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No. 9

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 16, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ALBIO SIREs to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, 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.

### MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, 45 years ago this month, the Supreme Court of the United States offered its infamous Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion on demand in this country. While many abortion activists celebrate this anniversary as a victory for so-called women's health, it represents a particularly somber occasion for those of us who advocate for life.

Since that 1973 ruling, more than 60 million unborn children in this country

have had their lives terminated by abortion. To say this is a tragedy is an understatement—60 million.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that I am unapologetically pro-life. I believe that life begins at conception and that we should work harder to build a culture that values life at every stage.

While not everyone shares my convictions about life or on certain policies surrounding rights of unborn children, our pro-life momentum is still strong. This Friday, thousands of Americans will gather just outside of this building at The National Mall to participate in this year's March for Life, an annual event where the pro-life community comes together to advocate for the lives and rights of unborn children. Some of the activists gathered here on Friday will have traveled from Alabama's Second District, as far as 900 miles, to stand up for life.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to send a message to the thousands of pro-life marchers, especially those from southeast Alabama I have the privilege of representing in Congress:

Thank you. Thank you for your dedication to this most worthy cause. It is our responsibility to speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves. I am deeply grateful for your commitment to this incredibly important duty, and I, along with my pro-life colleagues here in Congress, stand with you.

My promise to you is that I will continue to use this seat in Congress that I have been given to be a vocal advocate for the unborn. I will continue to join you in defending the defenseless. Our momentum is strong, especially during this time each year, but our work is far from being complete. I won't stop fighting until our laws and policies protect life at every stage, and I hope you won't either.

### THE TRUMP SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, as of this week, the Trump shutdown has become the longest government shutdown in American history.

It is bad enough that the President has doubled down on his demand for a senseless, expensive, and hateful border wall. It is even worse that he is holding Federal workers hostage, needlessly inflicting pain and suffering on dedicated public servants.

Last week, Federal workers began officially missing a paycheck. These 800,000 workers, both employees and subcontractors, are fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters. They have mouths to feed and mortgages to pay. They must put groceries on the table and gasoline in their car. Yet because one person in Washington decided to throw a political temper tantrum over a foolish wall, many of them are now having to cut expenses, endure sacrifices, and make tough choices in their family budgets.

The latest outrageous development occurred when, last week, Donald Trump threatened to take disaster funds away from the Army Corps of Engineers to pay for this wall. He even suggested taking funding away from Puerto Rico as the island struggles to recover from historic hurricanes, the aftermath of which cost 3,000 of our fellow citizens their lives.

Think about that. The President wants to take money away from Americans who are suffering from natural disasters in Puerto Rico, Texas, California, and elsewhere to fund a hateful wall aimed at demonizing immigrant communities. This is shameful and it is immoral.

Now we have gotten word that HUD may be using the shutdown as a predicate for reducing disaster funding to

□ 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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the people of Puerto Rico. Last week, HUD put out a surprise notice claiming that the shutdown is preventing them from proceeding with disaster recovery efforts, funds Congress allocated on a bipartisan basis almost a year ago. Yet HUD's very own contingency plans dictate that shutdowns, under no circumstances, should affect disaster-related operations.

I fear that Secretary Carson is playing politics with the shutdown and the people of Puerto Rico, putting the island's recovery at risk.

Mr. Speaker, this shutdown must end. The President's shameful insistence on a border wall is harming our workers and families. Everything, from the food we eat to counterterrorism, to travel safety, is impacted by the Trump shutdown. And now HUD is threatening to inflict greater pain on those who have survived natural disasters. That is unacceptable.

Mr. President, the American people implore you: Stop holding Federal workers and other Americans hostage. Stop threatening parts of our Nation that are recovering from natural disaster. Don't put people's lives at risk. Do your job. Reopen government, and get back to work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF FORMER GOVERNOR NATHAN DEAL

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an individual and honor an individual who was a Member of this body for many, many years from the State of Georgia, and he just ended his term as Governor for the last 8 years, Nathan Deal.

I saw yesterday, as I was looking through some pictures on social media, there was a picture that showed, as it should properly show when you think of Nathan Deal, him leaving the capitol for the last time, arm in arm with his beloved Sandra. That is the way they have governed for the last 8 years.

Nathan Deal has brought a sense of accomplishment; he has brought a sense of pride. Not only did he do that up here in the Halls of Congress where he served us ably and was on the Energy and Commerce Committee and took the interests of Georgia to heart in everything that he did, when he went back to Georgia, though, and became our Governor, I believe he hit his stride that has brought Georgia so far in the last 8 years.

When he first got there, I was in the State legislature, and I was honored that I was part of his team as the Governor's floor leader.

At that time, our rainy day fund was basically nonexistent. It is now over \$2 billion.

At that time, we had a fledgling beginning industry in films and motion pictures that has now become the envy, literally, of the world and one of the top places in all of the world to make blockbuster films.

He has taken an aging infrastructure and transportation plan and, now, has given hope to that transportation plan in Georgia.

But also, when I came here to Congress, and last Congress, we were able to work on criminal justice reform with this President and this administration. But in many ways, it would not have happened up here if it had not been for Governor Nathan Deal.

When he went to Georgia, he began to look at our criminal justice system. He began to look at how we were treating those who needed a second chance, who needed the hope that was provided in a system that was not providing what it needed to.

Nathan Deal took a stand, and Georgia has become an international leader in how we deal with our criminal justice system and how we take care of those individuals. We have seen crime rates decrease; we have seen families put back together; we have seen a better Georgia.

Personally, I have known Governor Deal for almost 35, 40 years. I played basketball with his son. He and Sandra and my mom and dad would actually work in the concession stands together at North Hall High School many years ago.

That is Nathan Deal. He has never been afraid to do the hard work, to not take the claim or the glory, but he just got the job done. As Governor, he raised civil discourse in Georgia. He made people think, and he made our State better.

So, yesterday, as I saw the picture of Governor Deal and Sandra arm in arm, I could not help but think how this man has touched so many lives, including my own, with phone calls, with encouragement to be a better person, and also, in our case, to be a better State.

Georgia has been honored to have Nathan Deal as Governor for the last 8 years. We are looking forward to a new administration with Brian Kemp, but I will have to say, those are big shoes to fill.

Governor Deal, you did us proud.

RECOGNIZING CAROL MARTIN, GAINESVILLE CHIEF OF POLICE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Carol Martin, Chief of Police of the City of Gainesville. Chief Martin is retiring on January 31, 2019, after protecting and serving our city for over 32 years.

First joining the Gainesville Police Department in January 1987 as a patrol officer, Chief Martin has dedicated her life to public safety. She has advanced through the ranks of investigator, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and major, until August of 2014, when she made history as the very first female chief of police for the city of Gainesville.

Chief Martin's career in law enforcement has been marked with excellence.

In 1997, she was recognized by the Gainesville Elks Lodge as Police Chief of the Year; and in 2003 and 2007, the Gainesville Kiwanis Club presented her with the John W. Jacobs, Sr., Memorial Award for her excellence in law enforcement.

She is an active member of the International and Georgia Associations of Chiefs of Police and serves as a board member on the Gainesville Rape Response and the Georgia Law Enforcement State Certification Program.

Her résumé is superseded only by her character. For over three decades, Chief Martin has made great sacrifices to serve and protect our communities. As the son of a Georgia State trooper, I understand firsthand the dangers that our law enforcement officers face each and every day. Chief Martin has continually put her life on the line so that the people of Gainesville do not have to fear for their own.

I want to congratulate Chief Carol Martin on her retirement. But most of all, I want to thank her for her dedicated life of service to the rule of law and protecting the people of northeast Georgia and for being a dear friend of mine.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ALFRED NEWMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Navajo code talker Alfred Newman, who passed away this week.

Mr. Newman was one of the last surviving members of the Navajo code talkers, a group of brave Navajo marines who used their native language to create unbreakable codes that were used in the Pacific during World War II.

He served our Nation with honor, from Guadalcanal to Iwo Jima. He was recently honored with other code talkers at a White House ceremony and was awarded the Congressional Silver Medal for his service in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, Alfred Newman was a hero. He and his fellow code talkers saved the lives of countless troops with their unbreakable codes, and they deserve our respect and honor every day.

My prayers are with Alfred's family and loved ones and the entire Navajo Nation as they mourn the passing of this hero and celebrate his life.

□ 1015

HONORING MILTON BLUEHOUSE, SR.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to hear of the passing of former Navajo Nation President Milton Bluehouse, Sr.

Raised in a traditional Navajo lifestyle, President Bluehouse graduated from Ganado Mission School and served in the United States Army for 3 years.

Throughout his life, he represented the interests of his community on the

Tribal Council before serving as president for a short time.

He had many ambitious plans to assist at-risk youth, create good-paying jobs, and expand programs to improve safety in Tribal communities.

President Bluehouse will always be remembered for his commitment to the Navajo people and for ensuring the Federal Government upheld its obligations to the Tribe.

My prayers are with his family and loved ones and the entire Navajo Nation as they mourn his passing and celebrate his life.

#### IT IS TIME TO OPEN UP GOVERNMENT

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, it is time to open up government. We can no longer think that we are not having an impact on our economy. We can no longer think that the safety of Americans who fly in our skies or eat the food in America is not at risk. We can no longer imagine that the millions of families who are being impacted are not suffering.

It is time. This is the greatest Nation on Earth. It is the only one in my entire lifetime that I have seen that has closed down government. Our counties don't do it; our States don't do it; our cities don't do it. But the greatest Nation on Earth can find a way to close down government?

This should never, ever happen in our country. We should never put our citizens through this. We have the money to pay the staff. We have to find ways to get out of this problem and never let it happen again.

#### RECOGNIZING MICHAEL WISNER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a Franklin High School graduate from Venango County on earning a prestigious fellowship.

Michael Wisner, who graduated from Franklin High School in 2015 and is expected to graduate from Princeton University in June, has been awarded the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship following a nationwide contest.

The fellowship is funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Howard University right here in Washington.

The Rangel Graduate Fellowship is a program that aims to attract and prepare outstanding young people for careers in the Foreign Service, where they can help formulate, represent, and implement U.S. foreign policy.

The Rangel program selects outstanding fellows annually in a highly competitive nationwide process and supports them through 2 years of graduate study, internships, mentoring, and professional development activities.

Michael is completing certificates at Princeton in African studies, history

and the practice of diplomacy, and Latin American studies.

He spent a summer abroad in Greece and a semester abroad in Argentina, where he worked as an English as a second language instructor. Since 2016, he has taught English as a second language at the resource center of Catholic Charities in New Jersey.

Impressively, he also worked with Engineers Without Borders to design and install a water system in Peru. As part of the project, he co-led a 12-person team to author a Spanish language water system manual for community use.

During his time at Franklin High School, Michael was committed to academics, sports, and community activities. He was named salutatorian of his class. He played football and was captain of the team. He was also a wrestler and attained the rank of Eagle Scout with Boy Scouts of America.

Michael is the son of Tom and Nancy Wisner of Polk, Pennsylvania, in Venango County.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for American men and women who are committed to serving this country at home and abroad. I have no doubt that Michael will excel in his fellowship and help promote positive change globally. I congratulate Michael Wisner on this outstanding achievement, and I wish him the best as he pursues this opportunity.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the stories of hardworking Granite Staters who are feeling the pain of this shutdown on its 26th day.

Middle-class families in New Hampshire are suffering because politicians in Washington can't complete the most basic task of governing. They are fed up with the gridlock and endless delays. They are exhausted by the partisan political excuses. They just want us to do our jobs and reopen the Federal Government.

This weekend, I met with an air traffic controller from Derry. He told me that his coworkers are not going to be able to pay their mortgages and keep up with household bills if the shutdown goes on any longer. He explained that they are intensely proud of the service they provide to the American people and simply want to do their jobs and get paid on time. Is that really too much to ask?

Mr. Speaker, let's reopen our government for the sake of every Federal employee who works tirelessly to keep the traveling public safe.

Two fire departments in my district, in Goffstown and Hampton, have applied for SAFER grants through FEMA. They needed the process to begin in December in order to get approval at town meetings in March. The

shutdown has blocked the review of these applications.

Mr. Speaker, let's reopen our government so local fire departments and first responders can get the resources they need to protect our communities.

The spiraling effects of this shutdown are becoming more apparent each and every day. The Manchester Transit Authority is concerned about whether they will be able to keep buses running, since they haven't been able to draw on Federal funds since December.

In addition, crisis centers in New Hampshire haven't been able to access the funding they typically receive from the Office of Violence Against Women to assist survivors of sexual and domestic violence. That is completely unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, let's reopen our government so people can get to work on time and local organizations can continue to support victims of crime and abuse.

The President says this shutdown is necessary to protect the American people, yet every story I hear in my district demonstrates this shutdown is making us less safe. The longer our government remains closed, the less secure our country will be.

Mr. Speaker, this shutdown has shown us the worst of Washington, the dysfunction and the political gamesmanship that has no regard for people's lives. But it is also bringing out the very best of people in my State, their sense of decency and patriotism, their willingness to lend a helping hand to neighbors in need.

Granite Staters have been banding together to help Federal workers in a variety of ways, from offering no-interest loans to offering food donations. The Wood Island Life Saving Station Association is giving gift cards to Coast Guard personnel in Portsmouth to help them make ends meet while they work without pay.

People in our communities are coming together to support everyday Americans who are the victims of this shutdown, so why can't our leaders in Washington do the same?

To my colleagues from across the aisle, to our colleagues in the Senate: End this shutdown now. Let's move forward with the people's business. We need to reopen the government, and we need to do it before this bad situation gets any worse.

#### SUPPORTING EGYPTIAN COPTIC CHRISTIANS

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on National Religious Freedom Day to announce that I am reintroducing my resolution in the House in support of the Coptic Christians in Egypt.

I sponsored a nearly identical resolution last Congress, and I truly appreciate the support I received from more than 50 of my House colleagues who co-sponsored that resolution.

Egypt and the United States are important partners in the fight against terrorism in the region. Egypt's role at Camp David has led to some of the closest ties between the United States, Egypt, and Israel in their history.

I am reintroducing this resolution because the Egyptian Government can do more to protect its Christian citizens.

I have great respect for President el-Sisi, someone I have had the opportunity to meet with on two occasions, and I applaud the changes and message that el-Sisi has made in the areas of religious tolerance and plurality.

He continues to say and do the right things at the top level of government: having a good relationship with the Coptic Pope, attending mass on multiple occasions, getting some churches reconstructed while constructing the largest Christian cathedral in the Middle East in the new administrative center outside Cairo, and holding terrorists accountable for their atrocities.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is more to do. I stress to the Egyptian foreign affairs officials when I meet with them that this is not an attack on President el-Sisi. To the contrary, I acknowledge the support and partnership and friendship that we have with Egypt. But there is more that can be done in the area of protecting religious freedom and human rights, especially in the rural parts of the country.

The State Department's 2018 religious freedom report on Egypt names Minya province as a particular area for concern. The Egyptians routinely claim that they have no minorities in Egypt. "We are all Egyptians, and we all take our water from the Nile," is something that is frequently said.

But from my studies and in my view, there is a population in Egypt that does not have the same protections of rule of law as others. The country must do better in places like Minya province.

Following Secretary Pompeo's recent visit to Egypt, Hamza Hendawi of the Associated Press wrote: "El-Sisi's widely publicized policy to staunch sectarianism, however, has done little to protect Christians in rural Egypt, where Muslim extremists frequently attack their homes and businesses or force them to leave their homes after violent disputes.

"Critics and activists say discrimination against Christians there is often tolerated by local authorities and branches of the security agencies."

Mr. Speaker, my resolution calls on the Egyptian Government to end this culture of impunity for attacks on Christians and to undertake the arrest, prosecution, and conviction of individuals who carry out attacks on Copts and other Christians in Egypt. It calls on the government to hold accountable these local government officials who fail to enforce the law.

I stand with Secretary of State Pompeo and support his message that: "More work certainly needs to be done

to maximize the potential of the Egyptian nation and its people. I'm glad that America will be a partner in those efforts."

However, as the second highest recipient of American military aid in the world, the United States Government must use the tools that it has to hold our allies to a higher standard, if they are to continue to receive our aid.

I encourage Egypt to live up to the legacy of Camp David at home, working to achieve what former President Anwar Sadat called "permanent peace based on justice."

Today in America, we commemorate Virginia's 1786 adoption of Thomas Jefferson's Statute for Religious Freedom. In his proclamation today, President Trump urged all Americans to help "secure this blessing both at home and around the world."

All people around the world, regardless of their religious affiliation, deserve the same freedom to practice their chosen religion like we have enjoyed here in the United States of America for more than 200 years.

Permanent peace based on justice for the Coptic Christians of Egypt, that is my goal with this resolution.

As President Reagan said: "Respect for human rights is not social work; it is not merely an act of compassion. It is the first obligation of government and the source of its legitimacy."

Mr. Speaker, the respect for human rights and religious freedom is fundamental to the American position, and I will continue to promote this issue for Coptic Christians and all Egyptians who take their water from the Nile.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the irresponsible government shutdown that is hurting people not only in my district, but throughout California and our Nation. There is no good reason for our government to be shut down.

As national leaders, one of the most important responsibilities as Members of Congress is, in fact, to pass a budget every year on time and always to keep government open. But since 2010, we have seen a phenomena take place where groups on both sides think, well, there can be justification to shut down government for an agenda, usually politically motivated, and put all of our other responsibilities aside.

Over half the Members of Congress have been here less than 6 years.

I say this government shutdown, any government shutdown, is irresponsible. We are supposed to have a budget for our country, like every family has a budget and every business has a budget.

When the government shuts down, people suffer, families suffer, veterans suffer, all Americans suffer. Approximately 800,000 Federal employees are

currently furloughed or working without pay across the country.

Last Friday, in my home State of California, over 37,000 Federal employees did not receive their paychecks. That is irresponsible.

□ 1030

Yesterday was payday for the United States Coast Guard. Protecting our seas throughout our Nation is a vital part of America's national security. They got a paycheck with a printed "0" on it for their wage.

Our national parks are operating without full staff or guides. We have had, already, Americans die as a result of the shutdown, one in Yosemite close to my district.

The government shutdown is putting Americans in danger in other ways as well. By shutting down the government, the President is making border security—supposedly the reason for all of this—more difficult and has stopped paying key law enforcement personnel, including Customs and Border Protection officers, Federal prosecutors, immigration judges, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, and members, as I said earlier, of the Coast Guard.

This is a manufactured crisis in order to pursue a political agenda. It is just not right. It is not the way our government is supposed to function.

Within the United States, Homeland Security investigation agents who investigate human trafficking, drug smuggling, and transnational criminal gangs are working without pay. Does that make any sense? I thought this was supposed to be about national security. We ought to be paying these folks.

The Department of Justice has stopped processing discretionary grants that support State and local law enforcement, which is critical, I can tell you, in California, where we have many of these challenges. I have been listening to the people back home. That is our job. We are supposed to listen.

For 25 days now, the shutdown has been hurting the people of San Joaquin Valley. Middle-class families are suffering. We have IRS officers and large numbers of Federal employees in my district who are working or not working, and they are not receiving paychecks.

Many of these individuals have shared that they don't even know how they are going to be able to feed their children or pay their mortgage or their car payment, because the majority of families live—what?—from paycheck-to-paycheck. In fact, a group of Federal employees in my district is at the point of needing to take out loans and trying to find other jobs—which makes no sense—to keep themselves and their families afloat.

And the pain radiates, broadly affecting our local economies. Small businesses in downtown Fresno, Madera, Merced, and many other communities

throughout my district are being impacted, along with the Federal officers who are involved in the United States Department of Agriculture and the ability to operate their offices.

And there are those who contract with the government who are looking at not receiving paychecks. It is affecting our Nation's economy. And there is clear proof of that.

Mr. Speaker, this harm must stop. Let me say it again. There is no good reason for a government shutdown. We have our differences, to be sure, and we ought to be negotiating those differences on border security and other matters.

On December 18, the Senate passed a bipartisan agreement, unanimously, to keep the government open that was acceptable to both Chambers and the President, and it did not include funding for a border wall. The next day, the President changed his mind.

This shutdown is not about securing our border, but it is about consistently providing funding to improve our border security, and we can do that. We should do that.

I urge my colleagues to get to work. The American people expect better.

#### HONORING BOB KIRK

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a true public servant and a friend of mine, Bob Kirk, from Dyersburg, Tennessee.

Bob has served as an alderman for the city of Dyersburg for 51 years. He leaves this position this month not only with many years of dedicated service, but also as the longest serving elected official in the State of Tennessee.

Bob Kirk's service to the Nation and to our State started immediately following his high school graduation, when he dedicated 4 years to the United States Air Force. After serving in the military, Bob returned home to start his career at Colonial Rubber Works, where he was a loyal employee for 30 years until his retirement in 1996.

During Bob's tenure as an alderman, he played an instrumental role in securing a Tennessee Highway Patrol office in Dyersburg, and he has been present and active for so many economic wins on behalf of the city of Dyersburg.

In addition to his elected position, Bob has remained extremely active in numerous community organizations. Last spring, the Tennessee Municipal League honored Bob by creating a new award in his honor that will bear his name. It is the Bob Kirk Local Government Leadership Award. This award is going to be given annually to outstanding public servants who not only go above and beyond the call of duty, but also do a great job in serving their communities.

To Bob and to his wife, Carol, I speak on behalf of west Tennessee and the State of Tennessee and I say thank you for your service to the city of Dyersburg. Thank you for your service to Dyer County. You epitomize public service and your love for the community.

#### OPPOSITION TO BIGOTRY AND RACISM

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, proud to have the pre-eminent privilege of serving in the Congress of the United States of America, a proud American, and proud to say that, yesterday, this Congress went on record indicating that it is opposed to bigotry. It went on record saying it is opposed to hate.

I read to you the style of the resolution, H. Res. 41. It reads: "Rejecting White Nationalism and White Supremacy." That is the style of the resolution.

I will not read all of the whereases, but I do think it appropriate to read the resolved.

"Resolved, That the House of Representatives once again rejects White nationalism and White supremacy as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of the United States."

I thank all of my colleagues. I heard many of them speak, and much of what was said really touched my heart. I thank them for saying it, because it was made very clear yesterday that we reject bigotry. It was made very clear that bigotry will not be tolerated.

