 16-140); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3944. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of Model 249 5.56 caliber machine guns, Model M2 HB QCB, .50 caliber machine guns, and accessories to the United Arab Emirates in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 16-012); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3945. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of automatic carbines, M16A1 rifles, grenade launchers, sound and flash suppressors, scopes, maintenance training, and parts and accessories for Bahrain in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-043); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3946. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of Machine Gun Reflex Sights to Jordan in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-046); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3947. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, Secretary of Labor's response to the Office of the Ombudsman's 2015 Annual Report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3948. A communication from the General Counsel, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chairperson, National Endowment for Humanities, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3949. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records" (RIN0930-ZA07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3950. 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 "Safety and Effectiveness of Health Care Antiseptics; Topical Antimicrobial Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use" ((RIN0910-AH40) (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-0101)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3951. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3952. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Missing Participants" (RIN1212-AB13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3953. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age" (29 CFR Part 4044) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3954. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3955. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-214, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 772, S.O. 16-25615, Act of 2017"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3956. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-215, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 3594, S.O. 16-25309, Act of 2017"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3957. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-216, "Ward 4 Full-Service Grocery Store Amendment Act of 2017"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3958. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-217, "Lincoln Court Designation Act of 2017"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3959. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-218, "Union Market Tax Increment Financing Act of 2017"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3960. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to mileage reimbursement rates for Federal employees who use privately owned vehicles while on official travel; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3961. A communication from the Executive Director, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act Regulations" (RIN3219-AA00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3962. A communication from the Director of the Office of Financial Reporting and Internal Controls, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2017 Agency Financial Report"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3963. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) management report for the fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3964. A communication from the Director of Public Affairs, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Service's fiscal year 2017 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3965. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Resolution 22-299, "Transfer of Jurisdiction of U.S. Reservation 724 (Lots 896 and 897 in Square 620) Emergency Approval Resolution of 2017"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3966. A communication from the Chairman, National Mediation Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Annual Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3967. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2016 FAIR Act Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3968. A communication from the Acting Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2017 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3969. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Blended Retirement System" (5 CFR Parts 1600, 1601, 1603, 1605, 1650, 1651, and 1690) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3970. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Housing and Urban Development Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3971. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3972. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report from the Attorney General to Congress relative to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absen-

tee Voting Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3973. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3974. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, 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; Yellowfin Sole for Vessels Participating in the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Fishery in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XF468) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3975. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Closure of the Elephant Trunk Flex Access Area to General Category Individual Fishing Quota Scallop Vessels" (RIN0648-XF409) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3976. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2017 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack" (RIN0648-XF493) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3977. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2017 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Yellowtail Snapper" (RIN0648-XF465) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3978. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; American Plaice Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure for the Common Pool Fishery" (RIN0648-XF467) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3979. A communication from the Acting Director, 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; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XF714) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3980. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United

States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery; 2017 Illex Squid Quota Harvested" (RIN0648-XF672) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3981. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Adjustments to the 2017 Winter II Quota" (RIN0648-XF651) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3982. A communication from the Acting Director, 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; 'Other Flatfish' in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XF580) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3983. A communication from the Acting Director, 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; Alaska Plaice in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XF579) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3984. A communication from the Acting Director, 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; Sculpins in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XF731) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3985. A communication from the Acting Director, 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; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XF509) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3986. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial and Recreational Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #12 Through #18" (RIN0648-XF715) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3987. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory species; Commercial Aggregated Large Coastal Shark and Hammerhead Shark Management Group Retention Limit Adjustment" (RIN0648-XF501) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on

December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3988. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; 2017–2018 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for King Mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico Western Zone” (RIN0648–XF735) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3989. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2017 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for South Atlantic Snowy Grouper” (RIN0648–XF492) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3990. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2017 Accountability Measure-Based Closures for Commercial and Recreational Species in the U.S. Caribbean Off Puerto Rico” (RIN0648–XF488) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3991. A communication from the Acting Director, 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; Shortraker Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648–XF761) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3992. A communication from the Acting Director, 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; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea Subarea” (RIN0648–XF614) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3993. A communication from the Director, 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; Sablefish in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648–XF756) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3994. A communication from the Director, 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; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648–XF654) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3995. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Depart-

ment of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Georges Bank Cod Possession and Trip Limit Adjustment for the Common Pool Fishery” (RIN0648–XF713) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3996. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Georges Bank Cod Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure for the Common Pool Fishery” (RIN0648–XF586) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3997. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries” (RIN0648–XF634) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3998. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Groundfish Fishery; Fishing Year 2017; Emergency Removal of Southern Windowpane Accountability Measures” (RIN0648–BH11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3999. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Re-Opening of the Commercial Sector for Bluefin Tilefish” (RIN0648–XF758) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4000. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” (RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0476) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4001. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” (RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0709) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4002. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” (RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0708) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4003. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” (RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0556) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4004. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” (RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0622) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4005. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” (RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–1104) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4006. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” (RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0714) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4007. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” (RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0340) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4008. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” (RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–0473) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4009. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes” (RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2017–1097) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4010. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1098)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4011. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1103)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4012. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; CFM International S.A. Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1044)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4013. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1117)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4014. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1101)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4015. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Alexander Schleicher GmbH and Co. Segelflugzeugbau Gliders" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0911)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4016. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights in Specified Areas of the Sanaa (OYSC) Flight Information Region" ((RIN2120-AL27) (Docket No. FAA-2015-8672)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4017. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights in

the Territory and Airspace of Somalia" ((RIN2120-AL28) (Docket No. FAA-2007-27602)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4018. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Stevens Point, WI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0143)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4019. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Twin Bridges, MT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0737)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4020. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Kaunakakai, HI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0295)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4021. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (137); Amdt. No. 3775" ((RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4022. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (15); Amdt. No. 3776" ((RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 29, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4023. A communication from the Associate Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mobility Fund Phase II Challenge Process Handsets and Access Procedures for the Challenge Process Portal" ((WC Docket No. 10-90 and WT Docket No. 10-208) (DA 17-1218)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4024. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on

January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4025. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4026. A communication from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's competitive sourcing efforts for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-151. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to encourage the United States Department of Agriculture to revise existing policies that promote the waste of water after an irrigated crop has been declared a failure; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 31

Whereas, among the most urgent and costly issues facing Texas is drought, which recently has caused a number of crop failures on irrigated land; those occurrences have highlighted the necessity for policies that promote responsible water usage and water conservation; and

Whereas, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, managed by the Risk Management Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, supports the economic stability of agriculture through its crop insurance program, which assists American farmers and agricultural entities in managing risk and the threat of natural disasters; in the event of a crop failure, however, current FCIC policy requires farmers to demonstrate good faith practices, which include watering the failed crop, in order to qualify for insurance benefits; and

Whereas, the USDA could further help sustain the agricultural industry and our precious water resources by developing provisions that encourage water conservation when crop failures occur; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to encourage the U.S. Department of Agriculture to revise existing policies that promote the waste of water after an irrigated crop has been declared a failure; and be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the secretary of agriculture, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, to the chair of the House Committee on Agriculture and the chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and to all members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-152. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to bestow on

Doris “Dorie” Miller the Congressional Medal of Honor; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

Whereas, During the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Petty Officer Doris Miller of the U.S. Navy demonstrated valor above and beyond the call of duty, and he is long past due for full recognition of his extraordinary courage and initiative on that day; and

Whereas, A native of Texas, Doris “Dorie” Miller was born in Waco on October 12, 1919, to Henrietta and Conery Miller; he was a fullback on the football team at Moore High School in Waco, and he went on to work on his father's farm; and

Whereas, In September 1939, Mr. Miller enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a way to see the world and earn money for his family; at that time, African Americans were only permitted to perform menial tasks in the Navy, so Mr. Miller was trained as a mess attendant at the Naval Training Station in Norfolk, Virginia; after a brief assignment on the ammunition ship USS *Pyro*, he was transferred in January 1940 to the battleship USS *West Virginia*, where he won distinction among the crew as the ship's heavyweight boxing champion; his rank at the time was mess attendant, second class; and

Whereas, Mr. Miller rose at 6 a.m. on the morning of December 7, 1941, and he was collecting laundry when the Japanese attack began and the alarm for general quarters was sounded; even mess attendants had a battle station, but Mr. Miller's, an anti-aircraft battery magazine, had already been destroyed by a torpedo, so he went up on deck where, as the ship began to sink, he hauled wounded shipmates through oil and water to safety on the quarterdeck; he was then ordered to the bridge, where he picked up the ship's mortally wounded captain and carried him to an aid station; and

Whereas, Mr. Miller then returned to the bridge, and on his own initiative, he began firing a .50-caliber Browning anti-aircraft machine gun at the attacking Japanese planes; he had never trained on the weapon, but, as he reported later, “It wasn't hard, I just pulled the trigger and she worked fine”; with no concern for his own safety, he continued firing until the gun's ammunition ran out, possibly bringing down one of the enemy aircraft; in the meantime, the *West Virginia* had been hit by five enemy torpedoes, and Mr. Miller was finally forced to abandon ship with his surviving crewmates; and

Whereas, In the aftermath of the attack, Mr. Miller was commended by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, and on May 27, 1942, he became the first African American to receive the Navy Cross, the service's second-highest honor, which was personally presented to him by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the commander of the Pacific Fleet; he went on to serve on the USS *Indianapolis* and then the USS *Liscome Bay*; that ship was sunk by a Japanese submarine on November 24, 1943, and though his body was never recovered, Mr. Miller was eventually listed among the 646 sailors who died that day; at the time of his death, his rank was cook, third class; and