I am appreciative that this happened because there was a time in the history of our country where such a resolution would not have been brought before the House of Representatives. There was a time when people would deny the existence of racism and bigotry and hate, xenophobia, homophobia, anti-Semitism.

There was a time when people would have denied the existence, and then when you deny the existence of something, you don't have to deal with it because you say that it isn't there and it doesn't exist. Why would you deal with it? But yesterday, we went on record not only saying that we reject it, but we also acknowledged the existence of it, which is important.

I also have to single out just one Representative, Congressman BOBBY RUSH, who voted against the resolution—one vote against. I want to acknowledge that he was right. He was right because he said it wasn't enough. I concur.

I thank my colleagues for the resolution indicating that we oppose bigotry, but the real question that we have to answer at some point in the future is the corollary that flows from being in opposition to bigotry. The corollary is this:

If you oppose bigotry, if you reject bigotry, will you reject the bigot? If you reject racism, will you go on record rejecting the racist? If you are antithetical to anti-Semitism, will you go on record rejecting and opposing the anti-Semite?

This is the question.

I appreciate greatly and I am going to be eternally grateful to those who brought this resolution. It was timely. It was something that was necessary. But I also appreciate Mr. RUSH's position, because the corollary has to be addressed at some point.

We cannot continue to say we are opposed to something. That is a talking point. We have to get to the action item, which is: What are you going to do about it if you oppose it? What will you do about it?

What will you do about it when it emanates from the highest office in the land? What will you do about it? Will you simply say "I oppose it," or will you take a vote to indicate that it is an action item and you are going to reject it?

One step closer to impeachment, yesterday's resolution brought us one step closer. The clock is ticking. Impeachment is not dead.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### HERE ARE THE FACTS

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, during a meeting in the White House, our newly elected Speaker of the House interrupted Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, who was reciting statistics relating to the border.

"I reject your facts," Ms. PELOSI said.

Well, here are the facts:

Fact: Last year, 17,000 people with prior criminal convictions were stopped trying to cross our southern border.

Fact: The recent 8,000-plus caravan that attempted to breach our southern border contained over 600 confirmed criminal migrants.

Fact: Approximately 90 percent of the heroin seized by Customs and Border Protection is interdicted along the southwest border of the United States at and between the ports of entry, and Mexico continues to be the primary supplier of heroin to the United States.

Fact: The Department of Homeland Security reports a 73 percent surge in the deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl interdicted at the southern border over the last 2 years.

Fact: Over 72,000 Americans died of an opioid overdose last year.

Fact: In my home State of Kentucky, we suffer from the fifth highest opioid overdose rate in America.

Fact: The administration's request to Congress is not funding for a sea-to-sea

concrete wall, as some falsely claim. It is a commonsense request for a sophisticated border wall system, including strategically placed 30-foot steel barriers, technology, lights, cameras, sensors, and other infrastructure.

Fact: Currently, there are 700 miles of physical barriers on our southern border, a measure 90 Democrats, including Barack Obama, Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, and CHUCK SCHUMER supported in 2006.

Speaker PELOSI, it is interesting you claim walls are “immoral,” when many of the leading voices in your party have a previous record of supporting physical barriers on our southern border. Do you consider them immoral?

Fact: Border walls work. The Department of Homeland Security reports that, where a wall was built, illegal crossings have dropped by 90 percent or more. For example, apprehensions of illegal aliens crossing the border in El Paso, Texas, dropped 72 percent in 1 year and 95 percent over 22 years. And veteran Chief Border Patrol Agent Gloria Chavez, a Hispanic American, not a political appointee, a career professional with the Border Patrol agency, has said that the newly constructed border wall in her El Centro Sector of California has already reduced illegal border crossings.

Speaker PELOSI, you are entitled to your own opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts. I certainly agree with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who say we must end this government shutdown and pay our Federal employees. It is wrong that these workers are missing paychecks, especially essential government workers who are required to work.

□ 1045

After all, many of these people are corrections officers, air traffic controllers, Federal court personnel, and Border Patrol agents. These are the very people who are charged with the responsibility of keeping the American people safe. That is why I cosponsor the No Work Without Pay Act, which would require us to pay these essential Federal workers during the pendency of a shutdown.

But as important as it is that we timely fund these patriotic Americans' paychecks, it is equally important, and perhaps more important, that we fund their mission. So by all means, we must end this government shutdown, but that objective won't happen when the Speaker of the House refuses to accept basic, irrefutable facts. It won't happen until both parties sit down and offer a proposal, and a compromise, and a counterproposal, something that the Speaker of the House refuses to do.

So my other friends on the other side of the aisle, many of them who I know are equally committed to protecting the American people, to Speaker PELOSI, and Senator SCHUMER: Stop the partisan games. Do your job. Protect the American people from drugs and criminals. End this shutdown, and fund commonsense border security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### SHUTDOWN STORIES

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

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call for an immediate end to President Trump's irresponsible and unnecessary government shutdown which has now entered its 26th day.

People in my home State of New Hampshire and across this country are suffering and they are put at risk because of this manufactured crisis.

One woman wrote into my office: “My two girls and I count on the auto deposit from their dad. If this goes on, we will not be able to buy food, pay bills, or buy gasoline.”

Another constituent wrote: “We are not okay with a shutdown for a wall or for any other reason. We are not pawns on a chessboard.”

The wife of a Coast Guard member spoke of the sacrifices that their family has already made for this country. And now they are facing the uncertainty of even being able to pay their mortgage.

We take an oath to protect and defend this country. Safety is our number one job. And, yet, air traffic controllers, TSA agents, DEA agents, and even, ironically, Border Patrol agents are not receiving their pay, and our safety is at risk.

One of the most heart-wrenching stories that I have heard is that domestic violence shelters in New Hampshire and across this country are cutting services to women and children whose lives are at risk. These stories go on and on.

Who in our society are truly being hurt by President Trump's shutdown: women and children; seniors; and veterans, whose health, safety, and well-being are put at risk by his intransigence.

Here in the House we have voted repeatedly to reopen the government and the Senate should follow suit. I urge the President to end this shutdown so we can focus on the hard work that is expected of us by the American people.

Democrats and Republicans in this Congress agree that we need comprehensive immigration reform and 21st century border security.

Now is the time to reopen the government so that we can work together in good faith to advance meaningful legislation that will strengthen and protect our country. Mr. MCCONNELL and President Trump, do your job.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are again reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF NORVAL REECE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on Monday we recognize Martin Luther King Day and we celebrate his legacy of civil rights and his promotion of opportunity for all.

Today, I am proud to recognize an individual from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who has spent his life and career dedicated to the advancement of equality.

Norval Reece of Yardley remembers witnessing Dr. King's “I Have a Dream” speech and marching with him on the third march from Selma to Montgomery. He worked closely with Dr. King to enact change and in 1967 spent several hours with Dr. King in Philadelphia.

Norval credits his devotion to civil rights activism to his Quaker faith. He served in India with the American Friends Service Committee, and later continued to work on their behalf upon his return home. He later became a successful businessman, building his own media company that helped bring cable television to then-Communist Poland.

Mr. Speaker, Norval's life and dedication to the service of others is truly inspiring, and we thank him, his wife, and their sons, Tim and Stockton, for their service to their community and our country.

#### RECOGNIZING THE FOOD CENTER AT THE MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a faith community in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that is going the extra mile to minimize the negative impact felt by Federal workers and their families during this prolonged government shutdown.

Last Friday, an estimated 800,000 Federal employees missed their paychecks. Understanding the undue hardship these Federal employees are facing, the Food Center at the Morrisville Presbyterian Church stepped up to the plate, opening their door to furloughed Federal workers and their families with the opportunity to receive food.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly blessed to represent such thoughtful and compassionate constituents.

As I did in this same exact spot yesterday, I urge my colleagues to put aside their differences and reopen our government. Our inaction is putting Federal workers in an untenable position.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to the Reverend Rachel Rhodes and all the staff and volunteers at the Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church for their work. Each and every one of them makes our community a special place.

#### STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, January is Stalking Awareness Month, and I rise today to bring attention to the critical need for action to empower survivors and protect victims of this crime.

Yesterday, I proudly joined my friend and colleague Representative STEPHANIE MURPHY from Florida along with Pennsylvania Senators PAT TOOMEY and BOB CASEY to reintroduce the Combat Online Predators Act.

This bill would increase criminal penalties for the stalking of children and help ensure law enforcement officials evaluate and update practices to combat online stalking of children.

Mr. Speaker, there are few things more sinister than preying on innocent children. Millions of Americans, including the most vulnerable among us, are harmed each year by stalkers. Here in Congress, we must work in a bipartisan manner to eliminate the digital footprint of predators to protect the kids in our communities and in our Nation.

I am deeply grateful for the support and advocacy of the Zizzo family of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who serve as an inspiration for this piece of legislation, the Combat Online Predators Act, and for survivors everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I pledge to work with all of my colleagues, Democrat and Republican alike, to advance this legislation and other solutions to stop stalking in all of its forms.

#### DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS MUST COME TOGETHER TO RE- OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a freshman who came here to get things done on the 26th day of the longest government shutdown in American history.

For 26 days, we have had to explain to 800,000 dedicated, patriotic Americans why we will not pay them for their service to our country, even as they must keep paying for their rent, their medicine and their kids' educations.

For 26 days, we have had to explain why small business owners can't get loans; why food safety inspections are suspended; why lines are growing and terminals are being shut down at our airports; why we are willing to jeopardize the safety of air travelers; why we can't protect our National Parks from desecration; and why, if securing our country is so important, we aren't paying the Coast Guard, and Customs and Border Protection officers whose job it is to secure it.

In the last few days, I have been hearing from college students in my district who have until February 1 to apply for financial aid, but they can't access their tax transcripts from the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask: Why are we doing this to ourselves? The President says it is because of border security. But if we are honest, we know that that is not what this is about. If getting \$5.7 billion for a border wall is important

enough to inflict this much suffering on Americans, why didn't the President pick this fight in the 2 years when his party controlled both Houses of the Congress?

Why is he doing this now? I think we know the answer. I fear that for the President the chaos is sometimes not a means to an end, but an end in itself. He doesn't want a wall, he wants a fight over the wall; not a compromise to open the government, but a conflict that dismantles the government. And that raises the stakes for all of us.

For this is not about how we secure the border, as important as that is to all of us. It is about how we govern our country. We have a chance now to say, once and for all, Presidents are entitled to try to persuade us to support their priorities, but if they fail to persuade us, they are not entitled to shut the government down to get their way.

None of us, not Democrats or Republicans, are entitled to hold hostage the basic functions of our government to force our will on others. And if we give into this tactic now, it will be used again, and again, and again. We will have chaos in our government for as far as the eye can see.

So how do we solve this problem? We will not solve it by abdicating our responsibility in the Congress and waiting for the President to agree on something. If we wait for that, we will be waiting forever.

We will not solve it by encouraging him to use emergency powers or to use our military to defy the Congress. That would tear another hole in our constitutional fabric.

We will solve it when the House and the Senate Democrats and Republicans come together to say: This is not how we do business in a democracy.

Mr. Speaker, instead of enabling this abdication of responsibility by the White House, let us rise to our responsibility in the Congress. Let us work together to reopen the government by passing the same bills we were all willing to vote for across party lines last year, and then let's sit down together as adults to talk about immigration and the border as part of the debate about funding the Department of Homeland Security when both sides can put their ideas on the table and find common ground.

If we do that, we will not only address border security, we will break this pernicious practice of taking the American people hostage when we don't get our way.

We can make this the shutdown to end all shutdowns.

#### LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I grew up in a small town in Kansas, and perhaps the most respected person in the city was our family physician, Dr. Norman Oberholtzer.

Dr. Oberholtzer delivered my brother, my sister, and, of course, me. He saved my life. He had saved many people's lives. By the time I was in 9th grade, I knew I wanted to be a physician just like Dr. Oberholtzer. I worked hard and with the support of my family and friends was able to get into medical school, and by the time I was a second-year resident, I was supposed to decide what type of physician was I going to be.

Go back to February of 1987, and we had our first baby, a little girl named Lauren. And the second she was born, the moment I heard her first cry, I said: This is what I want to do. I want to deliver babies the rest of my life.

So as an obstetrician for the next 30 years, every day I got to see 10, 20, 40, sometimes 50 pregnant women. It was a great experience and there were some very special visits that I really looked forward to with those moms. Their first visit for a first-time mom was always a special moment.

The moms came in. They had a twinkle in their eyes and they may have been throwing up for 3 or 4 or 5 days already, but there was still a sparkle in their eye and excitement.

□ 1100

Sometimes I would get to do a sonogram at that first visit. Believe it or not, about a month after conception, Mr. Speaker, you can see a baby's heartbeat. They would come back at about 12 weeks for their next visit. By then, their nausea was improving, and we could hear a baby's heartbeat on the Doppler for the first time.

They came back again at about 18 weeks, and I would ask them: Do you feel the baby move yet?

Again, the mom's eyes would sparkle that they are feeling that baby move. I would notice when I would touch the mom and when I would touch the baby, the baby would push back. If there was maybe a brother or a sister in the room, if that brother or sister spoke, I could feel the baby move, and I could actually hear the heart rate increase of that little baby inside that mom.

Then, of course, later on, the favorite moment of my entire life was always getting to hear that first cry of that newborn and give that baby to a proud mom and dad.

So those are great, great times.

Mr. Speaker, I am often asked when I think life begins. I hope you can relate from the stories I just shared that I don't have any other choice but to believe that life begins at conception and that those babies are people, and they deserve our respect and our protection.

Mr. Speaker, this week, we will be welcoming 200,000 people to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life.

I especially salute some students who are coming from Beloit, Kansas, and Concordia, Kansas. Like many students, they will be riding a bus for 24 hours. I am so proud of them, and I look forward to seeing them. I appreciate their efforts to put their words into actions.

Mr. Speaker, as a doctor for over 25 years, I have delivered thousands of babies. I certainly understand the responsibility I have as a Member of Congress to protect the life of the unborn. In the last 2 years, this House, thanks to a Republican majority, has passed countless bills to limit abortion, end taxpayer-subsidized abortion, and prohibit abortions of unborn babies over 20 weeks. Unfortunately, these bills never made it to the President's desk.

Today, the United States is one of seven countries in the world that allows babies old enough to feel pain and survive outside the womb to be torn limb from limb. This list of seven includes China, North Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, and a list of other human rights offenders that our Nation, this country, should not be proud to be part of.

Each year, more than 600,000 abortions are performed across this country, costing our country precious lives. The fact is, only one in seven Americans support legal-under-all-circumstances *Roe v. Wade*, and still, Congress refuses to act.

Over the course of my first term, I made it a top priority to fight for those who can't fight for themselves, and I will continue to do so. Abortions are an injustice to the unborn and are a complete disregard for life. Congress should prevent taxpayer money from ever being funneled into immoral organizations like Planned Parenthood and finally put an end to abortion. I will unapologetically stand with the children, with these babies, who do not have a voice of their own to fight.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DIONNE PHILLIPS BAGSBY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Dionne Phillips Bagsby.

Dionne was a very strong leader in the Fort Worth community. She served as a role model to so many people, including myself, and she really was driven by her work to desegregate the Fort Worth schools when she first came to Fort Worth. That really spurred her to run for the county commissioner's seat in precinct one in 1988.

When she ran, she became the first woman and the first African American to become a Tarrant County commissioner. She did a tremendous job for Tarrant County and the city of Fort Worth.

Throughout her 16-year tenure, Dionne fought to improve public education and increase access to health resources for women and children. Her former precinct administrator, who is now the county commissioner, Roy Charles Brooks, said it best when he said that Dionne was not a politician, she was a public servant.

In 2005, I was proud to be a part of the Texas Legislature and honor her for a lifetime of service.

Again, she was a mentor and mentored so many young women throughout Fort Worth who sought to replicate her success. She helped them aspire to careers that would challenge the norm. She always encouraged those young women to never give up. Dionne broke barriers for the African American community, for women, for the disadvantaged, for the disabled, and for so many others, including myself.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you and will be honest with you, if you ever met Dionne, you will know that she was very much into straight talk. She did not mince words, and she always cut right to the chase. But I will also tell you, as I mentioned before, that Dionne was a tremendous mentor.

When I was elected to the State Legislature in 2004, Dionne was the first person to call me up, and we went and had lunch. When I got married later, she called my wife and me up, and we went and had lunch with her. When I came to Congress and was elected in 2012, she was one of the first people to call me up, and she; Lorraine Miller, who was a former Clerk of the House here; my wife; and I all went and had dinner. She was more than happy to dispense good advice that was very, very helpful to me.

Mr. Speaker, Dionne was also very instrumental in bringing a lot of firsts to Fort Worth. I mentioned her work with the schools, her being the first Black and first woman on the county commissioners court. But her legacy still lives today through The Links. She was one of the legacy members of The Links in Fort Worth. The Greater Fort Worth Area Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, she got a national charter for that venerable organization and had the first meeting in her living room in southeast Fort Worth.

Mr. Speaker, if you ever went to any of Dionne's receptions while she was still in office between that 1988 and 2005 time period, you will know that one of the things that she liked to do was give shout-outs. She gave shout-outs to everybody from people in her family to the person who was her trainer.

I am going to give a shout-out to some of her family members and special friends today—and everybody back home, please forgive me if I have left out anyone—her daughter, Dionne Anne Jones; her son, Jimmy Bagsby; her husband who preceded her in death who was also on the Fort Worth City Council, Jim Bagsby; her grandchildren, Kirbe, Josiah, Kelli, and Elijah; and her brother, Paul Phillips.

She had so many friends whom she would like to give shout-outs to, including one who preceded her in death, Dr. Erma Johnson Hadley, her dear friend; Norma Roby; Bob Sanders; Jesse Gaines; again, Lorraine Miller; Gwendolyn Morrison; Viney Chandler; and, again, County Commissioner Roy Charles Brooks, who was also someone Dionne mentored and who was her precinct administrator before he became

county commissioner. He also was a very, very dear friend.

We lost a giant in Fort Worth by losing Dionne. She will be missed because she was a friend to so many and always had so many colorful, wonderful, and humorous things to say. But I can tell you that our city is better off and our county is better off because Dionne Bagsby moved to Fort Worth with her husband and helped make it a better place for everybody.

#### MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with the hundreds of thousands of Americans who are traveling to Washington for the 46th annual March for Life.

Fighting for the rights of the most vulnerable Americans has been my most precious responsibility since long before I was elected to Congress. Most notably, I can remember marching to defend our unborn children when I was pregnant with my son Stephen in January of 1990. Last year, I was proud to march just days after my first granddaughter, Isabella Marie, was born. This Friday, the day of the March, we will celebrate Isabella's first birthday.

Again and again, I am reminded that life is beautiful, that children are a blessing, and that we must do all we can to support our Nation's mothers.

Though now we have a divided Congress, there is still so much we can do to lift up women and children. This month, my colleagues and I called on President Trump to veto any legislation that weakens Federal policies against abortion.

We are fortunate that the administration is taking action to protect life. The President has reinstated President Reagan's title 10 protect life rule, so that our tax dollars don't fund abortion providers like Planned Parenthood and others. This is widely popular policy.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, new public polling shows that millennials prefer that their tax dollars go to federally qualified health centers rather than abortion providers like Planned Parenthood by a 3-1 margin. Only 7 percent of millennials share the position of the Democratic Party platform that abortion should be available without any exceptions and funded by your tax dollars.

The administration is heeding the concerns of the American people. Just last month, the National Institutes of Health announced it will fund up to \$20 million to find alternatives to using human fetal tissue in research projects. The U.S. Government should end all contracts that use baby body parts. We must preserve the integrity in scientific research by protecting pregnant women and their children.

This month, I am introducing two bills to defend life. The first is the

Born Alive Act, which will require all healthcare providers to give babies who survive abortions the same level of care as other newborns and to ensure that they are immediately admitted to a hospital. The illegal fetal tissue trafficking industry profits most from abortions that increase the likelihood of a live birth. Congress must provide born-alive infants with lifesaving care, not exploit, kill, and sell them to the highest bidder.

I am also introducing the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act, or PRENDA, which will prohibit sex-selection abortions or forcing a woman to obtain a sex-selection abortion. The sad truth is that victims of sex-selected abortions are overwhelmingly female. It is estimated that 117 million girls are demographically missing from around the world due to sex-selection abortions, infanticide, and other forms of gender-based violence.

Girls are targeted for abortions not only in countries like China and India, but right here in the United States. These abortions victimize both mother and daughter and have no place in a just society.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much bipartisan work we can do to protect America's mothers and babies, and I hope we can act together to serve and protect all God's children.

I thank all of those who will march for life this week. I stand with them, and I will continue to fight and pray for the day when abortion is not only illegal but is unthinkable.

#### RECOGNIZING SAM JOHNSON FOR DECADES OF SERVICE TO UNITED STATES

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here today as the Representative for Texas' Third Congressional District. This district was first represented by William Thomas Clark, a general in the Union Army in 1870. Since then, 19 people have represented the district, including myself. Most recently, a true American hero, Congressman Sam Johnson, represented the Third District in the Congress for 28 years.

Prior to that, Congressman Johnson was in the U.S. Air Force. As I like to say, he shot down his first MiG in Korea. He served a ground tour in Vietnam, and in his second tour of Vietnam, on his 46th mission, he was flying his jet over an enemy gun position when his gun jammed. He did a circle around. He flew a second time, and that time, he was shot down. He then went to the Hanoi Hilton. There, he survived pernicious beatings and torture.

But, Mr. Speaker, do you know what? Despite the tremendous pressure that he was under, Sam Johnson was unique among the prisoners of the Hanoi Hilton in that he never broke; he never

gave in; and he never wavered in his patriotism, his faith in God, his courage, his sacrifices, and his commitment to this country.

America is eternally grateful for his service.

After he got back from the Hanoi Hilton, he came back to his beloved Shirley and his children back in Texas. He was in the Air Force for a while, and then he went into business.

But he wanted to continue to serve. In 1984, he ran for the Texas House of Representatives, and he was elected in the Third District in a special election in 1991.

Here in the United States Congress, he served for 28 years. He served on the Ways and Means Committee and continued to be an icon of virtue, a paragon of service, and a man whose shoes I can never truly fill but in whose footsteps I resolve to try to walk in.

#### RIGHT TO LIFE

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a fundamental human right, a right declared to be an inalienable right by our Founders who proclaimed we are all created equal and have the God-given right to live—to live freely and to pursue happiness.

Our Founding Fathers carefully articulated that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are the human rights that encompass the American way and are the logical foundation for freedom.

□ 1115

Unfortunately, it seems that Planned Parenthood has a logic problem. The CEO of Planned Parenthood tweeted just last week that the organization's "core mission is providing, protecting, and expanding access to abortion and reproductive healthcare." And she called the procedure of an abortion a "fundamental human right."

Mr. Speaker, abortion is not a human right. Abortion, to the contrary, is death. Abortion is the antithesis of life, the fundamental human right.

For years, we have been fed the same argument that Planned Parenthood operates to ensure women's health and prenatal care, but straight from their CEO, we know this is not the truth. Planned Parenthood's mission is abortion. Planned Parenthood's mission is death, and their actions prove it.

Planned Parenthood ended the fundamental right to life through 321,384 abortions in 2016. That is 881 abortive deaths per day. This means that every 98 seconds a life was extinguished by Planned Parenthood.

The CEO said in the same tweet that the organization "will never back down from that fight" to not only expand access to abortion but to deem it a human right.

Mr. Speaker, as freedom-loving Americans, we must stand on our core

principles that all are created equal, and we cannot back down from the fight to preserve life and to protect those who can't protect themselves.

I look forward to continuing work to ensure that our taxpayer dollars do not fund death and abortion, a procedure that denies the right to live and contradicts the core founding principles of our freedom and our Nation.

#### IN SUPPORT OF LIFE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support life.

Mr. Speaker, 46 years ago when I was a senior in high school, it was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, or the U.S. Supreme Court felt, that the United States Constitution required abortion be legal in this country, despite the fact that, for much of the past century, every State in the Union felt that abortion should be made illegal. This decision directly led to the deaths of over 40 million children who should have been living a full life.

John Adams said that our Constitution was meant for moral and religious people. How can a country built for a moral, religious people living under our Constitution allow this to happen?

We know how it happened. About 10 years ago, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg let the cat out of the bag. This decision was meant to prevent the growth in populations we don't want to have too many of, the progressives' dream.

But how did the progressives get their dream? Some politicians sometimes talk about science and say we don't take into account science enough around here.

It is interesting that, in 1973 when this decision was reached, we didn't have ultrasounds. Now, with ultrasounds, it is more apparent than ever that every new baby in that womb is a unique individual, with its heart beating, with its feeling pain. Nevertheless, we continue to ignore that science and continue to allow this horrible stain on our culture.

Indeed, right now, the United States is one of only seven countries to allow late-term abortions. There we are, in the same list as North Korea, China, and Vietnam. I guess you can kind of look back and see why, in the sixties, the progressives would talk about Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh and why they wanted the Communists to win in Vietnam. This is probably one of the reasons, the type of country that they like.

Our forefathers wanted this country to be a country that would shed a light on the world. Nevertheless, we appear to be going backwards. The new majority recently brought a bill to the floor to allow the United States to pay for abortions abroad again.

Is this what we want America to be known for: the United States telling

countries all around the world that abortion should be legal and the government should be paying for abortion? What a stain on the moral record of the United States of America.

This is the week of the March for Life. I would like to thank all the people from the State of Wisconsin who are there and come here diligently every year, hoping the people in this city, both the justices and the politicians, realize that this murder of almost a million people a year must end.

I would like to thank them and hope that this is the last year that we have to continue this debate and that, finally, by this year, this time, we one more time think that life is precious and our government will not continue to allow the premature snuffing out of life.

#### 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 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Thank You, O Lord, for giving us another day.

We call upon You this day to be with our Nation during these difficult times. Thousands are without work, services are diminishing, futures are increasingly precarious.

May Your spirit impel those who are empowered to do so to bring resolution to the current shutdown. In such a contentious time, may humility be manifest in the exchange of opposing positions, that all might find relief, and those charged with serving to secure our safe travel and our borders can be properly compensated in a timely fashion.

Lord, have mercy on us.

May everything we do be for Your greater honor and glory.  
Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BANKS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today marks the 26th day of President Trump's irresponsible and destructive government shutdown. Not only has the shutdown resulted in hundreds of thousands of Americans being put on furlough, but it has also inflicted long-term damage to our Nation's research and development enterprise.

During my 26 years on the Science Committee, I have witnessed the consequences of our Federal science and technology agencies being forced to shut their doors; namely, science suffers and U.S. innovation falters. We fall behind and fail to compete globally as our competitors strengthen their own investments in R&D.

Researchers who rely on regular funding from now-closed agencies are struggling to keep their projects afloat as they miss important deadlines and have crucial gaps in data. We are seeing contractors that work in coordination with the Federal Government being furloughed, with no promise of back pay when the President's temper tantrum is finally over.

We hope to get back on course. If we want to remain a global leader in innovation, we must end this shutdown.

#### REMEMBERING MOFFATT BURRISS

(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. Madam Speaker, South Carolinians are celebrating the life and achievements of Moffatt Burriss, Sr., who passed away last week at the age of 99.

He should always be remembered for his valiant service in the Army, liberating Europe during World War II. This was chronicled in his autobiography, "Strike and Hold." His heroism led to the capture of the Nijmegen bridge in the Netherlands. It is the basis of the movie, "A Bridge Too Far."

Upon his return, he established an extraordinary family, business success, and, as the first State house caucus leader, was a pioneer in developing the

modern Republican majority in South Carolina.

My wife, Roxanne, and I offer our deepest sympathy to the Burriss family.

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

#### DISASTER RELIEF AMENDMENT

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of the communities affected by the devastating wildfires in northern California.

These past few months have been a trying time for our community. Entire towns were destroyed, crops were burned, and thousands of families were left with nowhere to call home. My relatives' home was completely destroyed in the Paradise fire.

In my district, we had to wear masks because of the terrible air quality. Farmers throughout our region took a huge hit with missing livestock and crops ruined by thick ash.

Today, I am proud to lead a bipartisan amendment bringing \$1.9 billion in relief to our farmers for crop and livestock losses during the fire. This is incredibly important to my district, and it is just the start in helping our communities rebuild. It is also a perfect example of how we can put party labels aside, actually work together, and do what we were sent here to do: help people.

I know a lot of people in my district are frustrated we can't even work together to keep our government open. I am frustrated, too. Let this be an example and a sign that, out of tragic loss, we can remember what actually unites us.

#### BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the crisis on the southern border. I stand with the President and my colleagues in the House and Senate in their calls for securing our southern border.

As the former secretary of state of Texas, I was the chief liaison for the Texas Border and Mexican Affairs. My experience in that role taught me that our border was vulnerable, and, sadly, that remains true today.

While I was Texas' secretary of state and now as the representative for Texas' 25th District, I am encouraged by all that our Border Patrol and Federal law enforcement agents do to protect this great Nation. However, I am disappointed that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have abandoned reason and asked these patriots to do more with less.

The Federal Government should provide all resources necessary to secure our border, not make it more vulnerable. Our agents need more boots on the ground, more advanced technology, and, ultimately, a barrier to keep those who may not want to do the right thing out.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to come back to the table, negotiate in good faith, reopen our government, and protect the sovereignty of the United States of America.

In God We Trust.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR COAST GUARD

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to our Coast Guard. One of my favorite sayings in life is, if you want to talk the talk, you have to walk the walk.

Politicians like to talk, we like to give speeches, yet we talk about our Coast Guard, how noble they are, how brave they are, how they stand up for us, these strong men and women, but, currently, our Coast Guard men and women are suffering and are without pay.

It is also true for our FAA and our Federal corrections officers.

I ask everyone to support my bills, H.R. 350 and H.R. 419, so that they can get paid.

Whether Democrat or Republican, our duty as Americans is to treat these men and women who serve our great Nation with decency and with honor and respect, and may God always bless them.

#### REMEMBERING MEL STOTTLEMYRE, SR.

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, Mel Stottlemire is a household name for baseball fans across the country, but to us in central Washington, he is a hometown hero.

Hailing from the small town of Mabton in the Yakima Valley, Mel's career skyrocketed to the heights of becoming a star pitcher for the New York Yankees and one of the most impressive pitching coaches in all of baseball.

Mel shared his passion for baseball with all of those around him, from his sons, who followed in their father's footsteps to pitch in the major leagues, to the young players he coached at baseball camps in Yakima and in Ellensburg.

Throughout his career, he pitched for five All-Star teams. He went on to secure five World Series rings as a pitching coach before returning to his home State to coach for the Seattle Mariners.

Mel passed away on January 13 after a long battle with cancer, but his spirit, perseverance, and compassion will not be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mel Stottlemire and the legacy he leaves. My prayers go out for his wife, Jean, and his sons, Mel, Jr., and Todd, at this difficult time.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, New Mexicans are working tirelessly to provide for their families. They do not have the luxury of ignoring their bills until the President figures out what it takes to run a government.

President Trump clearly does not understand the anxiety that comes from choosing between a mortgage payment and gas in the tank or not being able to pay your bills at the end of the month.

I have heard from many in my district who are hurting because of the Trump shutdown, constituents like Andrea. Her family became a one-income household after her 4-year-old son was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and epilepsy.

Her husband is a furloughed USDA employee. Because of her son's medical needs, their family has already been living paycheck to paycheck, and the shutdown immediately put them into survival mode.

The shutdown must end. Democrats have put multiple bipartisan plans on the table to open the government. Madam Speaker, I implore MITCH MCCONNELL to let the Senate vote to end this shutdown for the hundreds of thousands of families being hurt, families just like Andrea's.

#### MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I believe there is a purpose and a God-given right to every life.

It has been nearly 46 years since the tragic Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade*, a decision that has denied the inalienable right to life to over 61 million innocent children.

While we mourn the loss of millions of innocent lives, we reflect on the work left to be done. We gather together this week for the March for Life to celebrate the progress of the last 2 years. From the continuation of President Trump's expanded Mexico City policy to the landmark Protect Life Rule, the pro-life movement is making major strides promoting a culture of life in America.

Friday, I will march alongside hundreds of thousands of Americans from all corners of this country in honor of

those who never had a chance to march for themselves, but leading the march will be students from Bishop Dwenger High School in my district in Fort Wayne, Indiana, who will be joining us there that day. I can't wait to join them tomorrow as they carry out this honor on The National Mall, and I ask my colleagues to join me as we reaffirm the sacred nature of all life.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Speaker, I stand with millions of Americans who say it is time to end this irresponsible and cruel Trump shutdown.

In Florida, where our borders are surrounded by water, we rely on men and women like Coast Guard Petty Officer Seth to keep us safe. Now, like 800,000 other government workers, our Coast Guard is not getting paid, and that leaves Officer Seth and his wife, Beth, and their two sons at home worried about money for food, for diapers, for paying their mortgage, for getting their gas.

Now, lawmakers, we can debate about what is needed for a secure border, but innocent people who show up to work every day to serve the public should not be held hostage by the political whim of a President.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, we were sent to Congress to lead, but this partial government shutdown is not leadership. It speaks to a bigger problem in Washington: the reluctance to reach across the aisle and serve in the best interests of our constituents.

Playing political games should not take precedence over securing our border and keeping Americans safe, but it seems to me that is exactly what is happening right now.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come to the table so we can find a solution to this partial government shutdown and make sure Federal workers get paid for the work they are doing and the work they have done.

This inability to come together on commonsense border security funding has gone on too long and affected too many Americans. We must put partisanship aside, secure our border, and reopen this government.

□ 1215

#### REOPEN GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, today, on the 26th day of the Trump

shutdown, I rise on behalf of Lauren, an El Pasoan in my district on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Lauren is married to one of our DEA agents, and he is one of nearly 10,000 Federal employees in El Paso. Every day, her husband puts his life on the line to serve El Pasoans and our Nation, and, last week, he missed his paycheck.

Lauren describes the shutdown as discouraging and scary. They are struggling to make ends meet for their family of three small children.

Lauren and her family, and the hundreds of thousands of Federal employees in America, should not have to face this dire reality and don't deserve this treatment.

We must reopen the government now and give our public servants the pay they have earned for their honorable work.

And I will repeat what I know to be true: The border has never been more secure or safer.

Madam Speaker, we, in the House, have voted on a number of bipartisan bills to reopen the government. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to come together, end this absurdity, have some compassion, and do the same.

#### MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, America is great because America is good. But I ask the question: What is good about terminating the God-given, sacred life of unborn Americans?

Madam Speaker, on Friday, thousands of students, pastors, priests, and patriotic Americans from all across our great land will gather here in our Nation's Capital to take part in the 46th annual March for Life.

Madam Speaker, written into the Declaration of Independence is our founding faith and principle that all are created by God, created equally, endowed by a creator, created as a gift, created as an American, to have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

However, since *Roe v. Wade*, we have fallen short of that national ethic by not acknowledging that life at every stage is precious, valuable, sacred, and ought to be protected.

Madam Speaker, this March for Life is a call to conscience, and it is a challenge for all of us to work toward a future where every life, born and unborn, is celebrated, cherished, and protected.

May God continue to bless those who are marching for their passion and their love for the unborn, and may God continue to bless these United States.

#### REOPEN GOVERNMENT

(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. Madam Speaker, the House will vote again today to reopen the United States Government and end President Trump's government shutdown.

It is unwarranted and wrong to force our Coast Guard, TSA, Customs and Border officers, air traffic controllers, and others to work without pay.

One of my neighbors who runs a small business in Tampa in her retirement years to support her son with mental disabilities advised me that: As a tax preparer, I cannot get responses from the IRS that affect my clients.

Another neighbor, who hoped to retire by year's end and is also running out of hope, says: We are told there is no more funding after January 18 for the courts, and our colleagues in the U.S. Attorney's Office were not paid today, although they stay on the job prosecuting criminals.

Our TSA officers, Customs and Border officers, and air traffic controllers at Tampa International Airport are outstanding. Twelve-year Officer Luis Mendoza advised me that: I have experienced previous shutdowns and close calls, but I really feel that this one is going to be a tough one to get through. The officers in Tampa are trying to hang in there because we do believe in the oath we took to protect the flying public and guard against threats. But many are trying to figure out how to get through this.

Madam Speaker, I urge our Senate colleagues and President Trump to take up our bipartisan bill and reopen this government.

#### MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 46th annual March for Life.

In Congress, I believe I have the responsibility to support life beginning at conception, which is why I voted last Congress to defend life and defund Planned Parenthood. However, I am disheartened this legislative body continues to funnel taxpayer money to the abortion industry.

The often repeated talking point that Planned Parenthood exists as a woman's health organization has now been refuted by its very own president. She had this to say about Planned Parenthood: "Our core mission is providing, protecting, and expanding access to abortion and reproductive healthcare."

Madam Speaker, I am a proud co-sponsor of the Defund Planned Parenthood Act, which reroutes Federal dollars to community health centers, where women can still get the care they need while protecting the sanctity of life. An organization whose core mission has taken the lives of 61 million unborn children should not be receiving taxpayer funds.

#### BE OUTRAGED

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I stand here today on behalf of southern Arizonans and all our Federal employees. I stand here as their public servant because I work for them. They have called, sent letters, and shown up in our offices, pleading for action. They are scared, and not because of immigration. They are scared they can't pay rent, and they are scared they might not be able to feed their children.

To our constituents at home, I am sorry, but be outraged.

It is outrageous that John from southern Arizona, a Customs and Border Patrol agent, is furloughed and worried about how he is going to keep the lights on.

It is outrageous that Cochise County Community College students, many of whom are veterans, are worried they may not receive their financial aid.

It is outrageous that over 900,000 Arizona participants in SNAP, 72 percent of them with children, are in jeopardy of losing their nutrition assistance.

Madam Speaker, the majority in this House has publicly stated our willingness to work with the President. We must reopen government. Be outraged, because I sure am.

#### DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUNDING

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

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, 2018 was a tough year for so many Americans. We had families and farmers and people all across California whose homes were destroyed, people who lost their lives, lost their farms, lost their businesses. In other parts of the country, there were storms and hurricanes that similarly devastated communities.

My home State of Hawaii was one of them. We were battered by natural disasters of all types last year on nearly all of our islands, from major flooding and landslides on Kauai and Oahu in April, an erupting volcano throughout May and June, and flooding and wildfires on multiple islands in August.

But, time and again, in Hawaii and across the country, people have proved their resilience and strength, living aloha, taking care of each other, even when they have lost everything.

Today, we are voting to pass funding that is sorely needed by communities like mine, where people are still struggling to get back on their feet with limited resources.

This bill provides funding for things like crop insurance, reconstructing facilities, water infrastructure projects, crisis counseling, rebuilding homes, small businesses, and more.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this necessary funding

bill and provide a helping hand to those whose lives will never be the same because of these disasters.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, this Trump shutdown is forcing servicemembers and retirees to go without pay.

Yes, our President is withholding Coast Guard pay because of his reckless demands. Who does that?

A constituent wrote to me: As a Coast Guard retiree, I am facing no pay during the shutdown. It is outrageous that, after 26 years of service, I face financial troubles due to my country not facing its obligations.

I agree. This is unacceptable for those who served our country, and it is unacceptable for those currently serving and not getting paid.

Can't we agree that supporting the Coast Guard is better than having a stalemate on a political issue?

We must take action to help our servicemembers and hardworking government employees, and our whole economy, which is being hurt even more than we thought.

Madam Speaker, how can the President think it is a good idea for national security to not pay those who protect us?

#### NO WAY TO RUN A COUNTRY

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Nevada's Third District, I rise today to say it is time to end the shutdown.

This weekend, I had the opportunity to meet with Federal workers in my district who are dealing with the very real consequences of this unnecessary shutdown.

One employee is now driving for Uber. Another one has been forced to sign up for food stamps at the age of 51.

A high-tech employer in Nevada who employs Federal contractors is dealing with his third Federal Government shutdown in 12 months. His highly skilled employees are sick and tired of the uncertainty and missed paychecks. If this shutdown persists, he will lose employees, which will not only hurt his company, but our overall economy as well.

Madam Speaker, this is no way to run a country. The government should never be shut down over a single policy, any policy.

#### END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, a concerned constituent recently sent me this hand-written letter about President Trump's shutdown:

"As an air traffic controller . . . I want you to know how the partial government shutdown is affecting me. For the last 2 weeks, we have remained on the job, dedicated to the safety of every flight. But we don't know when we will receive our next paycheck. . . .

"I was putting my 7-year-old daughter to bed and I could tell something was bothering her. She had heard my wife and I . . . worrying about our next mortgage payment and the credit card bills. . . . My daughter looked me in the eye and told me she was scared and what would happen if we couldn't pay for our home and our bills.

"I have been teaching her the value of commitment and responsibility. I have showed her that by hard work and excellence you can make a good life for . . . your family. . . . My daughter should not have to worry about bills when we have valuable jobs and are doing our work.

"Please, Representative DEAN, help me teach my daughter about commitment and responsibility and help end the government shutdown."

#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT LAWSUIT

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, while Republican attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act went down in flames, their Texas v. United States lawsuit seeks to subvert the will of the American people and take our healthcare away.

In December, a judge ruled in favor of Republicans, issuing a decision that would strike down the entire ACA. If that ruling stands, every American will lose vital protections, like those for people with preexisting conditions.

I have cosponsored Congressman COLIN ALLRED's H. Res. 14, which authorizes the House to intervene in this case and defend the law of the land, because my family and I, like so many others, are no strangers to the costs of preexisting conditions.

Madam Speaker, I am a two-time cancer survivor. Two of my four kids have Crohn's disease, and they have been living with it for 14 years. Bills upward of \$10,000 are not unusual in my household.

Despite all this, I consider us lucky. Why? Because, thanks to the ACA, my sons and I cannot be turned away or charged more because of our medical histories. All of that will change if Republicans and President Trump got their way.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas, Congressman ALLRED, for introducing this important resolution.

□ 1230

#### REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, this is day 26 of the reckless Trump shutdown. Coast Guard officers and their families are suffering; Border Patrol agents and their families are suffering; TSA agents and their families are suffering because the President has decided to hold 800,000 Federal employees and the American people hostage.

We are prepared to have a conversation about infrastructure on the border, prepared to have a conversation about personnel, and prepared to have a conversation about technology. We are prepared to have a conversation about border security in a comprehensive way; prepared to have a conversation about our broken immigration system and how we fix it in a bipartisan fashion.

But, Madam Speaker, we are not prepared to have a conversation about these issues in the midst of a reckless shutdown where the President has decided to hold the American people hostage and try to force us to pay a \$5 billion-plus ransom note.

Madam Speaker, it is time for the adults in the room to get their act together and reopen the government so we can continue the business of the American people.

#### ELECTING MEMBERS TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 46

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Ms. Lofgren, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. Deutch, Ms. Bass, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Jeffries, Mr. Cicilline, Mr. Swalwell of California, Mr. Ted Lieu of California, Mr. Raskin, Ms. Jayapal, Mrs. Demings, Mr. Correa, Ms. Scanlon, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Mr. Neguse, Mrs. McBath, Mr. Stanton, Ms. Dean, Ms. Mucarsel-Powell, and Ms. Escobar.

Mr. JEFFRIES (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 268, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019, AND WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 43 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 43

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 268) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-2, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. Clause 2(e) of rule XXI shall not apply during consideration of the bill. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, 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 in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of January 23, 2019, relating to a measure making or continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 43, providing for consideration of H.R. 268, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

The rule provides for consideration of the legislation under a structured rule. The rule makes in order 15 amendments from Members on both sides of the aisle. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. The rule also waives the requirement for two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of January 23, relating to a measure making or continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

Madam Speaker, I rise now in support of the rule for H.R. 268, our emergency disaster relief bill, to provide \$12.14 billion in recovery and relief assistance for millions of Americans suffering from the damage caused by recent hurricanes, typhoons, mudslides, flooding, earthquakes, and wildfires.

These national disasters follow decades of scientific warnings to Congress that accelerating climate change would bring us extreme weather events characterized by unprecedented ferocity and violence, and here we are in the middle of the global crisis of climate change dealing with profound natural catastrophes like these.