Whereas, In the years since, Mr. Miller's actions have become an important part of the legacy of Pearl Harbor; during the war, a poster from the U.S. Office of War Information featured his image and urged African Americans to join the war effort, and in 1973, a Knox-class frigate was christened the USS *Miller* in his honor; in 1991, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority dedicated a bronze plaque to him at the U.S. Naval Base in Pearl Harbor, and in 2001, he was portrayed by the actor Cuba Gooding Jr. in the blockbuster film, *Pearl Harbor*; more recently, his story has

been featured prominently in the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.; in addition to the Navy Cross, he was also entitled to the Purple Heart, the American Defense Service Medal, Fleet Clasp, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal; and

Whereas, In 1939, when the clouds of world war were gathering in Europe and Asia, Dorie Miller chose to enlist in a Navy that did not trust black men to serve in combat, and at a moment of direst need, he picked up a weapon he had never used before and fought back against a savage enemy, performing brilliantly and courageously under fire in defense of his ship, his crewmates, and his nation; his valiant service on that day, and afterwards, warrants the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a member of the armed forces of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby urge the United States Congress to bestow on Doris “Dorie” Miller the Congressional Medal of Honor; and be it further

Resolved, That the secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the secretary of the Navy, to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-153. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas expressing support for the development and construction of a coastal barrier to protect the Gulf Coast region of Texas from storm surges, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 106

Whereas, Texas has been the nation's top exporting state for the last 14 consecutive years, with an estimated \$650 billion in trade in 2015 alone; exports support some 1.6 million jobs and contribute over \$200 billion to the gross state product; and

Whereas, the Gulf Coast region of Texas plays a crucial role in the prosperity of the state, as it is home not only to the largest concentration of petrochemical manufacturing and refining facilities in the United States but also to the federal Strategic Petroleum Reserve and a vital supply of aviation jet fuel for military and commercial use; in addition, Texas ports along the Gulf Coast are integral to the chemical manufacturing industry and to both the state and national economies; and

Whereas, this Gulf Coast region, however, is vulnerable to major weather events, including intense hurricanes, which in the recent past have devastated area cities by causing significant loss of life, destroying residential and commercial property, damaging sensitive ecosystems, and weakening local economies; and

Whereas, in response to the havoc wreaked by Hurricanes Ike and Rita, researchers at the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores at Texas A&M University at Galveston designed the Coastal Spine; plans for implementing the structure have included consideration of scientific research, historical storm data, and existing systems; moreover, the environmental impact such an apparatus would have on the surrounding area and waterway is being vigorously evaluated, and the study is expected to be completed in the summer of 2017; and

Whereas, the Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District, composed of

Orange, Jefferson, Chambers, Harris, Galveston, and Brazoria Counties, was created by Governor Rick Perry in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike; its board, which represents more than 6.5 million residents who live in the upper Gulf Coast area, has determined that the Coastal Spine is the best method for protecting against storm surges along the Texas coast; the concept has also gained widespread support from residents, businesses, and elected officials throughout the coastal region; and

Whereas, the General Land Office of the State of Texas is committed to partnering with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to implement the construction of the Coastal Spine; and

Whereas, the Texas Legislature is committed to the creation of a special purpose district within the Gulf Coast Region in order to fund the ongoing operations and maintenance of any structures and facilities related to the Coastal Spine; and

Whereas, the potential benefits of the Coastal Spine are manifold, ranging from preserving life and property to spurring economic growth and cutting state expenses for disaster assistance, and it is necessary for the U.S. government to provide aid and support for further research, design, and construction of the coastal barrier; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby express its support for the development and construction of a coastal barrier to protect the Gulf Coast region of Texas from storm surges; and be it further

Resolved, That the Texas Legislature hereby urge the United States Congress to provide sufficient federal funding for the construction of the project; and be it further

Resolved, That the Texas Legislature hereby urge the U.S. Congress to expedite the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers design and construction process; and be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-154. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wisconsin applying to the United States Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, for the calling of a convention for proposing amendments, for the limited purpose of requiring the federal government to operate under a balanced budget, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

Whereas, previous presidential administrations and Congress have allowed an unprecedented amount of federal debt to accumulate, which currently exceeds \$20 trillion; and

Whereas, a report by President Obama's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform issued a warning on the debt levels, stating: “If the U.S. does not put its house in order, the reckoning will be sure and the devastation severe”; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States does not currently require the federal government to operate under a balanced budget; and

Whereas, members of both political parties and both houses of Congress have called for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States to no avail; and

Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United States authorizes the legislatures

of the states to convene a convention for proposing amendments upon the passage of 34 state resolutions; and

Whereas, 49 states, by constitution or statute, require a balanced budget; and

Whereas, the legislature of the State of Wisconsin supports the federal government operating under a balanced budget; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the legislature of the State of Wisconsin herewith respectfully applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention for proposing amendments, for the limited purpose of requiring the federal government to operate under a balanced budget; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk and the assembly chief clerk, jointly, are hereby directed to forward a proper authenticated copy of this resolution to the President of the Senate of the United States, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States; and, be it further

Resolved, That this resolution constitutes a continuing application for a convention for proposing amendments in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until such a convention is convened on the same subject or until the legislature of the State of Wisconsin rescinds this resolution.

POM-155. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to immigration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2283. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2284. A bill to strengthen Buy American requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. Res. 369. A resolution to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 370. A resolution to constitute the minority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 108

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Tennessee

(Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 108, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 266

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

S. 521

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at a discount to veterans.

S. 528

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 528, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 681

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 783

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 783, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services.

S. 999

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 999, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas.

S. 1419

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1419, a bill to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1870

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1870, a bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime, and for other purposes.

S. 2174

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2174, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the Veterans Crisis Line.

S. 2203

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2203, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 2255

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2255, a bill to reauthorize title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve and encourage innovation in international education, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 368

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 368, a resolution supporting the right of all Iranian citizens to have their voices heard.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 369—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. McCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES 369

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY: Mr. Roberts, Mr. Cochran, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Hoeven, Mrs. Ernst, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Thune, Mr. Daines, Mr. Perdue, Mrs. Fischer.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. McCain, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Wicker, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Rounds, Mrs. Ernst, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Graham, Mr. Sasse, Mr. Scott.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Crapo, Mr. Shelby, Mr. Corker, Mr. Toomey, Mr. Heller, Mr. Scott, Mr. Sasse, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Moran.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Risch, Mr. Lee, Mr. Flake, Mr. Daines, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Portman, Mrs. Capito.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Enzi, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Graham, Mr. Toomey, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Corker, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Cotton.

SENATE RESOLUTION 370—TO CONSTITUTE THE MINORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 370

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the minority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY: Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Leahy, Mr. Brown, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Bennet, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Donnelly, Ms. Heitkamp, Mr. Casey, Ms. Smith.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Leahy, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Reed, Mr. Tester, Mr. Udall, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Coons, Mr. Schatz, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Manchin, Mr. Van Hollen.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Reed, Mr. Nelson, Mrs. McCaskill, Mrs. Shaheen, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Donnelly, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Kaine, Mr. King, Mr. Heinrich, Ms. Warren, Mr. Peters.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Brown, Mr. Reed, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Tester, Mr. Warner, Ms. Warren, Ms. Heitkamp, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Cortez Masto, Mr. Jones.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION: Mr. Nelson, Ms. Cantwell, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Markey, Mr. Udall, Mr. Peters, Ms. Baldwin, Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Cortez Masto, Mr. Tester.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Sanders, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Manchin, Mr. Heinrich, Ms. Hirono, Mr. King, Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Smith.

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Carper, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Merkley, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Booker, Mr. Markey, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Van Hollen.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Mr. Wyden, Ms. Stabenow, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Carper, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Brown, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Casey, Mr. Warner, Mrs. McCaskill, Mr. Whitehouse.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mr. Cardin, Mr. Menendez, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Coons, Mr. Udall, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Markey, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Booker.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS: Mrs. Murray, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Casey, Mr. Bennet, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Murphy, Ms. Warren, Mr. Kaine, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Smith, Mr. Jones.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mrs. McCaskill, Mr. Carper, Ms. Heitkamp, Mr. Peters, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Harris, Mr. Jones.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Mr. Warner (Vice Chairman), Mrs. Feinstein, Mr.

Wyden, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. King, Mr. Manchin, Ms. Harris, Mr. Schumer (ex officio), and Mr. Reed (ex officio).

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Leahy, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Coons, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Booker, Ms. Harris.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Sanders, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Wyden, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Warner, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Kaine, Mr. King, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Harris.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Ms. Klobuchar, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Schumer, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Udall, Mr. Warner, Mr. Leahy, Mr. King, Ms. Cortez Masto.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Mrs. Shaheen, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Cardin, Ms. Heitkamp, Mr. Markey, Mr. Booker, Mr. Coons, Ms. Hirono, Ms. Duckworth.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Tester, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Brown, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Manchin.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING: Mr. Casey, Mr. Nelson, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Donnelly, Ms. Warren, Ms. Cortez Masto, Mr. Jones.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Mr. Heinrich, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Peters, Ms. Hassan.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Coons (Vice Chairman), Mr. Schatz, Mrs. Shaheen.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Udall (Vice Chairman), Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Tester, Mr. Schatz, Ms. Heitkamp, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Smith.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 09, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Combating Money Laundering and other forms of illicit Finance: Opportunities to reform and strengthen BSA Enforcement."