Last year, Hurricane Michael, the most intense hurricane ever to strike the Florida panhandle brought winds surpassing 125 miles per hour and gusts of up to 200 miles per hour, killing 45 people who were crushed and drowned by the hurricane, and inflicting \$40 billion in economic damages, and \$5 billion in insured losses.

In 2018, the people of California, who have lost 10 million acres of forest in the last decade to wildfires, experienced the deadliest and most destructive wildfire season in recorded history with more than 8,500 fires burning an area of 1,893,913 acres, the largest area of burned acreage ever recorded in a fire season in the United States of America.

An astonishing 7,100 structures burned to the ground. In July and Au-

gust, it seemed like the entire State was ablaze with the worst damage taking place in northern California which was declared a disaster area. Millions of people in San Francisco and the bay area were forced to wear gas masks to go to school or to go to work.

In November, yet another round of wildfires visited massive destruction of life, limb, and property on the people of California. One fire, the so-called Camp fire, displaced tens of thousands of people and killed at least 86 men, women, and children, burning many of them to death in their cars or as they sought refuge and tried to flee from their cars and run down the road.

The fire, which lasted many days, annihilated more than 18,000 structures and buildings and destroyed the entire town of Paradise, turning it into an inferno, a hell on Earth. This was in our country.

The same kinds of astonishing events that destroyed entire communities in Florida and in California were experienced by people all over America last year: hurricane devastation in Puerto Rico, Texas, and the Carolinas; unprecedented flooding and drought all over America; and typhoons in the territories, a catalogue of climate-change intensified misery and suffering that the entire Congress should see as calling upon the decency and resources of the American people to address.

The \$12 billion legislation the majority brings forward today in H.R. 268 will ensure that communities across the land can recover from these disasters with the resources that they need to rebuild.

The bill helps farmers suffering from crop and livestock losses, coastal communities rebuilding their infrastructure and preparing to weather future storms; dislocated workers, veterans, students, and other Americans displaced and uprooted by these catastrophes.

The bill invests in restoration of disaster-damaged forests. It sends aids to local communities to restore more than 250,000 acres of watershed. It funds restoration of rural communities. It offers \$600 million to continue disaster nutrition benefits to the hard-hit people of Puerto Rico, still reeling from Hurricane Maria, and it allocates critical funding for social services, mental health, education, nutrition assistance, and infrastructure resiliency in communities across the land.

We will rebuild our transportation systems with this legislation. We will repair housing. We will repair businesses and public infrastructure. We will repair and reconstruct hurricane-damaged Veterans Administration and Department of Defense bases and facilities across the country.

But the majority is not stopping there. We are not just offering aid to States and local communities across the land to rebuild and renew. We are reopening the Government of the United States so we can actually send this aid, so we can offer the expert

technical assistance these communities need, and so we can use the full apparatus of our government, including the currently closed down Department of Homeland Security and the Coast Guard where our hardworking personnel are not being paid, to get America moving again.

The National Governors Association, a bipartisan group of Governors from the 50 States called for an immediate reopening of the government that will allow for the release of \$85 billion in Federal aid and loan assistance that is being held up because a third of the government has been shut down. That is the Governors of our States, the people closest to surveying the damage on the ground.

Indeed, by reopening the Government of the United States of America, we are not just helping to address the disasters that have befallen our people across the country; we are ending the manmade disaster of the government shutdown.

And when I say it is manmade, I don't mean to use archaic sexist language, Madam Speaker. I am trying to be precise. This is the shutdown that one man, President Donald Trump, gave us and proudly claimed as his own in the December 11 White House meeting when he said, "I am proud to shut down the government, Chuck. I will take the mantle. I will be the one to shut it down," said the President of the United States. "I'm not going to blame you for it."

So far this shutdown that the President is proud to have delivered to his people has closed nine Federal departments: Department of State, Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Treasury, HUD, and Department of Transportation.

It has caused 800,000 Federal workers to be furloughed or compelled to work with no pay at all. It has threatened public safety in national parks which are overflowing with garbage and backed up waste in the bathrooms. It has threatened the tax refunds of millions of Americans. It has threatened 38 million low-income Americans who depend on SNAP benefits for proper nutrition for their families, and it has unleashed profound chaos and anxiety in the land.

In my congressional district, tens of thousands of Federal workers have been denied pay; air traffic controllers, Coast Guard personnel, NIH researchers, scientists at NOAA. I have heard from scientists at the FDA who have been furloughed and prevented from working on the prevention and containment of E. coli, salmonella, and insect infestation of our food supply.

I have spoken to an Army veteran who has spent the rest of his career after leaving the Army as an air traffic controller who now must raid his own retirement plan and his daughter's 529 college plan with a 10 percent penalty in order to pay his mortgage.

I have spoken to several constituents who have been forced to pay their mortgages with credit cards or loans from other family members, and I have talked to constituents who have been forced to forego medical treatments because they can't balance their checkbooks, when they are ordered to work but receive a pay stub like many have emailed to me, showing zero net pay, zero gross pay.

Hundreds of thousands of people who work for private contractors and small businesses working with the government across America have been injured as well; many furloughed, laid off, or fired with no real promise of making their money back, unlike the Federal workers who at least, I hope, should be getting their money back because of legislation that the majority has brought forward.

But the 172,000 Federal workers in my State are losing \$778 million every 2 weeks, and the State has already lost more than \$60 million in taxes.

The economic reverberations are awful, and they are spreading.

□ 1245

Now, this shutdown is a brutal assault on the separation of powers and the Constitution of the United States: It does not form a more perfect Union. It does not establish justice. It shuts the Justice Department down.

It does not ensure domestic tranquility. It defunds the Department of Homeland Security.

It does not provide for the common defense, but it robs our Coast Guard personnel of their paychecks.

It does not promote the general welfare, but it furloughs food inspectors.

It cheats civil servants out of their salaries; it promotes tax fraud by locking IRS agents out of their offices; and it idles environmental scientists, diplomats, air traffic controllers, and TSA agents who are calling in sick because they can't even afford to get to work now.

This policy is not in service of "we, the people," and that is why every public opinion poll shows the American people overwhelmingly rejecting the Trump shutdown, this scandalous assault on the public good.

In America, we don't hold the government or the workforce or the people hostage over a policy dispute. That is an absolute betrayal of the separation of powers and how government is supposed to work in the United States of America.

Now, my good friends across the aisle should be confronting the shutdown with us. We are asking them to join us in getting the emergency aid to our people all across the land and in reopening the government.

I know it wasn't their idea, Madam Speaker. I know they were backed into this situation by President Trump and FOX News and Ann Coulter, whom the President apparently saw on TV and then changed his mind and decided to shut the government down.

But now, I am afraid that our friends across the aisle have become enablers of the President, and now they own a piece of the shutdown. The party of Abraham Lincoln, who saved the Union with malice for none and charity for all, has become the party of Donald Trump, who shut down the government with charity for none and malice for all.

Let's put an end to it right now, Madam Speaker. In the age of climate change, we have no time left for these foolish and self-destructive games. We must act as first responders for the American people.

Our new majority in the House of Representatives is up to the task. We are ready to govern. We are ready to lead. Let's help our people recover from the natural disasters which have been exacerbated by climate change, and let's end the manmade disaster of the shutdown of our own government right now.

Americans know the truth of this situation. Let's act together to end the Trump shutdown, which the American people rightfully despise and deplore. Let's put the government back to work for the general welfare, starting with the millions of Americans still buffeted by the terrifying weather calamities of 2018.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), my good friend, for yielding the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to begin by congratulating my friend on his recent appointment to the Rules Committee, where we have already had the opportunity to interact with one another. And I want to again congratulate him for bringing his first rule to the floor as well. I know we are going to have a good relationship in the next couple of years as we work together.

Madam Speaker, we are back here in appropriations; only this time, the majority has taken what was an important, likely bipartisan disaster relief appropriations bill and turned it into a partisan football.

Last night, the Committee on Rules was scheduled to meet on a \$12.1 billion supplemental appropriations bill. At the last minute, the majority chose to make in order and self-execute an amendment that would tack on an additional measure, a continuing resolution to fund the government through February 8.

I don't know if I can fully convey how disappointed I am that the majority is seeking to play politics with this important issue and use an otherwise noncontroversial disaster appropriations bill as a vehicle to pass a controversial spending bill that is going absolutely nowhere.

Last year, the Nation faced a wide variety of disasters, from wildfires in the West to hurricanes that hit Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and the

Southeastern United States, and the volcanoes in Hawaii.

When disaster strikes, we have an obligation to help each other. I don't think there is a single Member of the House who would disagree with that fundamental principle.

Before the Rules Committee acted last night, we were on our way to a bipartisan bill that fulfilled that principle. But today, we are considering a partisan bill that will not resolve the shutdown, and it holds up crucial aid for disaster victims.

To that end, Madam Speaker, I have to say that the original version of the bill was actually very good. It took roughly what the House had passed at the end of the last Congress and added to it.

In December, we passed a bill that provided \$7.38 billion in disaster relief. The original bill up today would provide \$12.1 billion in disaster relief, with additional money going mostly to increase existing accounts and to provide nutrition assistance to Puerto Rico. Frankly, I was prepared to be fully supportive of that measure.

Moreover, I was especially pleased that the majority took the steps toward an open process. They issued a call for amendments, considered them, and made some very good amendments in order.

I want to commend Chairman MCGOVERN for taking these steps and giving Members on both sides of the aisle an opportunity to present the case for their amendments to the Rules Committee and, in many cases, to the full House.

But instead of moving forward on a joint disaster relief bill, the majority decided at the last minute to turn this noncontroversial piece of legislation into a controversial one by attaching a self-executing manager's amendment which adds a continuing resolution to fund the government through February 8.

Madam Speaker, I want to be clear. I want to end the government shutdown as well. I have said countless times on this floor and elsewhere that the primary responsibility of legislators is to fund the government and keep it open. Our constituents deserve no less than the full amount of government services we have promised them.

At the end of December, I voted in favor of a bill that would have done exactly that. It would have funded the government through February 8. It would have funded disaster relief, and it would have provided funding for border security. A majority of the Senate favored that bill, and the President had said he would sign it. Unfortunately, the Democratic minority in the Senate blocked consideration of the bill, a bill that could have stopped this shutdown before it ever happened.

This, now, is the fourth proposal by my friends across the aisle to reopen the government. Tomorrow, we will be likely considering a fifth proposal. Unfortunately, each of these items has in common the same flaws.

The Senate made it clear that it will not take up any spending bill that the President cannot sign, and the President has made it clear that he will not sign any bill that does not address border security. Yet my friends across the aisle continue to put forward measure after measure that simply do not provide funding for border security.

Today, the majority is seeking to one-up itself. They have taken a disaster relief bill to provide funding for victims of hurricanes, wildfires, and volcanoes, and they are attaching to it the same funding bill the House previously passed. The House may have passed it, but the Senate won't, and the President won't sign it.

Why, then, does the majority insist on using disaster victims as leverage to avoid addressing border security?

Madam Speaker, I want to reopen the government. I want us to provide for disaster victims, and I want us to provide for border security. We can accomplish all three of these things. The House can do all three of these things. In fact, the House has done all three of these things as recently as December. Why the majority only wants to accomplish one of those and wants to do so by using disaster victims as leverage is beyond me.

I know my friends think they can force the Senate and the President to bend to their will, but they cannot, and they will not. In divided government, negotiation and compromise are indispensable in governing. So far, my friends have engaged in neither.

Madam Speaker, today, we should be happy to provide needed relief to disaster victims. Instead, we are here on the fourth proposal from the majority on government funding and a fourth proposal that does not address fundamental problems, does not negotiate with the majority, and does not put forward a bill that can become law.

To quote the baseball legend and philosopher Yogi Berra, "it's *deja vu* all over again."

So I would suggest my friends go to the bargaining table with the United States Senate and with the President of the United States and see if they can actually work with the other bodies and help us come to some resolution, the differences between the two.

Madam Speaker, I urge opposition to the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), my friend, for his very thoughtful words and that kind welcome to the Rules Committee.

I have heard nothing but wonderful things about how he operates on the Rules Committee, and we are indeed fortunate to have him serving in this capacity. I really do look forward to working with him in the months and years ahead.

And I admit that it has been a somewhat awkward process trying to reopen

the government of the United States. This shutdown is unique for at least two reasons I can think of. One is it is already the longest shutdown in the history of the United States; and the second is that, when the shutdown began last year under the 115th Congress, it was the only time that the Congress adjourned during a shutdown.

So rather than stay and try to work it out, we were adjourned before recess, and the Congress went home, so it was left in the hands of the new majority and the new 116th Congress to try to get it going again, which is why, yes, it is the absolute first order of business for us to open up the Government of the United States.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA), who is also a new and a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, by providing more than \$12 billion in disaster relief to various Federal departments and agencies, we can ensure that communities have the resources and funds that they need to rebuild. H.R. 268 confirms our commitment to communities like my district and my State that are often hardest hit by natural disasters.

This rule funds crucial infrastructure projects that will better equip our hurricane centers in tracking, predicting, and forecasting large storms. It increases nutrition assistance programs, including \$600 million for Puerto Rico. In addition, over \$1 billion will be available to cover crop losses in many parts of the country.

But critical to implementing this bill is an amendment to reopen the government. Without the government open, Federal agencies, States, and communities are having difficulty accessing disaster aid. Anyone who cares about disaster relief should be voting for this bill, which will end the shutdown, open the government, and help people across this country who have been victims of national disasters.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from the State of Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), my good friend and former member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Oklahoma for yielding some time.

Madam Speaker, today I regretfully rise in opposition to this rule. The base text of the legislation before us is vitally important. I will admit that. It demonstrates bipartisan—in fact, I would say, really, nonpartisan—efforts negotiated over months between both sides of the aisle to provide desperately needed resources to communities ravaged by hurricanes, typhoons, wildfires, and other disasters in 2018.

But, unfortunately, Madam Speaker, as is becoming all too familiar under Democratic control of the people's House, Democrats are now pulling political stunts, jeopardizing these vital

resources from reaching communities who need them the most.

Last night, Democrats on the House Rules Committee stuck a continuing resolution into this appropriations package, thereby sealing the fate that it will not be taken up by the Senate nor signed into law by the President.

Madam Speaker, I find it shameful that House Democrats are playing partisan politics with disaster relief. It is so unfortunate and shameful that Chairman MCGOVERN and Rules Committee Democrats are jeopardizing these funds from reaching the areas that so desperately need them.

Communities pummeled by hurricanes in the Southeast, families devastated by wildfires across the West, territories struck by typhoons in the Pacific will now have to face the fact that help is not on the way.

Madam Speaker, when I learned that the Rules Committee was going to be considering this disaster relief package and allowing amendments on the legislation, I, frankly, was looking forward to coming to the House floor to commend Chairman MCGOVERN for allowing a vigorous process with amendment consideration.

□ 1300

Unfortunately, they chose to play politics with disaster aid, and not only is it disappointing, Madam Speaker, but it is wrong.

Vote no on this rule. Let us send a message to communities devastated by disasters that we will not play politics with the resources they so desperately need to rebuild.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington State for his comments. I would urge him to stick with his original instinct to support the legislation.

He said that he finds lots of important stuff in it, aiding the victims of hurricanes and earthquakes and floods and so on. All of that is absolutely right. That is why we are voting for it. We urge him to vote for it, too.

He says that we are playing politics in a shameful way, that we are engaged in partisan politics, by adding a measure to reopen the Government of the United States that will allow us to get aid to all of these people and to allow all our workers to be paid.

What I consider shameful is holding the Government of the United States of America, the Federal workforce, private contractors, and the people hostage over a policy debate.

We have never seen anything like this before, and now it is the longest shutdown in history.

So let's reopen the government. And we are willing to debate anything you want, but we can't do it in a hostage-taking, ransom-type situation.

Since when did opening the Government of the United States become a poison pill? I just don't see that.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR).

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman RASKIN for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule for H.R. 268, the Disaster Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2019.

This bill would provide over \$12 billion in necessary funds to help affected communities recover from natural disasters, including Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and farmers who lost crops due to Hurricanes Michael and Florence.

I would like to thank my colleagues for introducing the underlying bill and for making in order an amendment to prevent these funds from being used to plan, develop, or construct a new border barrier.

Sadly, this amendment is necessary because this administration wants to divert critical disaster aid meant for other projects to go toward border wall construction.

The reality is that our country needs help recovering from some of the greatest natural disasters we have seen in our lifetimes. Puerto Rico is still recovering from the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Maria, a storm that claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people.

I am glad to see that the underlying text provides \$600 million in disaster nutrition assistance to the island where over 3 million U.S. citizens reside.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, the underlying text, and this important amendment. Let's hold this administration accountable and ensure they do not deceive the American people by pulling a bait-and-switch.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), my good friend and a new member of this body.

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice the frustration of the residents of my district in Pennsylvania.

Two weeks after the start of the 116th Congress, the Democrat leadership in the House continues to refuse to come to the table, negotiate a compromise, secure our borders, and put an end to the shutdown.

I have been hearing every day from hundreds of people in my district: do our jobs, secure the border, put partisanship aside, and get things done. Reopen the government, yes, and build a barrier securing the most vulnerable parts of our southern border and put an end to this humanitarian and national security crisis.

It is in our hands. This is what the people want, and this is what they expect. Instead, Democrat leadership appears to be treating this like a game, like we have taken an important issue—disaster relief for tragedy-stricken parts of our country—and poisoned it with partisanship.

This is a messaging bill that makes for good talking points on TV, but does

nothing to make our country safer or end the shutdown. Let's negotiate and do what the people expect of us.

We were sent here to serve the people, not our political ambitions. It is long past time we start doing it.

Madam Speaker, I urge a no vote on the rule and on the underlying bill, and I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding me the time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, the first thing I am afraid I need to point out is that certain of our friends on the other side of the aisle are experiencing a kind of a political speech impediment where they are unable to correctly pronounce the name of our party. We are the Democratic Party, not the Democrat Party.

I was reading a biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt recently called "Traitor to His Class," which was very interesting. He said:

If you don't want to call us the Democratic Party, call us the democracy.

So those would be the two choices that would be the most suitable, at least from our side of the aisle.

The second thing I want to point out is this is a clean continuing resolution. We have not loaded it up with a bunch of partisan sweeteners or ideological "gotcha" resolutions.

This is a clean continuing resolution to get disaster assistance to our people, the people of the United States, and it opens up our government to make that assistance possible so we can end the manmade disaster of the shutdown.

So I think that it well suits those who are saying they both want to get the aid to Americans and they want the government of the United States to be reopened.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE).

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule and the underlying bill. I am proud to help these communities recover and families rebuild their lives after the devastating effects of extreme weather.

But this bill is also a reminder of the cost of ignoring climate change. As the planet continues to warm because of manmade causes, more and more communities are at risk of extreme weather.

In my home State of Nevada, Lake Mead is 50 percent as large as it was in the year 2000. As the water level continues to fall, water prices will continue to rise for families across southern Nevada.

According to the GAO, climate change has already cost taxpayers over \$350 billion over the past decade.

We must take concrete steps to curb climate change. The costs—both human and financial—are already too high.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida

(Mr. RUTHERFORD), my very good friend and former law enforcement professional and sheriff.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the political ultimatum that has now poisoned this bill.

I had anticipated originally that I would support Chairwoman LOWEY's proposal to provide disaster relief to American families who were struggling to rebuild from these recent disasters, like Hurricane Michael that tore up my State of Florida. However, last night, the majority slipped into this bill another short-term continuing resolution that they know will hold this bill back from ever becoming law.

Instead of doing the right thing and passing a clean disaster relief bill, the other side of the aisle continues to play games in an effort to resist the President's call for border security with Mexico.

The Senate and the President have made it clear that government funding bills brought to the floor without border security will not be signed into law.

It is time to accept the reality of the situation that we find ourselves in. Compromise is the only path forward.

But the other side of the aisle seems content to blame the President while punishing victims of natural disasters, including those in the Speaker's own home State of California, who desperately need this relief as they recover from devastating wildfires. Attempting to score political points at the expense of innocent disaster victims is despicable and no way to legislate.

This bill before us today could have provided much-needed relief for Florida families recovering from Hurricane Michael. And it is not just families who will suffer; it is also the Florida farmers, and many Americans who rely on them, who had their crops devastated by this storm.

It is 26 days into the shutdown, and we are still playing these games. Madam Speaker, if you are serious about providing disaster relief to Americans, bring a clean supplemental funding bill to the floor. Stop playing these games with constituents in the northeast and the Panhandle of Florida.

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

I continue to be baffled about why some of my colleagues think that opening the Government of the United States—our government—is a poison pill and something they can't support.

Look how far we have fallen, Madam Speaker. We are voting for billions of dollars in aid to the people of Florida, and the people of Texas and California and Puerto Rico, so we can deal with the mounting natural crises and emergencies around the country. We need to open the government to do it, and there are those who say that is too high a price. They want to get the aid to the people, but it is too high a price to reopen our own government.

We can't find an example of another democratic country where the chief executive has shut down his own government the way that President Trump has done in this case.

We know that he expresses a lot of admiration for Vladimir Putin in Russia and for Orban in Hungary and for Duterte in the Philippines and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, who recently ordered out for the assassination of a journalist for The Washington Post.

Those are his friends. Those are the people he looks up to. So maybe he thinks this is a normal way of doing business.

Well, it is not in the United States of America. Let them close the government in Russia. Let them send the workforce in Hungary home. Let them put the civil servants in the Philippines at rest. Why don't they shut down the government of Saudi Arabia? Why are they doing this to the people of the United States of America?

We are not playing games. He is playing a game with us. He is holding us hostage over his pet obsession, and the American people know it.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Maryland for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and the Disaster Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2019, which will provide relief and recovery assistance for those affected by natural disasters. I am pleased that this bill includes \$150 million for commercial fishery and fishery resource disasters declared by the Secretary of Commerce.

Oregon's commercial salmon fisheries were devastated in 2016 and 2017 when they saw more than a 70 percent decline in their salmon catch compared to the 5-year average.

Despite considerable Federal and State investment in Chinook salmon recovery, many factors outside of the control of the fishing industry, including drought and changing ocean conditions exacerbated by climate change, continue to impede salmon populations. In Oregon, the 2016 salmon catch levels were so low that they measured among the worst nationwide fisheries disasters of the year. And 2017 was even worse, at less than half of the 2016 value.