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 09, 2018, at 10 a.m. to consider the nomination of Alex Michael Azar II, of Indiana, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 09, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "The Opioid Crisis: An Examination of How We Got Here and How We Move Forward."

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during

the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 09, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME, CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, HUMANS RIGHTS AND GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

The Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Humans Rights and Global Women's Issues of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 09, 2018, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing entitled "Attacks on U.S. Diplomats in Cuba: Response and Oversight."

TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

TO CONSTITUTE THE MINORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following resolutions en bloc: S. Res. 369 and S. Res. 370.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolutions by title en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 369) to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

A resolution (S. Res. 370) to constitute the minority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 369 and S. Res. 370) were agreed to.

(The resolutions are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 10; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following

leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Parker nomination; further, that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the Parker nomination; further, that all postcloture time on the Parker nomination be considered expired at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Parker nomination with no intervening action or debate; finally, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and

laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

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 6:27 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 10, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate January 9, 2018:

THE JUDICIARY

WILLIAM L. CAMPBELL, JR., OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MS. MARIA DIAZ ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Maria Diaz on her retirement. For over thirty-five years, Maria has supported my constituents with advice, information, and guidance on Social Security matters.

Maria began her extensive career in public service as a co-op student working at the Social Security Administration's (SSA) Little Havana Field Office in Florida. Through her dedication and hard work, Maria was swiftly promoted to the position of Claims Service Representative in the Perrine Field Office. Her invaluable contributions were recognized when, in 1990, she was promoted to Operations Supervisor in the Perrine Office, where she continuously displayed a high level of attentiveness and care.

In September 2001, Ms. Diaz's strengths were acknowledged when she was appointed Public Affairs Specialist of the South Florida Area and the Atlanta Region, a position she held until her retirement. In this capacity, she has represented the SSA with an outstanding degree of professionalism and has remained steadfast with the main goal of the Administration, which is to serve the public. She continuously provided our community members with timely and relevant information and cultivated media and community contacts to ensure messages were delivered in a concise and positive manner. Throughout her impressive career, Maria demonstrated her commitment to public service and efficiently resolved our constituents' Social Security issues.

In recognition of her invaluable contributions to the SSA, Maria has received numerous awards, including multiple Commissioner Citations, which is the highest honor conferred upon SSA employees. Maria's support to my constituents over the years has been remarkable and her dedication to her job commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Maria Diaz for her outstanding service to our community, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

CELEBRATING MRS. BETTIE J. BROUSSARD CURTIS

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Bettie J. Broussard Curtis, a distinguished educator and woman of profound spiritual convictions. Mrs. Curtis was

born and raised in Orange, Texas to her parents Shelton and Ophelia Broussard. Coming from a family of thirteen, Mrs. Curtis learned a strong work ethic and faith in God from her parents which no doubt led to her success. Mrs. Curtis married her husband James Ilenon Curtis in 1963 and was married for 31 years before his demise.

Mrs. Curtis received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Education from Wiley College and a Master of Education Degree in Business from Texas Southern University in Houston. While pursuing her advanced studies she taught at both Texas Southern and Lamar University.

Mrs. Curtis is best known for her 56 years as a business education teacher for West Orange-Cove CISD where she inspired her students with her beautiful smile, gracious demeanor, and the skills necessary for success in the global workplace. The school district honored her by naming the new elementary school library the Bettie J. Curtis Library.

Mrs. Curtis has always shown a strong commitment to civic and political organizations throughout her community—she was named the first African American to serve as President of District V Texas State Teachers Association as well as involvement in National Education Association, Texas Business and Technology Educators Association, National Business Education Association, NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and Top Ladies of Distinction. Mrs. Curtis has also received countless awards including Teacher of the Year, Outstanding Educator and Woman of the Year at Mount Olive Baptist Church just to name a few.

On Saturday, January 13, 2018 Mrs. Curtis will be presented with the Blossoming Minds MLK Gala Legend Award, and for this I congratulate her. This award is a testament to her passionate service to others and unwavering commitment to her community and faith in God. It is my privilege to honor her for this special achievement and incredible career.

HIGH FIVE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I salute the Houston Fire Department and Houston City Councilmember Brenda Stardig for their rescue efforts during Hurricane Harvey.

In a move that can only be described as divine intervention, HFD's new high water rescue vehicle was delivered only a few days before one of Texas's most devastating storms rocked the state and dumped more than 50 inches of rain in the Houston area. When Councilmember Stardig used her district's discretionary funds to purchase the high water rescue vehicle for HFD she knew it was a much needed addition to the city's rescue fleet; she just didn't know how timely her purchase would be.

Called the "High Five" because it is docked at HFD Station 5 in my congressional district, HFD's high water rescue vehicle was the only high water rescue vehicle available exclusively to the city of Houston during the hurricane. The "High Five" is a heavy duty military vehicle that can carry 15 people and two operators. Its electronics and fuel system are sealed, giving it the ability to transport in more than four feet of water.

Other vehicles like city garbage trucks were used for rescues, but this vehicle is unique because it is designed not only to go through high water but to also rescue people easily. For example, it has a lift on it to assist people in getting on board. Mr. Speaker, even my jeep with its lift kit is no match for what this vehicle can do. It was estimated that in one day, over 400 people were rescued with this truck and possibly 1,000 people total.

Since the storm, HFD has received a surge of donations to continue to upgrade their rescue fleet. Councilmember Stardig and the Firefighters Foundation of Houston recently raised more than \$52,000—enough for two additional rescue boats. Since Harvey, private donors like HEB and Metro National have stepped up to help fund two additional high water rescue vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, much of my district and the Houston area are still reeling from Harvey's damage. Much work remains to be done. It is heroes like Assistant Chief Ruy Lozano who oversees the HFD rescue fleet, HFD Chief Sam Peña, and Houston City Councilmember Brenda Stardig who rose up during his catastrophe to save lives. Many of us will remember their contributions to our community during this crisis. We always say, when Houstonians see a need they step up. Sometimes it's into a 10-foot high water rescue vehicle.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD LEE

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Mr. Richard Lee, a dedicated public servant and dear friend. Mr. Lee is retiring this January from his position as executive director of the Waukegan Public Library after fifteen years of extraordinary service on behalf of our community.

Under his leadership, the Waukegan Public Library has become an indispensable resource for our local community, a place where residents can gather to learn, collaborate on school homework, or even just hang out with Lizzy, the library's bearded dragon.

Throughout Mr. Lee's tenure, the library expanded its programs to offer literacy classes covering everything from English language learning to computer skills to basic reading, writing, and math skills for adults. Mr. Lee also oversaw a \$1.2 million renovation that finished

• 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.

in 2015, to modernize the facilities and increase cooperative working spaces. And the library even hosts a summer concert series.

The library's inspired initiatives and incredible progress were recognized by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which awarded the Waukegan Public Library with the National Medal in 2013, the highest national recognition for libraries.

In fact, it was at the White House award ceremony hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama that I first met Mr. Lee and his team. Since then, the Waukegan Public Library has been an important partner in my work for our community, including allowing us to host regular Neighborhood Office Hours to serve residents closer to home, as well as graciously providing the venue for a recent ceremony honoring local Vietnam Veterans.

In closing, I want to again thank my friend, Mr. Richard Lee, for his dedicated leadership, creativity, and passion over these last 15 years. I wish him the very best in his well-deserved retirement with family and friends.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIERRA SACRAMENTO VALLEY MEDICAL SOCIETY

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society.

On March 18, 1868, twelve physicians formed the Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement, which is known today as the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society.

The medical society's early goals of learning about diseases and cures, formulating public health, sanitation, and food safety ordinances, and supporting the principles and ethics of the medical profession continue to benefit Sacramento communities.

The Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society founded the Sacramento Board of Health and helped form the first State Board of Health in California.

SSVMS represents more than 3,500 physicians, medical students, residents and fellows. Thirteen SSVMS physicians have served as President of the California Medical Association and three have served as President of the American Medical Association.

SSVMS's RX Safe Physicians program has partnered with opioid task forces in Sacramento and El Dorado Counties to create a physician led coalition that is fighting opioid abuse.

As a member myself, I want to thank the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society for their work over the past 150 years.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society on 150 years of service to the Sacramento region.

HONORING SENSEI MARUYAMA

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Sensei Shuji Maruyama, the Founder of Kokikai Aikido, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his teaching Aikido in Pennsylvania. In so doing, I honor his achievements and the beneficial role that Kokikai Aikido has played in enriching the lives of the men, women and children of Bucks County, PA and the USA.

Kokikai Aikido is a self-defense training system that stresses timing, centering, and coordination, rather than meeting force with force. Aikido students strive to use minimum effort for maximum effect, making Aikido an effective self-defense method for people of all levels of physical ability and of all ages. Kokikai Aikido teaches that strength comes from one's mental state as well as from one's physical prowess. It provides a path for personal realization and ethical self-defense. Students learn that as they become stronger, a peaceful resolution of conflict becomes more, not less, possible. In this way Aikido students also become better citizens, as they work toward attaining their personal goals.

After 50 years of teaching in the USA, Sensei Maruyama continues to share his unbounded energy with his students. He constantly strives to improve and simplify his technique, and to find even more effective ways of teaching. Through his leadership, Kokikai Aikido has grown to include dojos all over the United States and the world. Keystone Kokikai Aikido has made his teachings accessible to hundreds of Southeastern Pennsylvania residents.

I offer congratulations to Sensei Maruyama on his achievement and congratulations to his students who are fortunate to celebrate this milestone with him. It is my hope that Kokikai Aikido will continue to flourish and that Sensei Shuji Maruyama will continue to bring his skills to the martial arts community for many years to come.

HONORING COMRADE WILLIE L. LINDSEY, JR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Comrade Willie Lee Lindsey, Jr. who was born on February 23, 1936.

He enlisted into the United States Air Force on February 3, 1954 and was trained to be a Fire Fighter in the United States Air Force.

He obtained the rank of Airman 3rd Class (A/3C) during his 3 years and 10 months of service.

Comrade Willie L. Lindsey Jr. served 1 year and 10 months under imminent danger and hazardous duty conditions on the Korean Peninsula of South Korea.

He was awarded the National Defense Medal along with the Korean Service Medal during his time of service in the Air Force.

Airman 3rd Class Willie L. Lindsey, Jr. was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on January 7, 1958.

After serving his country as a Fire Fighter in the military, Comrade Willie L. Lindsey, Jr. transitioned into civilian life and worked and retired after 30 years of employment at Vickers, Inc. in Jackson, Mississippi.

In December of 1985, Willie Lindsey joined the Brooks, William, Stewart, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9832, in Jackson, MS.

He was elected VFW Post 9832 Commander in 1988 and served in that position from 1988 to 2008. He also served as VFW 5th District Commander during his time as VFW Post 9832 Commander.

In 2006 through 2007, Willie Lindsey became the first African American in the State of Mississippi to be elected and serve as State Commander of the Department of Mississippi's Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Comrade Willie L. Lindsey, Jr. was a member of Shady Grove Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. He is survived by his son Roderick Odems.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Comrade Willie L. Lindsey, Jr. for his dedication to serving his country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID ROUZER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to make it back to Washington, D.C. to vote on the evening of 1/8/2018 due to inclement weather conditions. Had I been present, I would have voted Present on Roll Call No. 1.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF EMMA COUTURE

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Emma Couture, a remarkable and talented young woman who tragically left us too soon.

At 19 years old, Emma accomplished a great deal more than many of us could hope to in a lifetime. And she did it with an open and giving heart that inspired everyone she met. Emma exemplified the best and the brightest of our Pinellas community: a brilliant student, gifted actress, and a thoughtful, selfless individual.

From a young age, Ms. Couture showed a keen interest in the theater. In high school, she used her role as District Broadway Cares Representative to draw attention to AIDS research, organizing a donation drive and raffle at her local thespian competition. Emma used her unique talent on the stage as a platform to advocate for LGBTQ rights and other important issues, orchestrating a theatrical production that raised thousands of dollars for charity and drew performers from all over the country.

Emma's dedication to good works was matched only by her impressive intelligence. She was a victor on the television game show

Kid Jeopardy, serving as a source of civic pride for Pinellas County and an inspiration to little girls across the community. As a fellow Green Devil, no one better represented St. Petersburg High School and its motto of loyalty and service to God, country, and home.

After graduation, Emma realized her dream of working on the stage in New York City as a student at Marymount Manhattan College. She spent her final moments doing the very thing she loved most: directing her first college theater production, helping a fellow performer rehearse their lines.

Emma's passing due to unexpected heart failure was a sad day for Pinellas County. To her dedicated, loving parents Wilma and Peter, and her older sister Hannah, our hearts go out. I thank them for bringing such an incredible young woman into this world. She has left an indelible mark that will never be erased; her spirit will live on in the hearts of everyone whose life she touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully include in the RECORD my intended votes for November 28 through December 1, 2017. I was feeling under the weather, and at the advice of my doctor I was told to rest and avoid air travel for the duration of the week.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017

H.R. 2768—Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act (Sponsored by Rep. SCOTT Tipton/Natural Resources Committee)—This legislation would designate two mountain peaks in the Uncompahgre National Forest in Colorado as "Fowler Peak" and "Boskoff Peak" in honor of two philanthropists—Charlie Fowler and Christine Boskoff—whom supported athletic schools, women's education, global literacy, and gender equality. They passed away when an avalanche struck while they were attempting to climb Genyen Peak in Tibet in November 2006. Roll no. 638—Yes

H.R. 3115—Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017 (Sponsored by Rep. RICK NOLAN/Natural Resources Committee). This legislation would facilitate a land exchange between the United States Forest Service (USFS) and a private entity—6,650 acres of federal land in the Superior National Forest would be exchanged for 6,690 acres of private land in the same forest. The proposal has been under strict review by the National Environmental Policy Act for seven years, and requires permitting through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Minnesota after the bill's enactment. Roll no. 639—Yes

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017

Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 631—Procedural vote on the combined rule providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 3017—Brownfields Enhancement, Economic Redevelopment, and Reauthorization Act of 2017, and of the bill, H.R. 3905—Minnesota's Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act. Roll no. 640—Yes

Adoption of H. Res. 631—Procedural vote on the combined rule providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 3017—Brownfields En-

hancement, Economic Redevelopment, and Reauthorization Act of 2017, and of the bill, H.R. 3905—Minnesota's Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act. Roll no. 641—Yes

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2017

H.Amdt. 487 to H.R. 3905, Minnesota's Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act, GRIJALVA (D-AZ) Amendment—Increases the royalty rate by 16.66 percent for mineral leases in the Superior National Forest. Roll no. 642—No

Passage of H.R. 3905—Minnesota's Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act (Sponsored by Rep. TOM EMMER/Natural Resources Committee)—This bill restores mineral rights in Minnesota, and opens the permitting process for mining in the state. Roll no. 643—Yes

Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 635—Procedural vote on the combined rule providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 4182—Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017 and of the bill H.R. 1699—Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2017. Roll no. 644—Yes

Adoption of H. Res. 635—Procedural vote on the combined rule providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 4182—Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017 and of the bill H.R. 1699—Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2017. Roll no. 645—Yes

H.Amdt. 489 to H.R. 4182, Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017, Hastings (D-FL) Amendment—Exempts alumni of the PeaceCorps, AmeriCorps, and other national service programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service from the two-year probationary period. Roll no. 646—No

H.Amdt. 491 to H.R. 4182, CONNOLLY (D-VA) Substitute Amendment—Strikes the provisions of the bill and replaces it with a study and report by the Comptroller General of the United States. The study and report will be on those agencies that have lengthened the employee probationary period from 1 to 2 years, and any impact of an existing two-year probationary period at the agency. Roll no. 647—No

Passage of H.R. 4182—Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017—This legislation would extend the probationary period for new federal employees (civil service) from one year to two years. The bill addresses the findings from a 2015 GAO report which found that supervisors often do not utilize the probationary period for its intended purpose, and need more time to complete a full assessment of work performance. Roll no. 648—Yes

Passage of H.R. 3017—Brownfields Enhancement, Economic Redevelopment, and Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Sponsored by Rep. DAVID MCKINLEY/Energy and Commerce Committee)—This bill reauthorizes the Brownfields Program to provide grants and technical assistance to communities, states, and tribes to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. There are more than 450,000 brownfields in the United States, and each of these sites has the potential to encourage economic development with federal assistance. Roll no. 649—Yes

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017

Democrat Motion to Recommit on H.R. 1699—Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2017 (Sponsored by Rep. ANDY BARR/Financial Services Committee)—Roll no. 650—No

Passage of H.R. 1699—Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2017 (Sponsored by Rep. ANDY BARR/Financial Services Committee)—This bill would help low-income families gain access to banks loans to purchase mobile homes. Roll no. 651—Yes

Approval of the Journal Roll no. 652—Yes

HONORING THE WEST SENECA WEST VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM FOR THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the West Seneca West varsity football team for their remarkable achievement of winning the 2017 New York State Public High Schools Athletic Association Class A Championship with a 14–6 victory over the Section I Champions, Yorktown High School, at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse on November 24, 2017.

The West Seneca West football team earned the distinction of being ranked No. 1 in large schools by the Buffalo News. Head Coach Mike Vastola was selected Coach of the Year and senior quarterback Matt Myers was selected Player of the Year and Connolly Cup Winner, an award given to one outstanding varsity football player from Western New York each year.

Myers accounted for 264 of West's 290 yards in total offense. The defense performed well under pressure to lay a strong foundation for the biggest victory in the history of West Seneca West football. This incredible season comes on the heels of a 12-year playoff drought, which displays the dedication of these players and coaches to building a championship team.

I'd like to thank former coach and current president of the West Seneca Teacher's Association, Joseph Cantafio, for inviting me here today to recognize the young men and the football organization that has brought this community together, inspiring a great sense of pride for West Seneca's accomplishments both on and off the field. The team's spirit of hard work, camaraderie and incredible sportsmanship has moved this community to believe that anything is possible when you come together as a team.

Every player on the roster deserves to be recognized for the efforts, from freshmen to seniors. The efforts of Liam Scheuer, Josh Clifton, Justin Johnson, Mike Velasquez, Josh Karmazyn, Bryan Ball, Mitch Bednarz, David Beard, Jacob Wagner, Dillon Weir, Nick Knowles, Luke Wilhelm, Kyle Bauer, Kyle Haettich, Jordan Mackiewicz, Jake Cooper, Nicolai Lowman, Dylan Kasic, John Speyer, Cody Chambers, Jake Wood, Corey Snyder, Jebadiah Braunscheidel, John Cantafio, Josh Wilson, Bradley Claycomb, Nick Fazio, Jeremy Cuthbert, Daniel Cantafio, Robin Block, Nick Cooper, George Newcomb, Tremar Brice, Chris Ignasiak, Tavian Brooks, Dustin White-Wagner, Mike Glinski, and Trevor Stoddard earned West Seneca West the state championship, led by Captains Jesse Broad, Matt Myers, Vinny Draper, Coach Mike Vastola, Assistant Coaches Dave Recor, Matt Marinaro,

Rob Lares, Joe Cantafio, Neil Raddu, and Rich Sanders, and Athletic Director Vincent Dell'Oso.