These disastrous salmon seasons have already hurt the distressed economies of the coastal communities that rely on the commercial fishing industry.

I have heard from salmon fishermen like Jeff Reeves. He fishes, he farms, and he logs to make ends meet. He scraped, and he invested \$200,000 in a boat. Then the back-to-back disaster seasons arrived, and he had to sell it.

As Jeff points out, fishermen are small business owners, and a bad season can be devastating for their livelihoods.

I was proud to lead my Oregon colleagues in calling on Secretary Ross to declare a disaster declaration for ocean troll Klamath River fall Chinook salmon fisheries, and I was glad to see that the secretary issued that declaration last fall.

The \$150 million included in this bill will allow those hard-hit communities that depend on fisheries revenue, like those in the Pacific Northwest, to seek Federal assistance and begin the recovery process.

□ 1315

I thank Chairman MCGOVERN and Chairwoman LOWEY for their leadership, and Mr. RASKIN, as well, on this commonsense bill to support communities affected by natural disasters across the country. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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

I wish to notify the House, Madam Speaker, that if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule that will bring up the appropriations package the House passed in December, including full funding for the government through February 8, \$7.8 billion for disaster relief, and \$5.7 billion for border security.

Madam Speaker, that is a bill that the Senate will actually take up and pass. That is a bill that the President has said he will actually sign.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on the previous question, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, may I ask how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 6½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 16 minutes remaining.

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

Madam Speaker, our beloved colleagues across the aisle have asked us to come back to the negotiating table and to compromise.

Madam Speaker, we have compromised. The bills that we started out passing were bills that were overwhelmingly or unanimously passed by the Republicans in committee or on the floor of the Senate, so we are passing their bills to reopen the government. The very first order of business is to reopen the government.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend again for the time; I thank him for participating in the debate; and I congratulate him on being close to finishing his first rule.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to respond to a couple of things that my good friend said. First of all, he said he brought “their” bills to the floor, meaning our bills, I presume. He didn’t bring our bills to the floor. He brought Senate bills to the floor.

Actually, those bills are nothing like the bills that the House had passed and, in many cases, are quite inferior to the product that had been jointly compromised between the two bodies.

Just speaking from something I know very well, which is Indian healthcare, the bill that he presented to us had absolutely no House input from either Republican or Democratic Members, had \$135 million less for the Indian Healthcare Service, had \$26 million less for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I can go on and on and on.

The bills actually that, frankly, we were pretty close to having conferred and done were, honestly, quite superior. They had many Democratic and Republican suggestions in them and many Member suggestions. If we passed what the majority is presenting, all we are doing is just turning over the appropriations function of the United States House of Representatives to the United States Senate and saying: We don’t really need a House; anything you guys do is fine.

That is the product that has been presented to us. It is not acceptable to our side to simply throw away House prerogatives and positions.

Again, my friends have the majority here. We respect that. They will almost certainly prevail on the rule and on the vote, and I certainly accept that. That is the way this institution works.

But what he fails to tell me is whether or not he is ever going to get the Senate to ever pick this up. So far, he hasn’t. This is the fourth attempt. We will see another one tomorrow. Whether or not he can actually produce legislation that the President of the United States will sign, so far, he hasn’t. And they are the majority.

Under our constitutional system, passing legislation through the House is simply not sufficient. It has to be able to pass the United States Senate. It has to be signed by the President of the United States, unless two-thirds of the House and the Senate are willing to override his veto. Frankly, I don’t think my friends have two-thirds majority here either, and they certainly don’t in the United States Senate.

So I have a modest proposal. Probably the people who are producing this legislation here should sit down and talk with the United States Senate ahead of time and say: Can we split the difference here? Can we find some common ground?

Actually, the President did that in December, literally sent the Vice President to the negotiation to say: We would like to get \$5 billion. We think that is the appropriate amount. But what if we settle at \$2½ billion? The answer was no.

That is a normal, reasonable compromise. It is called splitting the difference. The President tried to do that.

I do commend my friends, because I know they are serious about wanting to reopen the government. We would love to work with them on getting that done, but it is going to entail some compromise.

Frankly, over the next 2 years, if my friends want to get anything done, and I know they do, they will have to compromise.

Been there before. We were in a situation where we were the majority in the United States House of Representatives with a Democratic majority in the Senate and a Democratic President. It took, I will say, some of my colleagues a long time to figure out that we had to have help in the United States Senate, and we had to have a President that would sign bills, and we were going to have to compromise on some things that we thought were fundamentally very, very important.

I suggest my friends learn from our experience in that regard.

Again, I respect the effort to reopen the government. I would love to participate in it. This bill, quite frankly, could have been something that I think would have started us down the right direction, and it almost was.

We had Members on both sides of the aisle that very much wanted to vote for this legislation. Frankly, and again, I commend the chairman of our committee, Mr. MCGOVERN. He set up a process so that we could provide amendments, Member input. We had full consideration of those amendments in the Rules Committee. I would have liked a few more to be made in order, but I can’t complain about the ones that were. I think it was a fair process.

Only the Democratic leadership’s insistence on putting something that they knew the Senate would not pick up, and they knew the President would not sign, stopped that disaster relief bill. That is all. That literally could have been passed out of here today, could have been passed immediately by the United States Senate, would have been signed by the President, would have gotten us out of this cycle at least a little bit, would have shown us what functioning government actually looks like. But I guess the theater of the moment is more important than actually getting disaster relief to people, so we will go through this exercise yet again.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge opposition to this rule and the underlying measure. The majority has taken a noncontroversial, bipartisan, supplemental disaster appropriations bill and has turned it into a political football. Today’s bill was originally intended to provide relief for disaster victims, and, instead, the majority has turned it into yet another continuing resolution that is not going anywhere.

This is the same continuing resolution that the House previously passed and that the Senate refused to con-

sider. Whether the Democrats like it or not, they need to engage with Republicans on border security. Instead, they are now bringing up their fourth attempt to pass a government funding bill without border security. And this time, they are using disaster victims as leverage to push their policies.

The majority would be better served to undertake serious negotiations with Republicans over the need for border security and find a way out of the crisis of their making, rather than pushing the exact same bill again.

Madam Speaker, I urge a “no” on the previous question, “no” on the underlying measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague for conceding the fairness of the amendment process that we have adopted here today, and I do hope that it will be the beginning of a new era in Congress where we can work together and bring in the best ideas from everybody.

Having said that, we still have a disagreement, and the disagreement is this: We brought forward four continuing resolutions that incorporated the language that came from Republicans in the Senate, and were voted out on a 92–6 basis, in order to pass it.

Now, my distinguished colleague says, well, maybe the Republicans in the House would have felt differently about that. Well, of course, they controlled the House in the last session, but they adjourned without us ever taking it up. They adjourned into Christmas break and into a shutdown.

We were left with this mess when we got into power. That is why our first order of business must be to reopen the Government of the United States. We have offered multiple continuing resolutions in order to do that. In fact, I think a dozen of my Republican colleagues have already voted for different CRs in order to keep the government going.

So when the gentleman kindly asks: “Well, how can you expect us to do this?” lots of Republicans understand the urgency of reopening the government.

One position says: We will reopen the government if you do what we want. Our position is: Let’s reopen the government.

You see the difference there? We are not holding anybody hostage. There is no political ransom. We are not making any demands. We are saying: Let’s pass this legislation that has overwhelming, if not unanimous, support to get disaster relief to our people, and let’s reopen the government so we can get them the relief.

Instead, we get accused of playing political games. They call reopening the Government of the United States a poison pill. That has to be making some history in itself.

The word “emergency” has been banded about a lot, Madam Speaker, over

the last few weeks. The President even threatened to invoke emergency powers that he thinks he has in order to impose his fantasy wall on the government when it is very clear that he didn't get it through 2 years of a Republican-controlled House and Senate. And he is not getting it through this Congress, and he didn't get the funding from the Mexican Government, which was what the original promise was.

So now he wants to see if he can find emergency powers to do it, but he has delayed the emergency. Think about that. It is as if you saw an emergency in your neighborhood, and you say: Well, instead of calling the police or the fire department, I will wait a few weeks to do it.

That is not a real emergency. What is a real emergency?

Well, climate change is obviously a real emergency. The entire weight of scientific evidence tells us that is a real emergency.

The government shutdown is an emergency for more than 800,000 Federal employees who now have to explain to their kids why they don't have a paycheck and why they are borrowing from their own retirement funds or from the kids' college funds.

Where people can't get needed medical care, they are not able to pay for medically indicated conditions they have because they don't have the money to do it, that is an emergency.

Hurricanes Florence and Michael, those are emergencies, and that is why we want to get aid to the people there.

That is what this legislation is all about.

The California wildfires, which killed dozens of Americans, that is an emergency. That is why we are trying to get aid out to the people of California.

But a legislative debate over the proper means of homeland security when we spent more than \$9 billion on homeland security over the last decade, and our side is fighting for the best innovations, the best technology to invest in border security? That is not an emergency. That is a legislative debate that we can have.

So we go back to the basic point: Let's get aid to our people, from Puerto Rico to North Carolina and South Carolina, from Florida to Texas. That is what this bill does. It gets aid to our people. It reopens the Government of the United States. It puts us back in the business of promoting the general welfare.

That is what we have been sent here to do, to promote justice and the general welfare and domestic tranquility, not shut down the government. Let's open it up, and let's get aid to the people of the United States of America. I urge a "yes" vote on the rule.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support for H.R. 268, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, which provides funding for disaster recovery and provides for a short term continuing resolution that would reopen the government.

My thanks to the leadership of Chairman MCGOVERN for allowing the inclusion of a

short-term Continuing Resolution that would reopen the Federal government and allow back pay to over 800,000 federal employees.

A compassionate and commonsense amendment by Chairwoman LOWEY to the Disaster Supplemental will end the Trump Shutdown, reopen the government through February 8, and immediately provide back pay to all impacted federal workers.

The Federal Government can reopen allowing the Congress and the White House time to negotiate on border security and an agreement on immigration policy.

I can attest to the importance of Emergency Disaster Supplemental Appropriations to the efforts of communities to recover following Hurricane Harvey.

Texans, especially those living in the Houston area impacted by Hurricane Harvey continue working towards recovery, which would not have been possible without Federal emergency appropriations.

We are in the midst of a government shutdown that is unnecessary and wasteful and would impede the use of the very funds provided by this bill.

Americans who have been affected by natural disasters caused by Hurricanes Florence and Michael and the California wildfires must be able to count on a federal government that is fully open and operating.

This appropriation measure also includes much needed funds for Puerto Rico, which was not provided with sufficient funding to effect the recovery following the catastrophe caused by an inadequate response by the White House to the disaster.

Caught in the crosshairs of the government shutdown are 800,000 hardworking government employees who want nothing more than to do an honest day's work, and be fairly remunerated for their efforts.

More than anyone else, this government shutdown imperils their financial freedom and security, which makes our country less strong.

Mortgage and rent payments are going unpaid; credit ratings are being damaged; families are being made more insecure.

This situation requires each member of the House to vote for the Rule and the underlying bill to reopen the government, while providing vital assistance to fellow Americans recovering from major disasters.

Instead of President Trump ending his shutdown, he is threatening to take Emergency Supplemental funding provided by the 115th Congress to assist with Hurricane Harvey Army Corps projects to address flooding risks posed by future storms, and divert the funding for the construction of his border wall.

Those disaster funds were appropriated for recovery efforts associated with Hurricanes Harvey, Jose, and Maria.

This President is so easily consumed by concerns over a wall to the point that he cannot see real threats such as the vulnerability of coastal communities to powerful hurricanes.

The people along the Texas Gulf Coast face real threats from hurricanes that are increasingly more violent, and result in catastrophic losses.

The only defense against hurricanes is improving resilience and survivability of communities from wind, storm surge and rain.

For this reason, I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for the Rule for H.R. 268.

The material previously referred to by Mr. COLE is as follows:

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, an amendment offered by Representative Cole of Oklahoma or a designee shall be in order as though printed as the last amendment in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. That amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

Adoption of the resolution, if ordered; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 190.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 194, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 34]

YEAS—230

|                 |                 |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Adams           | Davis, Danny K. | Jeffries       |
| Aguilar         | Dean            | Johnson (GA)   |
| Allred          | DeFazio         | Johnson (TX)   |
| Axne            | DeGette         | Kaptur         |
| Barragan        | DeLauro         | Keating        |
| Bass            | DelBene         | Kelly (IL)     |
| Beatty          | Delgado         | Kennedy        |
| Bera            | Demings         | Khanna         |
| Bishop (GA)     | DeSaulnier      | Kildee         |
| Blumenauer      | Deutch          | Kilmer         |
| Blunt Rochester | Dingell         | Kim            |
| Bonamici        | Doggett         | Kind           |
| Boyle, Brendan  | Doyle, Michael  | Kirkpatrick    |
| F.              | F.              | Krishnamoorthi |
| Brindisi        | Engel           | Kuster (NH)    |
| Brown (MD)      | Escobar         | Lamb           |
| Brownley (CA)   | Eshoo           | Langevin       |
| Bustos          | Espallat        | Larsen (WA)    |
| Butterfield     | Evans           | Larson (CT)    |
| Carbajal        | Finkenauer      | Lawrence       |
| Cárdenas        | Fletcher        | Lawson (FL)    |
| Carson (IN)     | Foster          | Lee (CA)       |
| Cartwright      | Frankel         | Lee (NV)       |
| Case            | Fudge           | Levin (CA)     |
| Casten (IL)     | Gabbard         | Levin (MI)     |
| Castor (FL)     | Gallego         | Lewis          |
| Castro (TX)     | Garamendi       | Lieu, Ted      |
| Chu, Judy       | Garcia (IL)     | Lipinski       |
| Ciциlline       | Garcia (TX)     | Loebsack       |
| Cisneros        | Golden          | Loftgren       |
| Clark (MA)      | Gomez           | Lowenthal      |
| Clarke (NY)     | Gonzalez (TX)   | Lowe           |
| Clay            | Gottheimer      | Lujan          |
| Cleaver         | Green (TX)      | Luria          |
| Clyburn         | Grijalva        | Lynch          |
| Cohen           | Haaland         | Malinowski     |
| Connolly        | Harder (CA)     | Maloney        |
| Cooper          | Hastings        | Carolyn B.     |
| Correa          | Hayes           | Maloney, Sean  |
| Costa           | Heck            | McAdams        |
| Courtney        | Higgins (NY)    | McBath         |
| Cox (CA)        | Hill (CA)       | McCollum       |
| Craig           | Himes           | McEachin       |
| Crist           | Horn, Kendra S. | McGovern       |
| Crow            | Horsford        | McNerney       |
| Cuellar         | Houlahan        | Meeks          |
| Cummings        | Hoyer           | Meng           |
| Cunningham      | Huffman         | Moore          |
| Davids (KS)     | Jackson Lee     | Morelle        |
| Davis (CA)      | Jayapal         | Moulton        |

Mucarsel-Powell  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
O'Halleran  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Rose (NY)  
Rouda

Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schradler  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Shalala  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Sires  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Speier  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Suzozi

Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres Small  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Van Drew  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wexton  
Wild  
Yarmuth

NAYS—194

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bergman  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (UT)  
Bost  
Brady  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Cheney  
Cline  
Cloud  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comer  
Conaway  
Cook  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Curtis  
Davidson (OH)  
Davis, Rodney  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Duffy  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ferguson  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Foxx (NC)  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert

Gonzalez (OH)  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hagedorn  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hern, Kevin  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill (AR)  
Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Katko  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Kustoff (TN)  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Latta  
Lesko  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Marchant  
Marshall  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
Meadows  
Meuser  
Miller  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunes

Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Posey  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (SC)  
Riggleman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.  
Rogers (AL)  
Rooney (FL)  
Rose, John W.  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Shimkus  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spano  
Stauber  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Taylor  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Timmons  
Tipton  
Turner  
Upton  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Waltz  
Watkins  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Wright  
Yoho  
Young  
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—9

Beyer  
Jones  
Marino  
Massie  
Mast  
Matsui  
Payne  
Sensenbrenner  
Wilson (FL)

□ 1355

Messrs. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, COMER, ZELDIN, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. KINZINGER, and Ms. GRANGER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. MCGOVERN, GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Messrs. CLYBURN, and SWALWELL of California changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 193, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 35]

YEAS—230

Adams  
Aguilar  
Alfred  
Axne  
Barragán  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brindisi  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Cunningham  
Davids  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene

Delegado  
Demings  
DeSaunier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
Engel  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Españillat  
Evans  
Finkenauer  
Fletcher  
Poster  
Frankel  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gottheimer  
Green (TX)  
Grijalva  
Haaland  
Harder (CA)  
Hastings  
Hayes  
Heck  
Higgins (NY)  
Hill (CA)  
Himes  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (TX)  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim  
Kind

Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
Lamb  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowey  
Lujan  
Luria  
Lynch  
Malinowski  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
McAdams  
McBath  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Mucarsel-Powell  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
O'Halleran  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Phillips

Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Rose (NY)  
Rouda  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schradler

Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Shalala  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Sires  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Speier  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Suzozi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib

Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres Small  
(NM)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Van Drew  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wexton  
Wild  
Yarmuth

NAYS—193

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bergman  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (UT)  
Bost  
Brady  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Cheney  
Cline  
Cloud  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comer  
Conaway  
Cook  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Curtis  
Davidson (OH)  
Davis, Rodney  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Duffy  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ferguson  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Foxx (NC)  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert

Gonzalez (OH)  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hagedorn  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hern, Kevin  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill (AR)  
Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Katko  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Kustoff (TN)  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Latta  
Lesko  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Marchant  
Marshall  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
Meadows  
Meuser  
Miller  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunes  
Olson

Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Posey  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (SC)  
Riggleman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rooney (FL)  
Rose, John W.  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Shimkus  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spano  
Stauber  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Taylor  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Timmons  
Tipton  
Turner  
Upton  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Waltz  
Watkins  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Wright  
Yoho  
Young  
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—10

Beyer  
Hudson  
Jones  
Marino  
Massie  
Mast  
Matsui  
Payne  
Sensenbrenner  
Wilson (FL)

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1402

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 35.

## EXPANDING CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 190) to amend the Small Business Act to eliminate the inclusion of option years in the award price for sole source contracts, 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 gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 6, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 36]

YEAS—415

|                 |                 |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Abraham         | Cárdenas        | Davis, Rodney  |
| Adams           | Carson (IN)     | Dean           |
| Aderholt        | Carter (GA)     | DeFazio        |
| Aguilar         | Carter (TX)     | DeGette        |
| Allen           | Cartwright      | DeLauro        |
| Allred          | Case            | DelBene        |
| Amodei          | Casten (IL)     | Delgado        |
| Armstrong       | Castor (FL)     | Demings        |
| Arrington       | Castro (TX)     | DeSaulnier     |
| Axne            | Chabot          | DesJarlais     |
| Babin           | Cheney          | Deutch         |
| Bacon           | Chu, Judy       | Diaz-Balart    |
| Baird           | Cicilline       | Dingell        |
| Balderson       | Cisneros        | Doggett        |
| Banks           | Clark (MA)      | Doyle, Michael |
| Barr            | Clarke (NY)     | F.             |
| Barragán        | Clay            | Duffy          |
| Bass            | Cleaver         | Duncan         |
| Beatty          | Cline           | Dunn           |
| Bera            | Cloud           | Emmer          |
| Bergman         | Clyburn         | Engel          |
| Bilirakis       | Cohen           | Escobar        |
| Bishop (GA)     | Cole            | Eshoo          |
| Bishop (UT)     | Collins (GA)    | Españillat     |
| Blumenauer      | Collins (NY)    | Estes          |
| Blunt Rochester | Comer           | Evans          |
| Bonamici        | Conaway         | Ferguson       |
| Bost            | Connolly        | Finkenauer     |
| Boyle, Brendan  | Cook            | Fitzpatrick    |
| F.              | Cooper          | Fleischmann    |
| Brady           | Correa          | Fletcher       |
| Brindisi        | Costa           | Flores         |
| Brooks (AL)     | Courtney        | Fortenberry    |
| Brooks (IN)     | Cox (CA)        | Poster         |
| Brown (MD)      | Craig           | Foxx (NC)      |
| Brownley (CA)   | Crawford        | Frankel        |
| Buchanan        | Crenshaw        | Fudge          |
| Buck            | Crist           | Fulcher        |
| Bucshon         | Crow            | Gabbard        |
| Budd            | Cuellar         | Gaetz          |
| Burchett        | Cummings        | Gallagher      |
| Burgess         | Cunningham      | Gallego        |
| Bustos          | Curtis          | Garamendi      |
| Butterfield     | Dauids (KS)     | García (IL)    |
| Byrne           | Davidson (OH)   | García (TX)    |
| Calvert         | Davis (CA)      | Gianforte      |
| Carbajal        | Davis, Danny K. | Gibbs          |