The team's perfect record in 2017 is one that will be remembered and celebrated for years to come. Let me echo the words of Coach Mike Vastola who proclaimed it "a great moment for fans, a great moment for the community and a great moment for all the guys that he was proud to coach." A moment every football player dreams of, winning the state championship after a hard-fought couple of years, is an accomplishment that this team should be very proud of.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize the champion West Seneca West varsity football team. Their success reinforces timeless lessons learned by student athletes of the virtues of preparation, teamwork, and diligence. Congratulations to the West Seneca West varsity football players, coaches, staff and fans on this well-deserved, historic victory.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT PETER EWANICK

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of Staff Sergeant Peter Ewanick. He was born May 23, 1919 to Ukrainian immigrants in Forestville, Pennsylvania. They were fleeing oppression and seeking a better life in America.

Peter grew up in Evanston, Illinois, playing football and baseball in high school. In September of 1941 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, three months before the United States would enter World War II. He was part of an USMC special weapons platoon in two of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific, Tarawa and Okinawa. He was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant in December 1945.

Peter Ewanick got a job in Los Angeles as a lineman for the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, helping to build the microwave infrastructure across California's deserts and to install overhead and underground cables for the postwar population boom in LA. He married wife Joyce in 1958, and together they raised her children and their son together, Joel, in both Huntington Park and the San Fernando Valley.

Peter Ewanick retired in 1981 as a splicing and construction foreman, having been responsible for the Wilshire District of Los Angeles. The couple moved to Santa Barbara in 2008. Peter was a lifetime member of the Elks Lodge and the Telephone Pioneers, and generally regarded as a good husband, a great role model, and a proud American veteran.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with the nation and the Ewanick family in celebrating this special life, which ended peacefully on July 25, 2017.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for Roll Call vote No. 1 on the evening of January 8, 2018.

Had I been present, I would have voted Present on Roll Call No. 1.

REMEMBERING STEVE PHELPS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Steve Phelps, a life-long educator and administrator who dedicated his career to improving opportunities for students of all backgrounds throughout the Bay Area. Dr. Phelps died on December 26th following complications from heart surgery.

Steve Phelps was born on June 9th, 1944 in Los Angeles, but grew up in Oakland. He graduated from San Francisco State University and the University of San Francisco, and received his doctorate in educational leadership—a subject which he would put to great use throughout his career.

Dr. Phelps began his teaching career in San Francisco. In 1972 he started as a social sciences teacher and coach at St. Ignatius, a private Catholic high school in the Sunset District. He quickly made his mark by working to ensure that students from throughout San Francisco could take advantage of the benefits of St. Ignatius' high quality education.

In 1973, Dr. Phelps started SI Uplift, a program aimed at improving the diversity of the student body at St. Ignatius. His efforts to improve diversity including outreach to other elementary schools to encourage minority students to consider St. Ignatius, and he also served as the moderators of the Black Student Union and the Asian Students Coalition.

While at St. Ignatius, Dr. Phelps also served as the head of the school's professional development department; ensuring that teachers were able to attain credentials and advanced degrees in order to provide better outcomes for their students.

In 2005, Dr. Phelps returned home to Oakland when he took the helm as President of Bishop O'Dowd High School. As president, Dr. Phelps helped improve the school's fundraising record, which enabled O'Dowd to fund the renovation of classrooms, the construction of the Center for Environmental Studies, and to initiate a program to provide all students with laptops—the first of its kind at the time in the Bay Area.

Dr. Phelps' leadership also expanded much needed financial aid for students, helping to ensure that cost was not a barrier for families who wanted their children to receive the benefits of a Bishop O'Dowd education.

Throughout his life, Dr. Phelps demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the thousands of students in the Bay Area. His work helped strengthen two schools, but his legacy will be the impact that he had on the lives of his students, and

all that they are able to achieve through the support that he provided them.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I'd like to thank Dr. Phelps for his exceptional and distinguished career, and honor his life of service to our district. I send my sincere condolences to his wife, Susan, his children Amy and Chris, and his entire extended family.

LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Thank you to all who put their lives at risk every day and night to keep our families safe. Our law enforcement and first responders run into danger so that others can escape it.

Last year, we passed the Thin Blue Line Act to ensure that those who commit crimes against our law enforcement will be held accountable and seek justice for those murdered in the line of duty. I am committed to continuing to fight for the officers of the thin blue line.

Every day, despite great personal risks, law enforcement officers across the country put on their uniforms and carry out their duties to protect and serve. They have our backs, let's have theirs.

APPRECIATING THE BIRTH OF WILLIAM BRUNSON DePASS IV

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to W. Brunson DePass, III, and Emily Barnhill DePass on the birth of their son William Brunson DePass, IV, born at 4:47 p.m., Saturday, January 6, 2018, at Baptist Medical Center of Columbia, South Carolina, weighing six pounds and fourteen ounces.

He is welcomed by his grateful grandparents William (Rusty) B. DePass, Jr. and Susan Parker DePass along with Jane Arnold Barnhill and Edward (Butch) D. Barnhill, Jr., Esq.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JEFFREY STAMPER

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Sergeant Jeffrey Stamper for twenty-six years of dedicated service to the public safety of the citizens of Kings County, California.

Sergeant Stamper is a lifelong Kings County resident. Born in 1967, Jeffrey grew up in the small farm town of Corcoran, California. He attended local schools and graduated Corcoran High School in 1985 before attending California State University, Long Beach.

Sergeant Stamper's law enforcement career started in 1991, as a Deputy Sheriff in Kings County. He was promoted to Senior Deputy Sheriff in February of 2000. After sixteen years in the Kings County Sheriff's Department, Sergeant Stamper transitioned to the Kings County District Attorney's Office as an Investigator in November of 2007.

In 2010, Sergeant Stamper was sworn into the Inaugural Police Department for the City of Avenal, California. His experience and leadership made him a preferred candidate to help establish a new department to protect the citizens of Avenal. This year completes seven full years of service to the citizens of Avenal and twenty-six years of total law enforcement experience.

In retirement, Sergeant Stamper will be spending more time with his loving family, wife Julie and daughters Taylor and Lilly. On this special day for Jeffrey, it is important to remember his son Brandon who was taken from his loved ones and our community too soon in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Sergeant Jeffrey Stamper on his retirement from the City of Avenal and his service to the people of Kings County over the past twenty-six years. As he embarks on the next chapter of his life, I wish him my absolute best.

LIFE OF MARCUS RASKIN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the fiercely independent progressive think tank co-founder Professor Marcus G. Raskin and to pay my respects to his family, especially to my colleague, Maryland Congressman JAMIE RASKIN. Mr. Raskin died December 24 at 83. As a founder of the Institute for Policy Studies in 1963, Mr. Raskin was at the forefront shaping important policy proposals for more than five decades as the intellectual force against "the national security state," a term he coined. Mr. Raskin was instrumental in galvanizing the anti-Vietnam War movement and in seeing the Pentagon Papers were published. He was indicted in 1968 as one of the "Boston Five"—including William Sloane Coffin and Dr. Benjamin Spock—for conspiracy to aid resistance to the draft, and was acquitted. Later, practicing what he called "passionate scholarship"—pairing ideas with action—he was instrumental in organizing the IPS campaign that ultimately persuaded 350 cities across the country to vote on resolutions opposing the Iraq War. A graduate of the University of Chicago and its law school, Mr. Raskin joined the Kennedy administration in early 1961 as an aide to National Security Adviser McGeorge Bundy. Along with Richard J. Barnett, he founded the Institute for Policy Studies as a national vehicle for promoting progressive policies for the left-leaning elements of the Democratic Party. IPS became the model for policy think tanks in Washington and remained independent by refusing to take government grants. The author or editor of 20 books, Mr. Raskin was a leading force in progressive social causes, including the anti-nu-

clear arms debate, civil rights, women's rights, the environment and consumer affairs. In 1977, IPS was asked by 56 members of Congress, led by members of the Congressional Black Caucus, to analyze the federal budget, leading to the 1980 publication of *The Federal Budget and Social Reconstruction*. After the 9/11 attacks, he wrote three books forging a new approach to threats, including, with Robert Spero, *The Four Freedoms Under Siege: The Clear and Present Danger from Our National Security State* (2006). In 2012, he co-edited *Warfare Welfare: The Not-So-Hidden Coasts of America's War Economy*. I want to express my condolences to Mr. Raskin's family. The country was strengthened and enlightened by Marcus Raskin's persuasive ideas. As an American citizen who took an active role shaping public policy, he will be missed.

TAYLOR SCOTT AFFENTRANGER

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Sergeant Taylor Scott Affentranger. Affentranger joined the United States Army in 2011 and proudly served his country in Afghanistan and Italy until 2017.

After returning home from duty he went back to school at the Central New Mexico Community College. Taylor was focused on his coursework and excited to work towards a bachelor's degree in Video Game Engineering. He was dedicated to his family, community, and country.