|                 |                 |                |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Gohmert         | Loudermilk      | Sánchez        |
| Golden          | Lowenthal       | Sarbanes       |
| Gomez           | Lowey           | Scalise        |
| Gonzalez (OH)   | Lucas           | Scanlon        |
| Gonzalez (TX)   | Luetkemeyer     | Schakowsky     |
| Gooden          | Luján           | Schiff         |
| Gottheimer      | Luria           | Schneider      |
| Granger         | Lynch           | Schrader       |
| Graves (GA)     | Malinowski      | Schrier        |
| Graves (LA)     | Maloney,        | Schweikert     |
| Graves (MO)     | Carolyn B.      | Scott (VA)     |
| Green (TN)      | Maloney, Sean   | Scott, Austin  |
| Griffith        | Marchant        | Scott, David   |
| Grijalva        | Marshall        | Serrano        |
| Grothman        | McAdams         | Sewell (AL)    |
| Guest           | McBath          | Shalala        |
| Guthrie         | McCarthy        | Sherman        |
| Haaland         | McCaul          | Sherrill       |
| Hagedorn        | McCollum        | Shimkus        |
| Harder (CA)     | McEachin        | Simpson        |
| Harris          | McGovern        | Sires          |
| Hartzler        | McHenry         | Slotkin        |
| Hayes           | McKinley        | Smith (MO)     |
| Heck            | McNerney        | Smith (NE)     |
| Hern, Kevin     | Meadows         | Smith (NJ)     |
| Herrera Beutler | Meeks           | Smucker        |
| Hice (GA)       | Meng            | Soto           |
| Higgins (LA)    | Meuser          | Spanberger     |
| Higgins (NY)    | Miller          | Spano          |
| Hill (AR)       | Mitchell        | Speier         |
| Hill (CA)       | Moolenaar       | Stanton        |
| Himes           | Mooney (WV)     | Staubert       |
| Holding         | Moore           | Stefanik       |
| Hollingsworth   | Morelle         | Steil          |
| Horn, Kendra S. | Moulton         | Steube         |
| Horsford        | Mucarsel-Powell | Stevens        |
| Houlahan        | Mullin          | Stewart        |
| Hoyer           | Murphy          | Stivers        |
| Hudson          | Nadler          | Suozi          |
| Huffman         | Napolitano      | Swalwell (CA)  |
| Huizenga        | Neal            | Takano         |
| Hunter          | Neguse          | Taylor         |
| Hurd (TX)       | Newhouse        | Thompson (CA)  |
| Jackson Lee     | Norcross        | Thompson (MS)  |
| Jayapal         | Norman          | Thompson (PA)  |
| Jeffries        | Nunes           | Thornberry     |
| Johnson (GA)    | O'Halleran      | Timmons        |
| Johnson (LA)    | Ocasio-Cortez   | Tipton         |
| Johnson (OH)    | Olson           | Titus          |
| Johnson (SD)    | Omar            | Tlaib          |
| Johnson (TX)    | Palazzo         | Tonko          |
| Jordan          | Pallone         | Torres (CA)    |
| Joyce (OH)      | Palmer          | Torres Small   |
| Joyce (PA)      | Panetta         | (NM)           |
| Kaptur          | Pappas          | Trahan         |
| Katko           | Pascrell        | Trone          |
| Keating         | Pence           | Turner         |
| Kelly (IL)      | Perlmutter      | Underwood      |
| Kelly (MS)      | Perry           | Upton          |
| Kelly (PA)      | Peters          | Van Drew       |
| Kennedy         | Peterson        | Vargas         |
| Khanna          | Phillips        | Veasey         |
| Kildee          | Pingree         | Vela           |
| Kilmer          | Pocan           | Velázquez      |
| Kim             | Porter          | Visclosky      |
| Kind            | Posey           | Wagner         |
| King (NY)       | Pressley        | Walberg        |
| Kinzinger       | Price (NC)      | Walden         |
| Kirkpatrick     | Quigley         | Walker         |
| Krishnamoorthi  | Raskin          | Walorski       |
| Kuster (NH)     | Ratcliffe       | Waltz          |
| Kustoff (TN)    | Reed            | Wasserman      |
| LaHood          | Reschenthaler   | Schultz        |
| LaMalfa         | Rice (NY)       | Waters         |
| Lamb            | Rice (SC)       | Watkins        |
| Lamborn         | Richmond        | Watson Coleman |
| Langevin        | Riggleman       | Weber (TX)     |
| Larsen (WA)     | Roby            | Webster (FL)   |
| Larson (CT)     | Rodgers (WA)    | Welch          |
| Latta           | Roe, David P.   | Wenstrup       |
| Lawrence        | Rogers (AL)     | Westerman      |
| Lawson (FL)     | Rogers (KY)     | Weston         |
| Lee (CA)        | Rooney (FL)     | Wild           |
| Lee (NV)        | Rose (NY)       | Williams       |
| Lesko           | Rose, John W.   | Wilson (SC)    |
| Levin (CA)      | Rouda           | Wittman        |
| Levin (MI)      | Rouzer          | Womack         |
| Lewis           | Roybal-Allard   | Woodall        |
| Lieu, Ted       | Ruiz            | Wright         |
| Lipinski        | Ruppersberger   | Yarmuth        |
| Loeb sack       | Rush            | Yoho           |
| Lofgren         | Rutherford      | Young          |
| Long            | Ryan            | Zeldin         |

NAYS—6

|       |           |            |
|-------|-----------|------------|
| Amash | Gosar     | McClintock |
| Biggs | King (IA) | Roy        |

## NOT VOTING—12

|            |        |               |
|------------|--------|---------------|
| Beyer      | Marino | Payne         |
| Green (TX) | Massie | Sensenbrenner |
| Hastings   | Mast   | Smith (WA)    |
| Jones      | Matsui | Wilson (FL)   |

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1410

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.

Stated for:

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 I missed the following vote:

H.R. 190—Expanding Contract Opportunities for Small Business Act of 2019 (Rep. Marshall—Small Business) Suspension Bill.

Had I been present, I would have voted "YES" on this bill.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, had I been present for the vote on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule on H. Res. 43 (Roll Call Vote No. 34), I would have voted "aye".

Had I been present for the vote on H. Res. 43, the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 268—Disaster Supplemental Appropriations Act (Roll Call Vote No. 35), I would have voted "aye".

Finally, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 190—Expanding Contract Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2019 (Roll Call Vote No. 36), I would have voted "aye".

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

## SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam 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 H.R. 268, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 43 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 268.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1416

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 268) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, with Ms. NORTON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, while President Trump continues to keep our government shut down, House Democrats are committed to working for the American people. I am pleased to present legislation today that helps meet the urgent needs of our fellow Americans affected by recent national disasters.

Across the country, we have watched as hurricanes have pummeled Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas; wildfires have burned large swaths of the West;

volcanoes have erupted in Hawaii; and typhoons have struck territories in the Pacific. In addition to the tragic loss of life, families have lost everything. Businesses have been upended. Communities have been ripped apart.

This legislation attempts to meet these needs with \$12.14 billion in emergency spending. It includes \$2.96 billion to rebuild damaged infrastructure to help communities rebuild and to bring local economies back to life.

The legislation embraces the unique needs of farmers and rural communities, providing \$1.86 billion to help them recover.

It enhances our national security and cares for our veterans and their families by funding \$1.46 billion for repairs and rebuilding of damaged Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

The bill before us meets the complex needs of disaster victims, with \$555 million for social services, mental healthcare, education, and activities that improve the prospects of displaced workers.

Importantly, and unlike Republican legislation that was brought up in December, the bill meets the urgent healthcare and nutrition needs of Americans in the Northern Marianas, Guam, American Samoa, and, yes, Puerto Rico.

President Trump grossly mismanaged the response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, and since then, he has added insult to injury by repeatedly trying to shortchange our fellow U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico. This bill rights that injustice.

Finally, this legislation recognizes scientific reality and the simple fact that climate change is increasing the number and severity of national disasters. It includes \$2.54 billion in resiliency funding to mitigate damage from future disasters, preventing loss of life and damage to property.

We all want to ensure that American families and communities have the resources they need to recover from recent national disasters.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019  
(Amounts in thousands)

Bill

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Programs

Processing, Research and Marketing

Office of the Secretary

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Office of the Secretary (emergency).....           | 1,105,442 |
| Crop insurance purchasing requirements (emergency) | 5,000     |
|  | -----     |
| Total, Office of the Secretary.....                | 1,110,442 |

Farm Service Agency

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Emergency Forest Restoration Program (emergency)..... | 480,000 |
|---|---------|

Natural Resources Conservation Service

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (emergency). | 125,000 |
|--|---------|

Rural Development

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Rural Community Facilities Program Account (emergency) | 150,000 |
|--|---------|

General Provisions - This Title

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Grant for Puerto Rico (Sec. 101) (emergency).....      | 600,000 |
| Grant for Northern Marianas (Sec. 102) (emergency).... | 10,200  |
| Crop insurance purchasing requirement (Sec. 103)       |         |
| (emergency).....                                       | 2,000   |
| Exempt AGI provisions (Sec. 104) (emergency).....      | 2,000   |
|  | =====   |

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Total, title I..... | 2,479,642 |
|                     | =====     |

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Economic Development Assistance Programs (emergency).. | 600,000 |
|--|---------|

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Operations, Research, and Facilities (emergency).....   | 120,570 |
| Procurement, Acquisition and Construction (emergency).. | 25,000  |
| Fisheries Disaster Assistance (emergency).....          | 150,000 |
|   | -----   |

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Total, Department of Commerce..... | 895,570 |
|------------------------------------|---------|

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

United States Marshals Service

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Salaries and Expenses (emergency)..... | 1,336 |
|--|-------|

Federal Prison System

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Buildings and Facilities (emergency)..... | 28,400 |
|   | -----  |

|                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Total, Department of Justice..... | 29,736 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019  
(Amounts in thousands)

Bill

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| -----  |           |
| RELATED AGENCIES   |           |
| Legal Services Corporation                                 |           |
| Payment to the Legal Services Corporation (emergency)..... | 15,000    |
|  | =====     |
| Total, title II.....                                       | 940,306   |
|  | =====     |
| TITLE III  |           |
| DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE                                      |           |
| Operation and Maintenance                                  |           |
| Operations and Maintenance, Marine Corps (emergency).....  | 200,000   |
| Operations and Maintenance, Air Force (emergency).....     | 400,000   |
|  | =====     |
| Total, title III.....                                      | 600,000   |
|  | =====     |
| TITLE IV   |           |
| DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY                                     |           |
| Corps of Engineers - Civil                                 |           |
| Investigations (emergency).....                            | 35,000    |
| Construction (emergency).....                              | 715,000   |
| Mississippi River and Tributaries (emergency).....         | 225,000   |
| Operation and Maintenance (emergency).....                 | 245,000   |
|  | -----     |
| Total, Corps of Engineers.....                             | 1,220,000 |
| DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR                                 |           |
| Central Utah Project                                       |           |
| Central Utah Project Completion Account (emergency)...     | 350       |
| Bureau of Reclamation                                      |           |
| Water and Related Resources (emergency).....               | 15,500    |
|  | -----     |
| Total, Department of the Interior.....                     | 15,850    |
| DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY                                       |           |
| Energy Programs  |           |
| Electricity Delivery (emergency).....                      | 15,500    |
|  | =====     |
| Total, title IV.....                                       | 1,251,350 |
|  | =====     |

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019  
(Amounts in thousands)

Bill

TITLE V

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SECURITY, ENFORCEMENT, AND INVESTIGATIONS

Coast Guard

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Operations and Support (emergency).....                         | 46,977  |
| Procurement, Construction, and Improvements<br>(emergency)..... | 476,755 |
| Environmental Compliance and Restoration (emergency).....       | 2,000   |
|   | =====   |
| Total, title V.....   | 525,732 |
|   | =====   |

TITLE VI

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Construction (emergency)..... | 82,400 |
|-------------------------------|--------|

National Park Service

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Historic Preservation Fund (emergency)..... | 50,000 |
| Construction (emergency).....               | 78,000 |

United States Geological Survey

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Surveys, Investigations, and Research (emergency)..... | 98,500 |
|--|--------|

Departmental Offices

Insular Affairs

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Assistance to Territories (emergency)..... | 2,000 |
|--|-------|

Office of Inspector General

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Salaries and Expenses (emergency)..... | 1,000 |
|--|-------|

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Total, Department of the Interior..... | 311,900 |
|--|---------|

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Science and Technology (emergency).....                                 | 600   |
| Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program<br>(emergency)..... | 1,500 |

State and Tribal Assistance Grants:

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Categorical Grants (emergency).....                  | 62,500  |
| Clean Water State Revolving Fund (emergency).....    | 314,300 |
| Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (emergency)..... | 535,100 |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Subtotal, State and Tribal Assistance Grants.. | 911,900 |
|--|---------|

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Total, Environmental Protection Agency..... | 914,000 |
|---|---------|

RELATED AGENCIES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Forest and Rangeland Research (emergency)..... | 1,000  |
| State and Private Forestry (emergency).....    | 2,000  |
| National Forest System (emergency).....        | 63,960 |

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019  
(Amounts in thousands)

|  |         |
|--|---------|
|  | Bill    |
| -----  |         |
| Capital Improvement and Maintenance (emergency)..... | 36,040  |
| Wildland Fire Management (emergency).....            | 720,271 |
|  | -----   |
| Total, Forest Service.....                           | 823,271 |

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences<br>(emergency)..... | 1,000   |
|   | -----   |
| Total, Related Agencies.....  | 824,271 |
|   | =====   |

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Total, title VI..... | 2,050,171 |
|                      | =====     |

TITLE VII

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Training and Employment Services (emergency)..... | 50,000 |
|---|--------|

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
Administration

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Health Surveillance and Program Support (emergency)... | 30,000 |
|--|--------|

Administration for Children and Families

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Social Services Block Grant (emergency).....      | 250,000  |
| Transfer to Inspector General (transfer out)..... | (-1,000) |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Children and Families Services Programs (emergency)... | 60,000 |
|  | -----  |

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Total, Administration for Children and Families.. | 310,000 |
|---|---------|

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Office of Inspector General (by transfer)..... | (1,000) |
|  | -----   |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Total, Department of Health and Human Services.. | 340,000 |
|--|---------|

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Education Recovery (emergency)..... | 165,000 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|

General Provisions - This Title

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Grants to Northern Marianas for Medicaid (Sec. 701)<br>(emergency)..... | 52,000 |
|   | =====  |

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Total, title VII..... | 607,000 |
|                       | =====   |

TITLE VIII

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Government Accountability Office

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Salaries and Expenses (emergency)..... | 10,000 |
|--|--------|

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019  
(Amounts in thousands)

Bill

TITLE IX

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Military Construction

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (emergency)..... | 115,000 |
| Military Construction, Air Force (emergency).....             | 700,000 |
| Military Construction, Army National Guard (emergency).....   | 42,400  |
| -----   |         |
| Total, Department of Defense.....                             | 857,400 |

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Health Administration

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Medical Facilities (emergency)..... | 3,000   |
| =====                               |         |
| Total, title IX.....                | 860,400 |
| =====                               |         |

TITLE X

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program (emergency)..... | 10,542 |
|---|--------|

Federal Highway Administration

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Emergency Relief Program (emergency)..... | 1,650,000 |
| -----                                     |           |
| Total, Department of Transportation.....  | 1,660,542 |

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Community Planning and Development

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Community Development Fund (emergency)..... | 1,160,000 |
| =====                                       |           |
| Total, title X.....                         | 2,820,542 |
| =====                                       |           |

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Grand total (emergency)..... | 12,145,143 |
|------------------------------|------------|

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise today on H.R. 268, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019.

On December 20 of last year, the House considered a bill that included a continuing resolution to keep the government open, more than \$5 billion to secure our southern borders, and a supplemental appropriation to help disaster-affected areas. That bill passed the House, but it was not taken up by the Senate.

As it did in December, the bill before us today also includes funding for disaster relief. In fact, it includes \$4.3 billion more for communities recovering from national disasters, including storms and other events that occurred in 2017 and 2018. This would help the American people get back on their feet after these devastating events.

The bill also includes help for farmers and ranchers for crop and commodity losses, assistance for flood and storm damage, and allows our military and Federal agencies to repair facilities and assets.

Like it did in December, the bill we are considering today also includes a continuing resolution to fund the government and ensure that our hard-working Federal employees are paid.

What this bill does not include is funding for border security needs identified by the agents and officers on the front lines. Therefore, the bill before us today will not resolve the government shutdown. It will not reopen the government and ensure that our TSA screeners, our Coast Guard defenders, our Border Patrol agents, and our air traffic controllers are paid.

We must stop wasting time voting on bills that have no chance of becoming law. We should, instead, work with urgency to get our government back up and running. In order to do that, we must address border security and funding for the remaining appropriations bills.

I thank Chairwoman LOWEY for her work, and I am hopeful that in the coming days, together, we can come to an agreement with all of our partners in the Senate, the House, and the White House to address the remaining funding issues in 2019.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to my friend from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the chair designee for the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I thank my dear friend, the chair of the Appropriations Committee, for yielding me this time.

Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 268, the emergency disaster recovery package.

National disasters across our Nation devastated the lives of millions of Americans this past year. A few ranked as the worst and most severe incidents around the world.

It is the top responsibility of Congress to provide these hard-hit communities with the strength, hope, and support to recover. This supplemental will provide necessary aid to these ailing communities.

This Nation needs a better strategy to mitigate damage in future disasters, especially as year after year we see accelerating numbers and severity of national disasters due to climate change. This bill also includes funds for future mitigation.

From our subcommittee's energy and water accounts, we have seen recent hurricanes and storms devastate existing infrastructure. Included in this supplemental is \$470 million to repair damages at Army Corps of Engineer projects across our Nation.

Given the Corps' important role to help protect communities nationwide and in the territories against national disasters, we also included \$750 million for the Army Corps to accelerate construction on flood risk mitigation projects.

Americans should not have to worry whether their community can provide adequate power to our homes and businesses, but across our Nation, fire- and flood-ravaged communities need funds to repair extensive damage and to strengthen electric grids. This bill ensures the Department of the Interior and Department of Energy have the resources needed for this assistance.

Now, let me be clear. This administration has considered reprogramming funds appropriated for disaster recovery projects. These funds are appropriated to rebuild and strengthen America's resiliency against future disasters. They are intended to protect American families and communities from natural disasters.

I am actually appalled that this administration would raid money for communities broken from actual disasters.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, in conclusion, this nation must confront, head-on, the reality of strengthening storms. We must help all communities recover from disasters, as we never know when it will hit our own backyard.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the disaster package.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Chair, I thank the ranking member.

I originally had intended to offer my support for this disaster supplemental package, especially as it relates to agricultural and rural development. But because of the actions of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I can no longer support the bill in its current form.

As the former chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,

Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, I worked with my friends and the new chairman, SANFORD BISHOP, and other Members who represent districts impacted by historical weather-related disasters to provide relief to the farming and rural communities.

However, including the already-failed CR in the rule puts partisan politics above bipartisanship. I cannot support this poison-pill package, especially after all we have heard from our Democratic colleagues about letting the legislative process work.

Members from the Southeast to California, to Hawaii, to all of the communities in between represent districts with agriculture and rural constituencies that have suffered devastating losses in their livelihoods. From cotton to vegetables, to livestock, to losses in my home State of Alabama, as well as Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina, including South Carolina, means lost income now and lost income for the future.

Unfortunately, constituents are being used politically as human shields. Everyone in Democratic leadership knows the President will veto this CR, and it is very unfortunate to have this in the rule.

□ 1430

Our farmers put food on our tables and clothes on our backs. They put in countless hours of labor and take risks. Putting the CR in this bill is making it 100 percent veto bait.

Madam Chair, I encourage my colleagues to do the right thing and take out the CR, and let the bill proceed to the Senate with a chance of passage.

Madam Chair, when Superstorm Sandy ravaged the Northeast in 2012, the House put aside partisan differences and provided \$750 billion. I hope that our Democratic colleagues would look at that and do the same.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), who is the chair-designee of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this legislation, to provide \$12 billion in critical disaster relief for North Carolina and other States recovering from devastating natural disasters.

Last year, Hurricane Florence made landfall in the Carolinas with a powerful storm surge, intense rainfall, and massive flooding. It displaced thousands of individuals, many of whom still have not returned to their damaged homes. Dozens of communities in eastern North Carolina, some also hit by Hurricane Matthew in 2016, were entirely inundated for the second time in as many years.

Meanwhile, other States like Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and California have been hit by terrible hurricanes and wildfires. Puerto Rico and other territories continue to slowly recover from powerful storms and typhoons.

This legislation will ensure that the Federal Government remains an active partner in the recovery effort. It provides more than \$1 billion in flexible funding for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery program, including resources for mitigation and resiliency projects.

The bill would clear out a \$1.5 billion backlog of emergency highway and bridge repair projects, and it provides additional supplemental funds for Army Corps construction projects along our coasts and rivers, crop and livestock assistance for farmers, repairs at damaged military installations, and other critical recovery activities.

It reflects bipartisan priorities and ensures that American citizens, regardless of where they live, get the assistance they need to recover.

Unfortunately, disaster assistance, including funds that have already been appropriated, will not be distributed to communities if this government shutdown continues.

Madam Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this disaster supplemental, which appropriately includes a provision to temporarily reopen government.

The Trump shutdown has real consequences, Madam Chairman. The people of North Carolina and other States who have suffered from natural disasters cannot wait any longer. It is time for Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike, to come together to end this shutdown.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Chair, first, I thank Mrs. LOWEY—this is, I think, the first time that we have had a chance to dialog publicly—for her leadership and congratulate her as the new Appropriations chair. I congratulate the gentlewoman, and we look forward to working with Mrs. LOWEY.

I also want to thank the Republican leader, our ranking member of the committee, Ms. GRANGER, for her steadfast leadership and help in navigating so many essential issues that are before us today.

Madam Chair, I want you to know that I support the underlying bill without the complicating amendments and urge its passage.

I believe that this is a good bipartisan piece of legislation to help those negatively affected by serious and devastating weather events that have occurred throughout the previous year, and we should be working together to provide the needed disaster assistance and unite to rebuild communities damaged by these hurricanes, typhoons, and earthquakes, as well as volcanoes.

But let us be honest. This bill would sail through the Congress—it would sail through this body—if we could get past the paralysis of this moment that is dividing Democrats from Republicans, the Speaker from the President, the House from the Senate, and on and on.

Let's put all of those considerations aside for just a moment and provide the needed support to our agricultural communities who are hurting and those who are in need.

As the new ranking member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, I want to speak briefly to an important number of provisions in the underlying bill.

It provides financial support to farmers and producers from the Pacific Islands to California and to the Southeast States who have lost crops, trees, and livestock, and so much more. It provides funds for essential conservation efforts in our rural communities to rebuild the watersheds and funds to restore the land in order to prevent future flooding that is so devastating.

The bill provides financial support to forestlands for their restoration, some of which have been wiped out by the strongest storms recorded in several parts of the United States.

The bill also provides nutritional assistance to those who are vulnerable among us.

These are all reasons that we need to put momentary difficulties aside and pass the underlying piece of legislation. I suggest that we move this bill as quickly as possible and keep it separate from the amendments that will delay its implementation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise to speak on behalf of the bill before us.

Madam Chair, on October 10, 2018, Hurricane Michael, one of the most powerful storms to make landfall in the U.S., slammed into the Florida Panhandle, then directly into Georgia, and drove through much of the Southeast. It left a path of destruction all the way up to Virginia. My district, which spans middle and southwest Georgia, took a direct hit.