Affentranger passed away on December 22, 2017. He was the husband to Courtney Affentranger and father to their son, Rowan, who recently turned two. He will be remembered as a loving husband and father, and as a hero who bravely defended our country. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Taylor Scott Affentranger for his service to our nation.

He is survived by his father, Scott Affentranger and wife Miriah; his mother, Pamela Gonzales and husband Ken; his wife Courtney and son Rowan; Treva Affentranger, his grandmother; his siblings, Ashley and Bracton; and stepsiblings, Dallen and Ashlyn Fluit.

IN HONOR OF THE ST. FRANCIS DESALES HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Francis DeSales High School Boys Soccer Team for winning the Ohio Division II State Soccer Championship.

This victory caps a tremendous season and adds to the great legacy of the St. Francis DeSales soccer program. While most student athletes endeavor to capture one championship during their high school career, the young men on the DeSales Boys Soccer Team have won three championships in four years. This

accomplishment truly exemplifies St. Francis DeSales High School's commitment to academic and athletic excellence.

These young student athletes have set a new standard for future Stallions and demonstrated that success is attainable through diligence and countless hours of practice. Everyone at St. Francis DeSales can be extremely proud of their accomplishment.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I congratulate the St. Francis DeSales Boys Soccer Team on their state championship. I wish them continued success in both their athletic and academic endeavors.

CELEBRATING RUTH M. YOUNG'S 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 95th birthday of Mrs. Ruth M. Young of Marietta, Georgia. Mrs. Young was born on January 15, 1923.

A longtime resident of Decatur who relocated to Marietta-Cobb County with her daughter, Olivia, Mrs. Young continues to be an active member of her neighborhood and community. A woman who is deeply devoted to her family, being married for 72 years until the death of her beloved husband (Jesse T. Young) in 2013, she has continued to be a tireless mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and well-respected neighborhood-community figure.

Mrs. Young's family and friends are gathering this weekend to celebrate her 95th birthday with a reception on January 15, 2018. Please join me in wishing Mrs. Ruth Young a very happy birthday.

HOMILY/EULOGY FOR SR. CATHERINE PINKERTON CSJ

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Homily and Eulogy for Sister Catherine Pinkerton:

The readings chosen for Catherine today by her CSJ sisters are wonderfully descriptive of who she was.

Catherine's life was all about bringing glad tidings to the poor and letting the oppressed go free. She was so powerfully passionate and so dedicated to her mission of justice, who can doubt that the Spirit had indeed anointed her for this work?—And is she not a true daughter of Joseph? (Luke 4: 14-23)

The first reading from the Book of Wisdom (Message version) describes her so well: inquiring mind coupled with dedication. She was one of a kind, able to multitask and keep an edge; nimble in argument, able to conduct three conversations at the same time; kept a clean record, always had her wits about her; wouldn't hurt a fly; was drawn to the good; sharp as a tack, nothing got past her; always had an orange in her pocket; cordial with humans, kind to animals; (Some examples—I'm told that one

fish in the motherhouse fish tank actually always responded to the sound of her voice. She loved the deer on our property, and was once found after hours roaming the kitchen trying to find some food for a wounded doe. Her great niece Kelly Haas recalls how much Catherine loved the horses at the stable where Catherine came to watch her learning to ride.) could hold her own in male company. She was a model of virtue, didn't miss a trick; she could discern the movements of the soul—whether intellectual or moral, subtle or not-so-subtle.” (Wisdom 7: 22-23)

The only thing that's missing from this fascinating list is that her hair and makeup were always perfect, her two business suits beautifully tailored, and she always looked as if she had just stepped out of a band box. Seriously.

So how shall we eulogize our Catherine?

Perhaps we should begin at the beginning—her heart for the marginalized was instilled at age seven, when her parents were about to buy a new home right before the Great Depression. Catherine loved the house they were considering, particularly because of its large library. “I told all my friends about it,” she said. “But Dad sat us down and said, ‘Mother and I have decided not to buy that house.’ I said, ‘Why, Daddy?’ He said, ‘Because something terrible is going to happen in this country, and there will be people who won't have food or housing or jobs and . . . we have to help them.’ And I said, ‘Why can't they help themselves?’ He said, ‘Some people don't have resources like education and jobs.’ And then he said, ‘And besides, missy, you don't need a big house when other people don't have food on the table.’ And that was my first lesson in justice.”

Later, involvements with Dorothy Day's Catholic Worker Movement and friendship with Mother Margaret Mary Neary were influential in Catherine's decision to join the Congregation of St. Joseph.

After Vatican II, Catherine quickly acquired multiple involvements in Cleveland. She was a respected teacher, skilled choir director and principal at St. Joe's Academy where she annually taught the entire student body to sing the Battle Hymn of the Republic in four-part harmony. She worked closely with Cleveland groups that focused on the poor and on advancing women's roles in church and society. In the 1970s she worked as a consultant to Cleveland's parish councils and other religious communities. She was president of the Sisters' senate and became a founding member of the Cleveland Women's Ordination Conference.

Among her local awards are two naming her as one of the Most Influential Women in Cleveland as well as the John Carroll University Centennial Education Medal. From 1976-1984 she served in leadership with our Congregation of St. Joseph and in 1982 was elected to the presidency of Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), which at the time represented all 130,000 US sisters.

And so began Catherine's national ministry—first via LCWR—and then in 1984 when she began working as a lobbyist for NETWORK, the Catholic Social Justice lobby founded by LCWR sisters.

I'd like to take a moment now and reprise a tribute from her LCWR and NETWORK sisters when in 2006, they gave her the highest honor any former LCWR president could receive—the Outstanding Leadership Award. It is a good snapshot of how Catherine lived out her anointing to work for justice and the poor:

The late Sr. Bette Moslander, CSJ who was part of the LCWR presidency with Catherine said: “Catherine was in LCWR leadership at a time when the conference and US women religious were the focus of intense scrutiny by the church and by the US government.

The major shifts of Vatican II renewal had brought about changes that were not yet completely accepted by the Catholic population in this country or by the Congregation of Religious in Rome.”

The late Sr. Miriam Therese Larkin, CSJ, also in the LCWR presidency with Catherine, says: “Catherine's wisdom, insight and straightforwardness during these times enabled her to make her point so clearly and cogently that further protests lost their meaning and simply died. We really cannot measure the value of her service to women religious in the United States and in the world.”

Former Network Director Sr. Kathy Thornton RSM wrote: “It is perhaps on Capitol Hill that [Catherine] has had the strongest impact, commanding attention with her intelligence and unwavering determination as an advocate for those unduly burdened by the injustices of society. . . . Catherine has become a formidable presence in the halls of Congress.

Jean Stokan, policy director of Pax Christi USA: “When Catherine walks the halls of Congress, she parts waters. Heads turn and useless chatter ceases when she enters a room.”

NETWORK colleague Michael Culliton concurs. “I remember trips to Capitol Hill with Catherine. I was struck by the number of times we were stopped by staffers and elected officials who knew Catherine by name. Ever a woman of justice, her warm return of a greeting was typically followed with a strong injunction related to an upcoming vote or policy debate.”

Kathy Thornton again: “Catherine has become at home in centers of power. She has won the respect of many heavy-hitters in the political world and can ably tease Bill Clinton, confer with Hillary Clinton and chide Ted Kennedy, who when he does not see Catherine for a while, admits to really missing her.”

Sr. Janet Mock CSJ—the former Executive Director of LCWR—notes: “She is equally at home, however, with the people who live on the margins. Her co-workers note that Catherine puts the same effort into building relationships with the world's power brokers as she puts into building relationships with the marginalized people whom she knows from the streets of DC. As she uses her intellect to analyze social ills, she uses her heart to understand the people affected by them.

U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur, who knew Catherine for over 30 years, told us at her wake last night that Catherine was the founding face of NETWORK and of Catholic Social Teaching in Congress. “Network in its early years would not have been possible without her inspired leadership.”

By way of background, during Clinton admin—Catherine worked with then First Lady Hillary Clinton and Senator Edward Kennedy in an effort to craft comprehensive health care legislation. She brought Catholic Social Teaching principles to the debate and was a strong advocate for ensuring that those without coverage would have access to healthcare. When that effort faltered, she became a passionate advocate for the Child Health Insurance Program for families too poor to have health insurance but did not qualify for Medicaid.

At the Wake Service last night, the current Executive Director of NETWORK, Sr. Simone Campbell reflected that Catherine's perseverance and lobbying had actually prepared the way for the Affordable Care Act, and related how happy she was to see it passed just before Catherine retired so she could experience the rich fruits of her over 25 years of dedicated lobbying.

Sr. Nancy Sylvester IHM remembers that when Catherine came to NETWORK “[She]

also took a great interest in our young interns/associates. She mentored them and took time to drive them home if needed or to assist them in other ways.”

Sr. Theresa Kane RSM—LCWR president just before Catherine: “Catherine Pinkerton was a dedicated, enthusiastic and a most gracious woman religious to all who encountered her. She lived a full, joyous and most worthwhile life and meets her loving God with many graces. Indeed she has earned and been gifted with the hundredfold!”

At a DC farewell for Catherine, the well-known Washington Post Columnist EJ Dionne praised her this way: “It has been said that while we are born with original sin we also have access to original grace...Sr. Catherine's public witness has always been about grace—about the capacity to solve problems and help people. We have heard her preach, we have watched her work, and boy are we grateful—this city could use a whole lot more people like you, Sr. Catherine. You make us proud to be Catholic.” (Full remarks can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0qHNO3Gqu0>)

So, are we getting the idea that Catherine was sort of a larger than life kind of person? Well, yes—and no.