Across the State of Georgia, small towns and rural communities were devastated, as were production agriculture and forestry. Agriculture is the largest industry in Georgia, driving one in seven jobs. Many producers suffered near 100 percent crop losses.

Hurricane Michael destroyed some 97 chicken houses and killed more than 2 million chickens. It devastated the Georgia cotton crop, which was nearing peak harvest and was on track to be the best season in years.

Unfortunately, this is all too familiar for the region. This is the third straight year hurricane damage has caused significant losses to the pecan, peanut, cotton, vegetable, forestry, landscaping, and agritourism industries.

Less than a month before Hurricane Michael, Hurricane Florence crashed into the Carolinas, causing \$22 billion

in damage. The agricultural losses there are also overwhelming. Several lagoons responsible for containing animal waste were breached and are in drastic need of repair.

Last year, California witnessed yet another devastating fire season, including both the largest and deadliest fires on record. In Hawaii, volcanic activity caused farmers nearly \$30 million in damage. Americans in the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa were also hit by violent storms.

This disaster supplemental bill provides the funds to begin addressing these needs. This bill increases payments for losses from 85 to 90 percent for producers with crop insurance and from 65 to 70 percent for producers without insurance. It also includes \$150 million for the rural community facilities program. From debris removal to the repair of local infrastructure, such as drinking water and water systems, small communities across the Nation and the territories often struggle to rebuild in the aftermath of natural disasters.

The legislation includes \$480 million for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program and \$125 million for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. It provides \$600 million in funds for the nutrition assistance program in Puerto Rico and \$10.2 million to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

From coast to coast and beyond, there is an urgent need for this disaster bill. As I said in October after touring the damage from Hurricane Michael, responding to natural disasters and helping our communities recover is a responsibility we all share, regardless of geography, ideology, or political affiliation.

Madam Chair, I urge all my colleagues to support this bill and to bring relief to our communities that continue to recover and rebuild. Let's open the government and get this job done for the American people.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Chair, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise again today in opposition to the political ultimatum that has poisoned this bill.

I had anticipated that I would support Chairwoman LOWEY's proposal to provide disaster relief to American families struggling to rebuild from recent disasters like Hurricane Michael that devastated my home State of Florida.

I do thank her and her staff for the hard work that they have done in putting together this disaster relief bill. However, in the dark of night, the majority leadership slipped into this bill another continuing resolution that they know will hold this bill back from ever becoming signed into law.

Some on the other side have asked why adding a CR would be a poison pill

in this measure. The answer is really simple: This bill will never be considered by the Senate or signed by the President. Leadership knows this, but they continue to place politics over helping hardworking, taxpaying American citizens.

So what are we here to accomplish? Is the majority trying to help American citizens recover or simply content to blame the President while punishing hardworking taxpayers who have been devastated by natural disasters, including those, by the way, in the Speaker's home State of California? Those folks are desperately in need of this relief as they recover from devastating wildfires.

Instead of doing the right thing and passing a clean disaster relief bill, the other side of the aisle continues to play childish games in an effort to resist the President's call for border security.

If the goal of this bill is to provide disaster relief, why on Earth would the majority attach something that effectively ensures its defeat?

Madam Chair, this move has again effectively victimized those devastated by hurricanes and fire.

It is time to accept the reality of the situation in which we find ourselves. Compromise is the only path forward. President Trump has made clear, I believe, that he is ready to negotiate and to compromise. But this bill before us today could have provided much-needed relief to Florida families recovering from Hurricane Michael. It is not just those families who will suffer. It is the Florida farmers who had their crops decimated by the storm, and the Americans who rely on them, who will suffer also.

Madam Chair, we are 26 days into this shutdown, and leadership is still playing these games. If the majority is serious about providing disaster relief, bring a clean supplemental funding bill to the floor and stop playing games with so many hurting American lives.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I appreciate the gentleman from Florida's remarks, but I remind the gentleman that we can't deliver this essential disaster aid with the government closed. So I suggest the gentleman urge those who are keeping the government closed that we must deliver this aid, so open the government now, and we can have some adult conversation.

Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), who is a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, first of all, I thank our chair for yielding, for her tireless leadership, and for reminding us very clearly that we need to open up the government right away.

As a Representative from northern California, let me just say that I remember vividly the Oakland Hills fire in 1991 that killed 25 people and destroyed more than 3,000 homes, and the 1989 earthquake that killed many people and devastated many parts of my city. I represent Oakland and Berkeley,

California. Just as many helped us then, we will help our neighbors now.

Disasters can impact any district. Just this morning, a small earthquake hit my district again. Thankfully, there are no reported injuries.

Let me also say that I am deeply grateful to our firefighters and first responders who work around the clock to help save lives in disasters that have ravaged our country, especially this past year.

Madam Chair, I am in strong support of this emergency supplemental, which provides \$12.1 billion in disaster relief to people who have been impacted by wildfires, hurricanes, typhoons, and other natural disasters. Our neighbors in Paradise, California; Puerto Rico; Guam; Florida; southern California; the Virgin Islands; and the territories all need our help, and they need it now.

Northern California's most recent wildfire known as the Camp fire is the most destructive in California's history. Eighty-five people lost their lives, and 13,000 homes were destroyed. These families have lost everything, and they deserve our support now more than ever. Many of these communities in California ravaged by wildfires are only just beginning to recover, yet just last week, President Trump threatened to withhold disaster assistance to California.

□ 1445

Does this President have no shame, bullying scared families with no homes and communities to return to? Real leaders help families recover.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. LEE of California. Real leaders help families recover and rebuild. They don't use suffering families as political pawns.

Madam Chair, that is why we need to pass this bill. With the \$12 billion provided in this bill, our communities will be able to recover and rebuild, and families will finally get some peace of mind knowing that we are with them.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the bill and yes to helping our communities get back on their feet.

The CHAIR. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the chair designate of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this funding package, and I am pleased that, within the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee's jurisdiction, the bill provides more than \$2 billion for recovery from devastating natural disasters.

This includes \$849 million to rebuild drinking water and wastewater sys-

tems to a state of resiliency against future storms, \$50 million for coastal resiliency projects to reduce ecosystem and community vulnerability to help with sea level rise and with the flooding and erosion caused by storms.

The bill provides funds to repair Federal facilities that were destroyed or damaged, such as the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, funds for historic preservation grants to repair culturally significant sites and properties, and funds to clean up hazardous and solid waste sites.

A critical provision in this bill provides \$720 million to fully repay the U.S. Forest Service for funds it was forced to borrow in the last fiscal year to cover the cost of wildland fire suppression. An additional \$103 million will help the Forest Service to address damage to national forests and treat hazardous fuel loads.

This emergency funding is in sharp contrast to the President's threats to block disaster response funds to Californians who are struggling to restore their lives and to return to their homes after the devastating fires of last year.

I have just heard from a friend that he is being evacuated now because of potential mudslides because of the burnt area in the Malibu part of California.

Americans in all of our States and territories deserve Federal support so they can recover from natural disasters, and our government agencies have to be open in order to ensure the delivery of these important emergency funds.

Democrats are proud to bring this bill to the floor to help our communities who have suffered from these natural disasters and want to begin to rebuild and heal in their lives.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Chair, it is no surprise that many of the communities we represent are in need of disaster assistance. This past year, many areas of the country experienced devastating disasters that had significant impacts on communities and on our constituents.

I have the honor and privilege of representing coastal Georgia, a vibrant area that has suffered from a number of these incidents in recent years.

I was elected and sent here, like everyone else in this body, to look out for my constituents and their needs. That includes advocating for support following these devastating events.

In December, the House passed a supplemental appropriation package that encompassed disasters such as hurricanes, typhoons, wildfires, and other disasters. That package would have brought about the relief we need.

Now, Democrats are holding disaster assistance hostage with this legislation. We can't afford to continue this

partisanship when it comes to rebuilding our communities.

Whether it is a wildfire or a hurricane, relief is needed urgently. That includes coastal Georgia.

For instance, our blueberry growers have taken some devastating losses over the last few years. Those growers have not had time to properly recover, and now we are dealing with partisan games that will jeopardize their ability to receive much-needed aid.

Agriculture represents the heart and soul of many of our rural communities, and with that so go those communities.

Now is not the time to derail this desperately needed relief. We need a clean disaster package that will allow us to take care of the communities that are hardest hit.

Hurricanes don't see political parties, and they certainly don't discriminate on the damage they cause. That is why we should move a package that is devoid of any partisan efforts and bring up a clean disaster package.

I say to my Democratic colleagues: Now is the time to stop playing games. Let's move a bill that helps, rather than hurts, the ability of our communities to receive disaster relief.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the chair designate of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of Appropriations.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this essential emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

H.R. 268 totals \$12.14 billion in emergency disaster appropriations funding to provide relief and recovery assistance for Americans affected by recent hurricanes, typhoons, wildfires, and other natural disasters, especially in my home State of Florida.

The MILCON-VA portion of the bill provides \$360.4 million for Department of Defense military construction needs and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Specifically, the bill includes \$115 million for the Marine Corps to begin planning for construction projects related to the devastation left behind by Hurricanes Florence and Michael on Marine Corps facilities in North Carolina at New River, Cherry Point, and Lejeune.

The Marine Corps is planning facility consolidation efforts as a result of the severe damage, and this funding represents the first step in a vital rebuilding process for the Marine Corps.

Mr. Chair, the bill also includes \$700 million to begin the rebuilding of Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida's Panhandle. This funding will support the relocation of the F-22 mission and the bed-down of F-35s, along with the planning for new facilities there.

This funding is a crucial first step to begin the necessary rebuilding of Tyndall, which we will rebuild.

Mr. Chair, I also want to point out that this funding for Tyndall and North Carolina is just a down payment. Congress is going to need to provide much more support to get these locations back on their feet, and this administration should take the time to address these real emergencies and not the ones they have manufactured.

Finally, this bill includes a continuing resolution to reopen our government, which is now in its 26th day of being shut down. Mr. Chair, as I said just yesterday, the Trump shutdown is continuing to inflict serious financial pain and anxiety on families, businesses, and communities across the United States.

Opening the government is not a poison pill. It is our duty. This legislation will enable the areas affected by the hurricanes to begin to rebuild the communities and military installations that are vital to our national defense and those local economies, as well as provide relief to 800,000 Federal workers and their families who are living under a cloud of economic insecurity right now.

Mr. Chair, I urge all Members of this body to cast a yes vote.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE).

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I hail from the Seventh District of South Carolina, and for 3 days in September the Nation was rapt as Hurricane Florence stalled directly on top of my district.

I have eight counties in my district. All eight counties were declared disaster areas. The inland counties were inundated, as North Carolina was, and all the rain that fell in North Carolina and those inland counties comes through five river systems out Georgetown County, South Carolina.

My district was overcome by a slow-motion, rolling disaster. And if that wasn't bad enough, that was the third storm in 4 years. Hurricane Matthew hit us 3 years ago.

With Hurricane Matthew, the Federal Government awarded us \$95 million to rebuild 1,350 houses for indigent families. And, at the speed the Federal Government moves, as of now, 2½ years after the storm, about 400 of those 1,300 homes have been rebuilt, so we have got about 1,000 indigent South Carolinians either gone or living in substandard housing.

Now, in this storm, 12,163 homes were "moderately damaged." I asked the definition of "moderate damage." They said that means that there was water inside the house but it was less than 2 feet deep.

My friends, we also incurred \$200 million of agricultural damage. In these last two storms, our agricultural department didn't even ask for help from the Federal Government, but the farmers are at their wits' end.

A farmer told me that 3 years ago they used their cash, the last storm they used their equity, and now they

are at the end of their rope. We will be losing South Carolina farmers if we don't help these people.

So, I was prepared to support this, and House Republicans passed this disaster bill as part of the supplemental in December.

Now the Democrats bring it back up, and it is subject to opening the government up with no wall funding, and they know full well that the President wouldn't sign it, even if we did pass it.

This is a political game, and they are playing to win. But what they are playing with, the pieces that they are playing with, are hurting people in South Carolina. There are damaged people in South Carolina. They are suffering people who are on their knees.

Three of the counties that were hit the hardest—Marion, Dillon, and Marlboro counties—are some of the poorest counties in South Carolina. Overwhelmingly African American, these people had nothing before the storm, and what little they had has been taken away. And we are using these people as pawns in this fight over the government shutdown.

My friends, enough is enough. It is time to stop playing politics. As my friend across the aisle said earlier: Leaders don't hold people hostage; they find solutions.

And it is time to find a solution. They know full well that, by attaching this continuing resolution to this disaster bill, it will not pass this House, it won't get a hearing in the Senate, and the President won't sign it.

All this is for show. Enough show. Let's deliver this relief to the people who need it.

The storm hit my area September the 14th, 4 months ago. Enough show. Stop using these indigent people as pawns. Enough.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, before I introduce our next, I would like to say to the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina: I agree with the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina. Let's stop this political game. Let's direct our remarks. Let's make clear that the President has the responsibility to open this government and to do it now.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairwoman for yielding and for all that she is doing to end the Trump shutdown and open up our government, but I rise today to engage in a colloquy with the distinguished chairwoman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, in regard to a commitment made between the two of us.

My district and the State of California were, once again, ravaged by devastating and historic fires. In my own district, the Mendocino complex fire burned a combined total of 460,000 acres, making it the largest physical fire in California history. As a result, a

major disaster declaration was announced for Lake County, which, sadly, has been rocked with fires for the past several years.

California also experienced the deadliest and most destructive fire in our State's history with the Camp fire, which, tragically, took the lives of more than 60 people. The town of Paradise, which was home to almost 27,000 people, was near completely destroyed, and more than 12,000 structures were burnt to the ground.

In addition, our State experienced other devastating fires, and they continue. We need the continued support from the Federal Government because it is essential as residents seek to rebuild and California begins long-term recovery.

In response to these devastating disasters, I offered a bipartisan amendment with Representatives LAMALFA, LIEU, CALVERT, GARAMENDI, HUFFMAN, and 19 other bipartisan cosponsors from our State. This amendment provided much-needed relief to the State of California and local entities by increasing to 90 percent the Federal cost-share for debris removal and emergency assistance for the 2018 wildfires.

The substance of this amendment has been supported by both the Speaker and the majority leader and is consistent with the relief generously provided in the 113th Congress.

□ 1500

The distinguished chairwoman and I have discussed this amendment and the importance of Congress providing this much-needed relief to the State of California and all affected communities impacted by these wildfires.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. SABLON). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I thank Representative MIKE THOMPSON for his diligent work on behalf of his fire-impacted communities and our State. It is critical that Congress ensures that every Federal resource is made available to the States, local governments, and all affected communities of the historic and unprecedented 2018 wildfires.

Ensuring that Californians get the support and resources they need is not a partisan issue. It is particularly frustrating that FEMA has the sole discretion to adjust these cost shares and often does so after catastrophic disasters or when multiple disasters strike the same State in a short period of time, as we have experienced in California. The State of California has requested the administration to adjust these cost shares, unfortunately, to no avail.

I appreciate Mr. THOMPSON's diligent work on this issue. I remain committed to working with him, our leadership, and the bipartisan cosponsors of the amendment to provide, in the Department of Homeland Security's full-year

fiscal year 2019 funding bill, an increased cost share of 90 percent for these additional categories of Federal disaster funding for California communities devastated by the 2018 wildfires.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, in closing, in the meantime, I will work with him and the other members of the California delegation in pursuing this matter with the administration on this reasonable and much-needed adjustment within its existing authority.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairwoman and the bipartisan coauthors of this bill. I look forward to working with her and appreciate her help.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for yielding and also for the opportunity to bring up an important issue to my district and State.

As you all know, Hurricane Michael had a devastating effect on my district. One of the most important areas in my district that was destroyed was Tyndall Air Force Base.

The underlying bill before the House today contains \$700 million for planning, design, and construction related to the consequences of Hurricane Michael at Tyndall Air Force Base. This funding would support the relocation of the F-22s, the beddown of the F-35s, and the planning of facility construction so that the base can continue to recover.

This is a down payment for the Air Force, and it signals that Congress is committed to rebuilding Tyndall Air Force Base because Tyndall will need additional funds.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DUNN. I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As a fellow Floridian, I support the need to rebuild Tyndall, as I just mentioned in my opening statement, and support the Air Force's next-generation aircraft. It is important to ensure that our airmen and their families have state-of-the-art facilities that support the new mission.

I look forward to working with Mr. DUNN and Ranking Member GRANGER as we begin the process to ensure future funding is available to continue this vital reconstruction of Tyndall Air Force Base.

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairwoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for agreeing to work with me going forward to address appropriate funding levels and types of facilities that will be necessary to bring Tyndall back to life.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for this colloquy.

Tyndall Air Force Base is vital to Florida and the United States. I look forward to working with the gentleman as well as the gentlewoman of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee to rebuild this base.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 268, a bill to help our country recover from another year of devastating natural disasters.

In 2018, Americans across the country faced extreme hardship due to hurricanes, wildfires, and other catastrophic events. From Hurricanes Michael and Florence in the Southeast to historic wildfires in the West and volcanic activity in Hawaii, no part of our Nation was spared.

Last week, the President responded to these events by callously proclaiming on Twitter that he plans to stop aid to wildfire survivors in California. This behavior is not in the spirit of our great Nation. The funding provided in this bill would show the American people that we stand with them, even if the President does not.

Importantly, in response to Hurricane Maria, it provides \$600 million to Puerto Rico for debris removal and restoration of its electric grid.

Additionally, the bill provides much-needed funding to communities across the Nation for Head Start, farmers who suffered crop losses, and Americans with housing needs.

I have firsthand knowledge of the challenges after a devastating hurricane. It took years and sustained commitment from the Federal Government to help my community recover from Hurricane Katrina. H.R. 268 will help put our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico on a critical path to recovery.

Additionally, I support the McGovern amendment to prevent the President from raiding the Army Corps of Engineers' funds to build his border wall.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Today, I rise in support of the Nutrition Assistance Program, or NAP, that is included in the bill under consideration today. NAP is the sole source of nutrition assistance and food security for over 1.3 million American citizens on the island.

After Hurricane Maria, the 115th Congress approved an additional \$1.27 billion increase in Puerto Rico's NAP program in addition to the annual block grant amount of about \$1.8 billion, and that means that we helped a

lot of people who have a lot of necessities.

This disaster relief allowed an increase in the benefits for the current beneficiaries as well as an increased enrollment to bring assistance to close to 153,000 new participants in the program. However, this additional assistance is currently set to be expended in March of this year, and the program's funding would then be lowered again to the base amounts associated with the block grants.

That is why, in May of last year, I submitted an amendment to H.R. 2, also known as the farm bill, to increase the amount of funding allotted to Puerto Rico's NAP.

Then, in December, we got a letter and a meeting asking for the \$600 million in additional NAP funding. During the first day of Congress, we did the same thing to both the Committees of Appropriations and Rules with the same request. I thank the chairwoman of the committee for including that money in this bill.

We had a meeting in December with the Governor of Puerto Rico and the minority leader and the chairwoman asking for this \$600 million increase in Puerto Rico's NAP program, so we really need this money to be included and to be available until fiscal year 2020.

This bill also contains an important provision for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands as well, extending the 100 percent Federal cost share for assistance under the Stafford Act for the disasters in the territories to rebuild to the current standards. That was included in the last provision last Congress.

Having this extension is important in order to maximize the resources. This is critical since the losses caused by these disasters left our communities in no position to cover matching fund requirements, and, believe me, the hurricane was worse than this going down. So this bill, especially, will be important for my constituents.

I am a little bit disappointed that the continuing resolution was attached to the bill. I do support the reopening of the government; however, this should be not the vehicle for it. This disaster supplemental was intended to help people to recover and rebuild from natural disasters.

I really appreciate the good faith effort of all involved here to help those struck by natural disasters—not just in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Florida, but the fires in California as well—especially in Puerto Rico; however, it is my hope that this becomes a clean bill between the House and Senate that can be signed by the President.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from New York—her and her staff, as well as the members of the committee—for putting together

this supplemental disaster appropriations, H.R. 268, which seems to address many of the issues that the territories and other areas that have been affected by disaster are continuing to face.

Additionally, it is sending a strong message to the administration about the slow walking and the additional restrictions that they have put in funding that Congress had already passed both here in the House as well as on the Senate side and the President himself sent.

So this disaster supplemental bill contains much-needed support for ongoing disaster recovery efforts in my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as Puerto Rico and other disaster-affected States and territories.

For the Virgin Islands, this bill, as well as for Puerto Rico, addresses Federal cost share for all FEMA public assistance grants, including for debris removal and emergency measures to protect public health and safety—if you can believe, we are still dealing with debris removal—and for permanent infrastructure restoration for the duration of the recovery from Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Additionally, of the funds provided for EPA programs, while I am very pleased to see that \$74.6 million is set aside for the Virgin Islands to improve drinking water and wastewater systems resiliency, this is a very positive relief package for Americans in our island territories still reeling from unprecedented disaster, still reeling from a place where our hospitals are not back in operation and where our children just went back to a full day of school this October after over a year.

I am pleased that the House will be sending a firm message to the administration that its recent decision not to continue the waiver of cost share of public assistance to the Virgin Islands would severely hinder the territory's ongoing recovery.

I also take this opportunity to express my strong opposition to diverting disaster funds to build a border wall, which would create a true national emergency.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, to allow Federal agencies to begin the vital work that we are funding in this bill, we must reopen the Federal Government.

I am pleased that the bill before us includes a continuing resolution to immediately reopen the Federal Government and pay Federal employees, who are going through such a difficult time taking care of their families, putting food on the table, just going through the normal, normal time that families have to endure when they don't have any money to spend. This would pay Federal employees through February 8.

□ 1515

This continuing resolution ensures the Federal Government is working for

the American people, provides certainty for Federal employees, and gives President Trump and the Congress time to negotiate on border security and immigration policy.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation is a critical first step to meeting our fellow citizens' urgent needs as they recover from recent disasters, so I urge my colleagues: Join me in support of this bill.

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

Mr. CASE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 268, the Emergency Disaster Appropriations bill.

This bill would appropriate funds for programs supporting communities rebuilding after suffering through numerous natural disasters throughout 2018. My home State of Hawai'i is in particular need of assistance. It was hit hard by multiple devastating storms over the islands and by the sustained eruption of Kilauea Volcano.