We, Cleveland sisters were immensely proud of her but we also dealt gently with her frailties.

Last, unbeknownst to any but her closest confidantes, there were the insecurities that sometimes plagued her. So this closing quote comes from someone Catherine has described as her soulmate: Sr. Felicia Petruziello, who lived with her in Washington for a number of years and is a lifelong friend:

“We were soulmates in our earthiness—our human weaknesses,” says Felicia. “Both of us were always doubting ourselves—we were connected in being anxious and wondering if what we were doing or saying was right or not. It wasn't the big and famous things she did that connected us but our insecurities. When she gave a speech, she needed to have five people read it first to see if it was OK. Before she received her award at LCWR she spent most of the time in the bathroom because she was so anxious about whether her speech was good enough. And she found it so helpful to ride up in the elevator with Joe Biden's mother just before her benediction at the 2008 Democratic convention. She felt more secure that another “old lady” was present.”

“This is something most people didn't know,” concludes Felicia. “She often felt very insecure inside—but that didn't stop her—she is a model for how we can do big things when we move beyond our insecurities.”

“She is a model for how we can do big things when we move beyond our insecurities.”

I'd like to close with Catherine's own words from a news story at the time of her LCWR award: “Our foundresses dealt with chaos,” she said, “and we have to deal with chaos now because only out of chaos is going to come the creativity of the future. Women Religious are the prophetic dimension of the church. Religious life is a prophetic gift given to the church and humanity. We stand on the line of what is and what is yet to be, and that is our role.”

“We stand on the line of what is and what is yet to be”

And isn't this a daughter of Joseph?

SISTER CATHERINE PINKERTON, CSJ

(Congregation of St. Joseph)

Formerly Sister Mary Pius

Born September 22, 1921

Entered Eternal Life December 28, 2017

Catherine was born, the third of four children, on September 22, 1921 to Charles D. and

Anne Berry Pinkerton. She grew up on Cleveland's west side in a family that was both politically conscious and socially active and where discussion of "issues" (which almost always included the children) was a regular part of family interaction. Her father ran a steel foundry supply business and was a salesman most of his life. Her mother was both a homemaker and helped her husband with the business.

Catherine talked about Sunday afternoon walks to the lake with her father where she learned many valuable things among which was that a woman could do anything if she understood how the world and business worked. Catherine attended St. Ignatius Elementary School from which she graduated in 1935. She then went on to St. Joseph Academy, graduating in 1939. During her high school years, she was introduced to the Catholic Worker movement and was soon volunteering at a soup kitchen. She became very close to Mother Margaret Mary Neary, who was instrumental in helping her make the decision to enter the Sisters of St. Joseph, which she did immediately following graduation.

Her parents were reluctant to see her enter, but they did support her in her decision. She received the habit in 1940 and was given the religious name, Sister Mary Pius. She attended St. John College from which she received her BSE in 1950 and her MA (Curriculum, English, and Education) in 1957. She did further study at both John Carroll University (certification in secondary school administration) and Laval University in Canada (music). As was the case with most sisters at that time, much of her formal education was done on Saturdays and during summers while she was teaching.

Sister Mary Pius's teaching assignments were: St. Rose (1943-50); St. Joseph, Canton (1950-57); St. Joseph Academy (1957-73). During her time at St. Joseph Academy, she was a teacher, the principal, and the director of the Junior Professed Sisters. This was around the time of the Second Vatican Council and Mother Margaret Mary Neary (Catherine's friend from high school) told her that she would be responsible for preparing young sisters for a Church and a community which didn't yet exist. What a challenge that was!

In all the different capacities which Catherine served at St. Joseph Academy, she was always involved with teaching music. She was especially skillful in getting large groups to sing well. There was nothing like hearing the entire school sing, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"!

It was during these years that Catherine was elected to the Diocesan Sisters' Senate and eventually became its president. She gradually became more and more involved in organizations of women religious. From 1973-75, she was the chairperson of NAWR (National Association of Women Religious). In 1975, she came back to Cleveland and worked for the Diocese in pastoral planning as the Director of Parish Councils (1975-80). Shortly after, she was elected to the leadership team of the Congregation of St. Joseph. (1976-84). When her term was completed, Catherine went to work for NETWORK, a national Catholic social justice lobby in Washington, D.C., which was affectionately known by some as the "nuns' lobby" (1984-2010). NETWORK was founded in the early 1970's by Catholic sisters to do research on and lobbying in Congress regarding those issues which affect the lives of the poor and minorities in our country and in the world. Catherine was honored to give the benediction at the 2008 National Democratic Convention in Denver, pausing before praying, and delivering a prayer of hope and gratitude to the crowd and the nation.

Catherine's health caused her to decide in 2010 to return to Cleveland and to St. Joseph

Hall where she remained a vibrant part of the local CSJ community. We are grateful for having shared in the life and the gifts of Sister Catherine and we celebrate her entrance into eternal life.

The following are a few additional reflections about Catherine:

"Catherine has a remarkable capacity to build relationships. In the mystical body of Christ, Catherine is sinew and nerves: connecting and loving each unique expression of the Divine." (Michael Culliton)

"Catherine, politically astute and passionately committed to the Gospel, never backed away from the way of justice and peace in the concrete and often messy reality of our time." (Bette Mosslander CSJ)

"Catherine has ventured into the halls of Congress to speak truth to power. She approaches Senators and Representatives not with money to line campaign coffers, but with faith, a deep knowledge of the issues, and a belief in the social Gospel of Jesus. As a consequence, she has touched the hearts—and changed the votes—of countless members of Congress." (Kathy Thornton, RSM)

KAZAKHSTAN'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today I call on my colleagues to join me in recognizing the visit of the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, to the United States and Kazakhstan's assumption of the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council.

Over the past 26 years, Kazakhstan and the United States have built a strategic partnership based on mutual trust and friendship. Additionally, Kazakhstan has been and remains a vital partner in the fight against violent Islamic extremists—which is a threat to both of our countries—and Astana is an advocate of religious freedom and tolerance.

Since declaring its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, Kazakhstan has built a market-oriented economy continuing to be a valued partner of the United States. I congratulate the people of Kazakhstan on that achievement.

Despite its vast mineral wealth, Kazakhstan is committed to diversifying its economy, in line with the Strategy-2050, its national vision for future development. The strategy calls for widespread economic, social and political reforms with the goal of positioning Kazakhstan as one of the top 30 global economies by 2050.

Since its independence, Kazakhstan has attracted \$260 billion in foreign direct investment, with another \$100 billion forecast for the next decade. The United States is a large contributor, with foreign direct investment worth billions of US dollars entering the Kazakh economy. This makes the US one of the largest investors in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan hosted an EXPO in 2017 with a theme of "Future Energy," which showcased successful US-Kazakhstan collaboration. Kazakhstan seeks to become a leader in promoting renewable energy.

Kazakhstan remains a reliable and trusted partner in the region, and I look forward to our work together to improve human rights, eco-

nomics freedom and security inside Kazakhstan and across the region.

RECOGNIZING STEVE EKBERG, RETIRING MEMBER OF THE GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL, WASHINGTON STATE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Steve Ekberg and his nearly four decades of service as a member of the Gig Harbor City Council in the great state of Washington. I wish to thank him for his dedication to public service. I am proud to consider Steve a friend and I offer him my sincerest congratulations on his retirement.

Councilmember Ekberg has served under five mayors and alongside nearly 100 councilmembers. His passion for improving our community's access to recreational opportunities is a testament to his lifelong commitment to public service. When Councilmember Ekberg was first elected, the City of Gig Harbor had only one park. Today, the city features more than 20 parks and public piers. As a father to two little girls who play in those parks, I am appreciative of the tireless work of Councilmember Ekberg.

Councilmember Ekberg's contributions to Gig Harbor have been extensive. His years as a business and non-profit leader as well as a member of City Council have revealed him to be a champion for our region's youth. As a community leader, he worked tirelessly to build the YMCA into a place where our children can learn and thrive. He spent years coaching youth sports teams and devoted countless hours to the local Historical Society.

Councilmember Ekberg was a longtime business leader in the community. His insurance firm, the family owned Pilkey-Hopping & Ekberg, Incorporated, has been operating since 1896. When Steve retired from his firm, his son Reid Ekberg, was elected by the Board of Directors to become the fourth generation of family leaders for the company.

Steve has embodied the American dream and has contributed greatly to our region's economy and to the civility of our small community. Whether we've been working to build a new hospital in Gig Harbor, grapple with Narrows Bridge tolls, transfer some federal property to the city, or other initiatives, Steve has been a terrific partner and has always focused on doing what's right for the people of Gig Harbor.

Though Steve will be retiring from the Gig Harbor City Council, his service to his community will surely continue in other capacities. I also want to recognize Steve's wife Marion and their two sons, Adam and Reid, for the support they showed Steve and their own service to our community. It's clear that Steve has passed along his commitment to service.

On behalf of all Gig Harbor residents and the people of the Sixth District of Washington, thank you Steve for your tireless work and commitment to building a better community. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Councilman Steve Ekberg's nearly 40 years as a public servant on the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S81–S112

Measures Introduced: Two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2283–2284, and S. Res. 369–370. **Page S110**

Measures Passed:

Majority Party's Committee Membership: Senate agreed to S. Res. 369, to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen. **Page S111**

Minority Party's Committee Membership: Senate agreed to S. Res. 370, to constitute the minority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen. **Page S111**

Parker Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Thomas Lee Robinson Parker, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. **Pages S89–S101**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 96 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 4), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S89**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, January 10, 2018; that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the nomination; and that all post-cloture time on the nomination be considered expired at 2:30 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, with no intervening action or debate. **Pages S111–12**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 97 yeas (Vote No. EX. 3), William L. Campbell, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee. **Pages S89, S112**

Messages from the House: **Page S104**

Executive Communications: **Pages S104–08**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S108–10**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S110**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S110–11**

Additional Statements: **Page S104**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S111**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—4) **Page S89**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:27 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2018. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S111–12.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COMBATING MONEY LAUNDERING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine combating money laundering and other forms of illicit finance, focusing on opportunities to reform and strengthen Bank Secrecy Act enforcement, including S. 2080, a bill to increase the role of the financial industry in combating human trafficking, after receiving testimony from Greg Baer, The Clearing House Association, Chevy Chase, Maryland; Dennis M. Lormel, DML Associates, LLC, Lansdowne, Virginia; and Heather A. Lowe, Global Financial Integrity, Washington, D.C.

NOMINATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Alex Michael Azar II, of Indiana, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

ATTACKS ON U.S. DIPLOMATS IN CUBA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues concluded a hearing to examine attacks on United States diplomats in Cuba, focusing on response and oversight, after receiving testimony from Francisco L. Palmieri, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Todd J. Brown, Assistant Director, International Programs Directorate, and Charles Rosenfarb, Medical Director, Bureau of Medical Services, all of the Department of State.

THE OPIOID CRISIS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the opioid crisis, focusing on how to move forward, after receiving testimony from Sam Quinones, *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic*, Los Angeles, California.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 8 public bills, H.R. 4272–4279 were introduced. **Page H82**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H82–83**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4577, to establish a working group to determine ways to develop a domestic canine breeding network to produce high quality explosives detection canines, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–488);

H.R. 4564, to require a threat assessment on current foreign terrorist fighter activities, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–489);

H.R. 4567, to require a Department of Homeland Security overseas personnel enhancement plan, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–490);

H.R. 4569, to require counterterrorism information sharing coordination, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–491);

H.R. 4578, to authorize certain counter terrorist networks activities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–492);

H.R. 4581, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop best practices for utilizing advanced passenger information and passenger name record data for counterterrorism screening and vetting operations, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–493);

H.R. 4553, to require a review of the authorization, funding, management, and operation of the National Targeting Center and the Terrorist Screening Center, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–494, Part 1);

H.R. 1486, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide funding to secure non-profit facilities from terrorist attacks, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–495);

H.R. 4433, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to achieve security of sensitive assets among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–496);

H.R. 4559, to conduct a global aviation security review, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–497);

H.R. 4561, to provide for third party testing of transportation security screening technology, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–498);

H.R. 4555, to authorize the participation in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces of personnel of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–499);

H.R. 4519, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to repeal certain disclosure requirements related to resource extraction, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–500);

H.R. 4475, to provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–501);

H.R. 4568, to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to promote timely exploration for geothermal resources under geothermal leases, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–502);

H. Res. 681, providing for consideration of the bill (S. 140) to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund (H. Rept. 115–503); and

H. Res. 682, providing for consideration of the bill (S. 139) to implement the use of Rapid DNA instruments to inform decisions about pretrial release or detention and their conditions, to solve and prevent violent crimes and other crimes, to exonerate the innocent, to prevent DNA analysis backlogs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–504). **Pages H81–82**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Marshall to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H21**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:06 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H28**

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Tiberi, wherein he resigned as Representative for the Twelfth Congressional District of Ohio, effective at 5 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2018. **Page H29**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act: H.R. 4577, amended, to establish a working group to determine ways to develop a domestic canine breeding network to produce high quality explosives detection canines; **Pages H32–34**

Security Assessment Feasibility for Equipment Testing and Evaluation of Capabilities for our Homeland Act: H.R. 4561, amended, to provide for third party testing of transportation security screening technology; **Pages H36–38**

Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act: H.R. 1486, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide funding to secure non-profit facilities from terrorist attacks; **Pages H38–40**

Global Aviation System Security Reform Act of 2017: H.R. 4559, amended, to conduct a global aviation security review; **Pages H41–43**

Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act: H.R. 3202, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report on cyber vulnerability disclosures; **Pages H43–46**

Department of Homeland Security Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act: H.R. 4555, amended, to authorize the participation in overseas interagency counterterrorism task forces of personnel of the Department of Homeland Security; **Pages H46–47**

Post-Caliphate Threat Assessment Act of 2017: H.R. 4564, to require a threat assessment on current foreign terrorist fighter activities, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-a-and-nay vote of 413 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 3; **Pages H47, H62–63**

Counterterrorism Information Sharing Improvement Act: H.R. 4569, to require counterterrorism information sharing coordination; **Pages H48–49**

Screening and Vetting Passenger Exchange Act: H.R. 4581, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop best practices for utilizing advanced passenger information and passenger name record data for counterterrorism screening and vetting operations, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-a-and-nay vote of 415 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 4; **Pages H49–50, H63–64**

Securing Department of Homeland Security Firearms Act: H.R. 4433, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to achieve security of sensitive assets among the components of the Department of Homeland Security; **Pages H50–51**

Supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests: H. Res. 676, supporting the rights of the people of Iran to free expression, condemning the Iranian regime for its crackdown on legitimate protests, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-a-and-nay vote of 415 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 2; **Pages H51–57, H62**

Taiwan Travel Act: H.R. 535, to encourage visits between the United States and Taiwan at all levels; and **Pages H57–59**

Directing the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization: H.R. 3320, to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization. **Pages H59–62**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Department of Homeland Security Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act: H.R. 4567, amended, to require a Department of Homeland Security overseas personnel enhancement plan; and **Pages H34–36**

Counter Terrorist Network Act: H.R. 4578, to authorize certain counter terrorist networks activities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. **Pages H40–41**

Senate Referral: S. 1425 was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Natural Resources. **Page H80**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H28.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H62, H62–63, and H63–64. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CHINA'S PURSUIT OF EMERGING AND EXPONENTIAL TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities held a hearing entitled “China’s Pursuit of Emerging and Exponential Technologies”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DOE MODERNIZATION: ADVANCING DOE'S MISSION FOR NATIONAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENERGY SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “DOE Modernization: Advancing DOE’s Mission for National, Economic, and Energy Security of the United States”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Energy officials: Dan Brouillette, Deputy Secretary; Mark Menezes, Under Secretary of Energy; Paul Dabbar, Under Secretary for Science; Frank Klotz, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, and Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; Thomas Zacharia, Director, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; and public witnesses.

EVALUATING CFIUS: CHALLENGES POSED BY A CHANGING GLOBAL ECONOMY

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade held a hearing entitled “Evaluating CFIUS: Challenges Posed by a Changing Global Economy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled “Legislative Proposals for a More Efficient Federal Financial Regulatory Regime: Part III”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ON THE LINE: BORDER SECURITY FROM AN AGENT AND OFFICER PERSPECTIVE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security held a hearing entitled “On the Line: Border Security from an Agent and

Officer Perspective. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee On Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on H.R. 4532, the “Shash Já National Monument and Indian Creek National Monument Act”. Testimony was heard from Representative Curtis; Gary R. Herbert, Governor, Utah; and public witnesses.

TO AMEND THE WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE WATER RIGHTS QUANTIFICATION ACT OF 2010 TO CLARIFY THE USE OF AMOUNTS IN THE WMAT SETTLEMENT FUND; RAPID DNA ACT OF 2017

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on S. 140, to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund; and S. 139, the “Rapid DNA Act of 2017” [FISA Amendments Reauthorization Act of 2017]. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–3, a closed rule for S. 140. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–54 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The Committee granted, by record vote of 6–3, a structured rule for S. 139. The rule provides one hour of debate with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–53 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only the further amendment printed in the Rules Committee report, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered as 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. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to commit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives LaMalfa, Rokita, Scott of Virginia, Moore, Nunes, Schiff, Amash, Himes, Davidson, Lofgren, Farenthold, Nadler, and Poe of Texas.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine America's water infrastructure needs and challenges, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Barry W. Ashe, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Howard C. Nielson, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, and James R. Sweeney II, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, 10 a.m., SD-226.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Department of Defense Update on the Financial

Improvement and Audit Remediation (FIAR) Plan", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled "A Further Examination of Federal Reserve Reform Proposals", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Sanctions and Financial Pressure: Major National Security Tools", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled "Upcoming Elections in the Western Hemisphere: Implications for U.S. Policy", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, ratification of subcommittee assignments; markup on H.R. 506, the "Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2017", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 219, the "Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project Boundary Correction Act"; H.R. 801, the "Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act"; H.R. 1220, to establish the Adams Memorial Commission to carry out the provisions of Public Law 107-62, and for other purposes; H.R. 2711, the "National Memorial to Fallen Educators Act"; H.R. 3133, the "Streamlining Environmental Approvals Act of 2017"; and S. 117, the "Alex Diekmann Peak Designation Act of 2017", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4675, the "Low Dose Radiation Research Act of 2017", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled "Home Loan Churning Practices and How Veteran Homebuyers are Being Affected", 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Thomas Lee Robinson Parker, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:30 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Thomas Lee Robinson Parker, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michael Lawrence Brown, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, January 10

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of S. 140—To amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of S. 139—FISA Amendments Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Subject to a Rule).

Extension of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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