Among the impacts on Hawai'i Island by the volcanic eruption were:

716 dwellings destroyed by lava;  
Roughly 30 miles of roads covered by lava;  
and

About 60,000 earthquakes striking the area from April through August, with the largest a magnitude 6.9 earthquake.

Additionally, Hurricane Lane wreaked havoc across Hawai'i in late August. Up to 50 inches of rain fell in parts of Hawaii Island and 35 inches on the island of Kaua'i. This caused massive unprecedented flooding that these communities in Hawaii continue to deal with.

The natural disasters of the past year affected all parts of our Hawai'i, from major damage throughout O'ahu and the Neighbor Islands to disruption of our tourism and agriculture industries and beyond. These sorely needed funds will assist those affected to recover and carry on with their lives.

The programs and funding in H.R. 268 is a step in the right direction of how government should be working and responding to the needs of our constituents.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to help residents across the country rebuild and move forward after these devastating natural disasters.

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I will vote today in support of H.R. 268, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2019. Americans have a long history of helping each other in times of emergency and this bill, in that American spirit, provides needed funding to help families and businesses recover from natural disasters.

That said, I am concerned that the bill, in many respects, is a stop-gap measure that defers action on bigger problems. Our disaster funding protocols have historically been predicated on the idea that, when American citizens' face a loss of property due to a rare and unpredictable event, we have a moral obligation to help them rebuild. That is a noble and righteous goal and consistent with this bill.

However, we must also begin to face up to the fact that climate change is creating a situation where disasters are no longer rare, nor unpredictable. We know with certainty where flood risk is intensifying in low-lying coastal regions. We know with certainty where the risks of wildfires are growing.

A review by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of \$1-billion-plus

weather and climate disasters proves the point—such disasters are increasing in frequency and concentrated in very specific regions of the country.

To continue to provide federal funds to encourage rebuilding in those areas is ultimately unsustainable. At some point, those funds will have to be diverted to development on less disaster-prone grounds. That is scary and unfortunate, but we cannot ignore that reality. It is my hope that, as a body, we can begin to develop the strategies to redirect those funds on our terms rather than being compelled to do so by fiscal or natural events.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I can attest to the importance of Emergency Disaster Supplemental Appropriations to the efforts of communities to recover following a disaster.

Texans impacted by Hurricane Harvey and are working towards recovery are grateful for the appropriations provided by Congress to address Emergency Supplemental Appropriations.

We are in the midst of a government shutdown that is unnecessary and wasteful.

Caught in the crosshairs of the government shutdown are eight-hundred thousand hardworking government employees who want nothing more than to do an honest day's work, and be fairly remunerated for their efforts.

More than anyone else, this government shutdown imperils their financial security, which makes our country less strong.

Mortgage and rent payments are going unpaid; credit ratings are being damaged; families are being made more insecure.

This situation requires answers, and resolution for hundreds of thousands of hardworking Americans caught in the middle.

President Trump instead of ending his shutdown is threatening to take Hurricane Harvey Army Corps funding and divert it for the construction of his border wall.

He plans to divert funds appropriated for Hurricanes Harvey, Jose, and Maria recovery to pay for his border wall is outrageous and immoral, and an affront to the millions of Americans affected by real disasters that have struck the homeland.

We need to ensure that the President cannot undermine the disaster recovery projects and programs that Congress has approved and funded by diverting funds for construction of his border wall vanity project.

This President is so easily consumed by concerns over a wall to the point that he cannot see real threats such as the vulnerability of coastal communities to powerful hurricanes.

The people along the Texas Gulf Coast face real threats from hurricanes that are increasingly more violent, and result in catastrophic losses.

The only defense against hurricanes is improving resilience and survivability of communities from wind, storm surge and rain.

We improve coastal resilience against hurricanes by completing Army Corps of Engineer projects that are paid for previously under separate appropriations bills that are now law.

The President wants to use his authority under a National Emergency Declaration to erroneously gain access to the funding so desperately needed for Hurricane Harvey recovery and other disasters.

Declaring a national emergency for purely political reasons is antidemocratic, petulant, dangerous and unbecoming of the President of the United States.

The president and his staff have been routinely and repeatedly corrected and rebuked for their attempts to spread false and misleading information about the state of our southern border.

They have wrongly claimed that the lack of a border wall at the southern border is a major source of drugs coming into the United States, when in fact it is ports of entry.

They disregarded the fact that border apprehensions are at a 45 year-low, and have been dropping since 2000.

Having been defeated legislatively by Speaker NANCY PELOSI, now the President according to a story in the New York Times would like to pay for his immoral border wall by diverting funds that the Congress has appropriated for disaster relief, such as Hurricane Harvey to help citizens in my home state of Texas; victims of Maria in Puerto Rico and other hurricane victims; and victims of deadly wildfires in California.

I support this Disaster Appropriations bill in order to help rebuild communities devastated over the last year by deadly disasters.

Now the President needs to open the Government in order to stop the disaster occurring among our out of work federal employees.

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

Pursuant to the rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-2, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 116-2, shall be considered as adopted, shall be considered as an original bill for purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

#### H.R. 268

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

*That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, namely:*

#### TITLE I

##### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS PROCESSING, RESEARCH AND MARKETING OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

*For an additional amount for the "Office of the Secretary", \$1,105,442,000, which shall remain available until December 31, 2020, for necessary expenses related to losses of crops (including milk), trees, bushes, and vines, as a consequence of Hurricanes Michael or Florence, other hurricanes, typhoons, volcanic activity, or wildfires occurring in calendar year 2018 under such terms and conditions as determined by the Secretary: Provided, That the Secretary may provide assistance for such losses in the form of block grants to eligible states and territories and such assistance may include compensation to producers, as determined by the Secretary, for past or future crop insurance premiums, forest restoration, and poultry and livestock losses: Provided further, That of the amounts provided under this heading, tree assistance payments may be made under section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) to eligible orchardists or nursery tree growers (as defined*

*in such section) of pecan trees with a tree mortality rate that exceeds 7.5 percent (adjusted for normal mortality) and is less than 15 percent (adjusted for normal mortality), to be available until expended, for losses incurred during the period beginning January 1, 2018, and ending December 31, 2018: Provided further, That in the case of producers impacted by volcanic activity that resulted in the loss of crop land, or access to crop land, the Secretary shall consider all measures available, as appropriate, to bring replacement land into production: Provided further, That the total amount of payments received under this heading and applicable policies of crop insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) or the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) under section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333) shall not exceed 90 percent of the loss as determined by the Secretary: Provided further, That the total amount of payments received under this heading for producers who did not obtain a policy or plan of insurance for an insurable commodity for the applicable crop year under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) for the crop incurring the losses or did not file the required paperwork and pay the service fee by the applicable State filing deadline for a noninsurable commodity for the applicable crop year under NAP for the crop incurring the losses shall not exceed 70 percent of the loss as determined by the Secretary: Provided further, That producers receiving payments under this heading, as determined by the Secretary, shall be required to purchase crop insurance where crop insurance is available for the next two available crop years, excluding tree insurance policies, and producers receiving payments under this heading shall be required to purchase coverage under NAP where crop insurance is not available in the next two available crop years, as determined by the Secretary: Provided further, That, not later than 120 days after the end of fiscal year 2019, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress specifying the type, amount, and method of such assistance by state and territory: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.*

#### FARM SERVICE AGENCY

##### EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM

*For an additional amount for the "Emergency Forest Restoration Program", for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael and Florence and wildfires occurring in calendar year 2018, and other natural disasters, \$480,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.*

##### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

*For an additional amount for "Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations", for necessary expenses for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael and Florence and wildfires occurring in calendar year 2018, and other natural disasters, \$125,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.*

##### RURAL DEVELOPMENT RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

*For an additional amount for the cost of grants for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in*

section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael and Florence and wildfires occurring in calendar year 2018, and other natural disasters, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 101. In addition to other amounts made available by section 309 of Public Law 115-72, there is hereby appropriated \$600,000,000 for the Secretary of Agriculture to provide a grant to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for disaster nutrition assistance in response to Presidentially declared major disasters and emergencies: Provided, That the funds made available to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under this section shall remain available for obligation by the Commonwealth until September 30, 2020, and shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 102. In addition to amounts otherwise made available, out of the funds made available under section 18 of Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, \$10,200,000 shall be available for the Secretary to provide a grant to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for disaster nutrition assistance in response to the Presidentially declared major disasters and emergencies: Provided, That funds made available to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under this section shall remain available for obligation by the Commonwealth until September 30, 2020: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 103. For purposes of administering title I of subdivision I of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123), losses to agricultural producers resulting from hurricanes shall also include losses of peach and blueberry crops in calendar year 2017 due to extreme cold: Provided, That the amounts provided by this section are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That amounts repurposed under this heading that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 104. (a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a person or legal entity is not eligible to receive a payment under the Market Facilitation Program established pursuant to the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714 et seq.) if the average adjusted gross income of such person or legal entity is greater than \$900,000.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a person or legal entity if at least 75 percent of the adjusted gross income of such person or legal entity is derived from farming, ranching, or forestry related activities.

(b) A person or legal entity may not receive a payment under the Market Facilitation Program described in subsection (a)(1), directly or indirectly, of more than \$125,000.

(c) In this section, the term "average adjusted gross income" has the meaning given the term

defined in section 760.1502 of title 7 Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect July 18, 2018).

(d) The amount provided by this section is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### TITLE II

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

##### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Pursuant to section 703 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3233), for an additional amount for "Economic Development Assistance Programs" for necessary expenses related to flood mitigation, disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure in areas that received a major disaster designation as a result of Hurricanes Florence, Michael, and Lane, Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut, and of wildfires, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and other natural disasters occurring in calendar year 2018 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), \$600,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That within the amount appropriated, up to 2 percent of funds may be transferred to the "Salaries and Expenses" account for administration and oversight activities: Provided further, That within the amount appropriated, \$1,000,000 shall be transferred to the "Office of Inspector General" account for carrying out investigations and audits related to the funding provided under this heading.

##### NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

##### OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

For an additional amount for "Operations, Research, and Facilities" for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Yutu, and of wildfires, \$120,570,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, as follows:

- (1) \$3,000,000 for repair and replacement of observing assets, real property, and equipment;
- (2) \$11,000,000 for marine debris assessment and removal;
- (3) \$31,570,000 for mapping, charting, and geodesy services;
- (4) \$25,000,000 to improve: (a) hurricane intensity forecasting, including through deployment of unmanned ocean observing platforms and enhanced data assimilation; (b) flood prediction, forecasting, and mitigation capabilities; and (c) wildfire prediction, detection, and forecasting; and
- (5) \$50,000,000 for Title IX Fund grants as authorized under section 906(c) of division O of Public Law 114-113:

Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate for funding provided under subsection (4) of this heading within 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

##### PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for "Procurement, Acquisition and Construction", \$25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for improvements to operational and research weather supercomputing infrastructure and satellite ground services used for hurricane intensity and track prediction; flood prediction, forecasting, and mitigation; and wildfire prediction,

detection, and forecasting: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall submit a spending plan to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

##### FISHERIES DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for "Fisheries Disaster Assistance" for necessary expenses associated with the mitigation of fishery disasters, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That funds shall be used for mitigating the effects of commercial fishery failures and fishery resource disasters declared by the Secretary of Commerce, including those declared by the Secretary to be a direct result of Hurricanes Florence and Michael and Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

##### UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for "Salaries and Expenses" for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael and Typhoon Yutu, \$1,336,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

##### BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For an additional amount for "Buildings and Facilities" for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael and Typhoon Yutu, \$28,400,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### RELATED AGENCIES

##### LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

##### PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

For an additional amount for "Payment to the Legal Services Corporation" to carry out the purposes of the Legal Services Corporation Act by providing for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence, Michael, and Lane, Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut, and calendar year 2018 wildfires, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes, \$15,000,000: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be expended for any purpose prohibited or limited by, or contrary to any of the provisions of, sections 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, and 506 of Public Law 105-119, and all funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be subject to the same terms and conditions set forth in such sections, except that all references in sections 502 and 503 to 1997 and 1998 shall be deemed to refer instead to 2018 and 2019, respectively, and except that sections 501 and 503 of Public Law 104-134 (referenced by Public Law 105-119) shall not apply to the amount made available under this heading: Provided further, That, for the purposes of this Act, the Legal Services Corporation shall be considered an agency of the United States Government.

## TITLE III

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps”, \$200,000,000, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael and Florence: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, \$400,000,000, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael and Florence: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## TITLE IV

## CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

## INVESTIGATIONS

For an additional amount for “Investigations” for necessary expenses related to the completion, or initiation and completion, of flood and storm damage reduction, including shore protection, studies which are currently authorized or which are authorized after the date of enactment of this Act, to reduce risk from future floods and hurricanes, at full Federal expense, \$35,000,000, to remain available until expended, in States and insular areas that were impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, and Tropical Storm Gita: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a monthly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, including new studies selected to be initiated using funds provided under this heading, beginning not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act.

## CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for “Construction” for necessary expenses, \$715,000,000, to remain available until expended, to construct flood and storm damage reduction, including shore protection, projects which are currently authorized or which are authorized after the date of enactment of this Act, and flood and storm damage reduction, including shore protection, projects which have signed Chief’s Reports as of the date of enactment of this Act or which are studied using funds provided under the heading “Investigations” if the Secretary determines such projects to be technically feasible, economically justified, and environmentally acceptable, in States and insular areas that were impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, and Tropical Storm Gita: Provided, That projects receiving funds provided in Public Law 115–123 shall not be eligible for funding provided under this heading: Provided further, That for projects receiving funding under this heading, the provisions of Section 902 of the Water Resources Act of 1986 shall not apply to these funds: Provided further, That the completion of ongoing construction projects receiving funds provided under this heading shall be at full Federal expense with respect to such funds: Provided further, That using funds provided under this heading, the non-Federal cash contribution for projects not eligible as ongoing construction projects shall be financed in accordance with the provisions of section 103(k) of Public Law 99–662 over a period of 30 years from the date of completion of the

project or separable element: Provided further, That up to \$25,000,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for continuing authorities projects to reduce the risk of flooding and storm damage: Provided further, That any projects using funds appropriated under this heading shall be initiated only after non-Federal interests have entered into binding agreements with the Secretary requiring, where applicable, the non-Federal interests to pay 100 percent of the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation costs of the project and to hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction or operation and maintenance of the project, except for damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a monthly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For an additional amount for “Mississippi River and Tributaries” for necessary expenses to address emergency situations at Corps of Engineers projects and rehabilitate and repair damages to Corps of Engineers projects, caused by natural disasters, \$225,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a monthly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act.

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance” for necessary expenses to dredge Federal navigation projects in response to, and repair damages to Corps of Engineers Federal projects caused by, natural disasters, \$245,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall provide a monthly report directly to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

## CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for “Central Utah Project Completion Account”, \$350,000, to be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, to remain available until expended, for expenses necessary in carrying out fire remediation activities related to wildfires in 2018: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal-

anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

## WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

For an additional amount for “Water and Related Resources”, \$15,500,000, to remain available until expended, for fire remediation and suppression emergency assistance related to wildfires in 2017 and 2018: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

## ENERGY PROGRAMS

## ELECTRICITY DELIVERY

For an additional amount for “Electricity Delivery”, \$15,500,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and Super Typhoon Yutu, including technical assistance related to electric grids: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That the Assistant Secretary of Electricity Delivery shall provide a monthly report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act.

## TITLE V

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

## SECURITY, ENFORCEMENT, AND

## INVESTIGATIONS

## COAST GUARD

## OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “Operations and Support” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael, Florence, and Lane, Tropical Storm Gordon, and Typhoon Mangkhut, \$46,977,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND

## IMPROVEMENTS

For an additional amount for “Procurement, Construction, and Improvements” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael, Florence, and Lane, Tropical Storm Gordon, and Typhoon Mangkhut, \$476,755,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

For an additional amount for “Environmental Compliance and Restoration” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael and Florence, \$2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 501. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of assistance provided for DR–4336–PR, DR–4339–PR, DR–4340–USVI and DR–4335–USVI under sections 403, 406 and 407 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b and 5173) shall be 100 percent of the eligible costs under such sections.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The Federal share provided by subsection (a) shall apply to disaster

assistance applied for before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 502. The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may provide assistance, pursuant to section 428 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), for critical services as defined in section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for the duration of the recovery for incidents DR-4404, DR-4396, and DR-4398 to—

(1) replace or restore the function of a facility or system to industry standards without regard to the pre-disaster condition of the facility or system; and

(2) replace or restore components of the facility or system not damaged by the disaster where necessary to fully effectuate the replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged components to restore the function of the facility or system to industry standards.

#### TITLE VI

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

#### CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for “Construction” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence, Lane, and Michael, and flooding associated with major declared disaster DR-4365, and calendar year 2018 earthquakes, \$82,400,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of this amount \$50,000,000 shall be used to restore and rebuild national wildlife refuges and increase the resiliency and capacity of coastal habitat and infrastructure to withstand storms and reduce the amount of damage caused by such storms: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

For an additional amount for the “Historic Preservation Fund” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and Typhoon Yutu, \$50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, including costs to States and territories necessary to complete compliance activities required by section 306108 of title 54, United States Code (formerly section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) and costs needed to administer the program: Provided, That grants shall only be available for areas that have received a major disaster declaration pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): Provided further, That individual grants shall not be subject to a non-Federal matching requirement: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for “Construction” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut, and calendar year 2018 wildfires, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, \$78,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

#### SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

For an additional amount for “Surveys, Investigations, and Research” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and calendar year

2018 wildfires, earthquake damage associated with emergency declaration EM-3410, and in those areas impacted by a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) with respect to calendar year 2018 wildfires or volcanic eruptions, \$98,500,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of this amount, \$72,310,000 is for costs related to the repair and replacement of equipment and facilities damaged by disasters in 2018: Provided further, That, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, the Survey shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations that describes the potential options to replace the facility damaged by the 2018 volcano disaster along with cost estimates and a description of how the Survey will provide direct access for monitoring volcanic activity and the potential threat to at-risk communities: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

#### INSULAR AFFAIRS

#### ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES

For an additional amount for “Technical Assistance” for financial management expenses related to the consequences of Typhoon Yutu, \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

#### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in 2018, \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

#### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

For an additional amount for “Science and Technology” for necessary expenses related to improving preparedness of the water sector, \$600,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND PROGRAM

For an additional amount for “Leaking Underground Storage Tank Fund” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, calendar year 2018 earthquakes, and Typhoon Yutu, \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For additional amounts for “State and Tribal Assistance Grants” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael and calendar year 2018 earthquakes for the hazardous waste financial assistance grants program, \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended; for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Typhoon Yutu for the hazardous waste financial assistance grants program and for other solid waste man-

agement activities, \$56,000,000, to remain available until expended, provided that none of these funds shall be subject to section 3011(b) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act; and for grants under section 106 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended, to address impacts of Hurricane Florence, Hurricane Michael, Typhoon Yutu, and calendar year 2018 wildfires, notwithstanding subsections (b), (e), and (f), of such section: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for “State and Tribal Assistance Grants”, \$349,400,000 to remain available until expended, of which \$53,300,000 shall be for capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and of which \$296,100,000 shall be for capitalization grants under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act: Provided, That notwithstanding section 604(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and section 1452(a)(1)(D) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, funds appropriated herein shall be provided to States in EPA Regions 4, 9, and 10 in amounts determined by the Administrator for wastewater treatment works and drinking water facilities impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Yutu, and calendar year 2018 wildfires and earthquakes: Provided further, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 603(i) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and section 1452(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, for the funds appropriated herein, each State shall use not less than 20 percent but not more than 30 percent amount of its capitalization grants to provide additional subsidization to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans or grants or any combination of these: Provided further, That the Administrator shall retain \$10,400,000 of the funds appropriated herein for grants for drinking water facilities and waste water treatment plants impacted by Typhoon Yutu: Provided further, That the funds appropriated herein shall be used for eligible projects whose purpose is to reduce flood or fire damage risk and vulnerability or to enhance resiliency to rapid hydrologic change or natural disaster at treatment works as defined by section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or any eligible facilities under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and for other eligible tasks at such treatment works or facilities necessary to further such purposes: Provided further, That the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may retain up to \$1,000,000 of the funds appropriated herein for management and oversight: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

In addition, for an additional amount for “State and Tribal Assistance Grants”, \$500,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$261,000,000 shall be for capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and of which \$239,000,000 shall be for capitalization grants under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act: Provided, That notwithstanding section 604(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and section 1452(a)(1)(D) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, funds appropriated herein shall be provided to States or Territories in EPA Regions 2, 4 and 6 in amounts determined by the Administrator for wastewater and drinking water treatment works and facilities impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria: Provided further, That, for Region 2, such funds allocated from funds appropriated herein shall not be subject to the matching or cost share requirements of sections

602(b)(2), 602(b)(3) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act nor the matching requirements of section 1452(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act: Provided further, That, for Region 2, notwithstanding the requirements of section 603(i) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and section 1452(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, each State and Territory shall use the full amount of its capitalization grants allocated from funds appropriated herein to provide additional subsidization to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans or grants or any combination of these: Provided further, That, for Regions 4 and 6, notwithstanding the requirements of section 603(i) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and section 1452(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, for the funds allocated, each State shall use not less than 20 percent but not more than 30 percent amount of its capitalization grants allocated from funds appropriated herein to provide additional subsidization to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans or grants or any combination of these: Provided further, That the Administrator shall retain \$74,600,000 of the funds appropriated herein for grants to any state or territory that has not established a water pollution control revolving fund pursuant to title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act for drinking water facilities and waste water treatment plants impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria: Provided further, That the funds appropriated herein shall only be used for eligible projects whose purpose is to reduce flood damage risk and vulnerability or to enhance resiliency to rapid hydrologic change or a natural disaster at treatment works as defined by section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or any eligible facilities under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and for other eligible tasks at such treatment works or facilities necessary to further such purposes: Provided further, That, for Region 2, notwithstanding section 603(d)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and section 1452(f)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, funds allocated from funds appropriated herein may be used to make loans or to buy, refinance or restructure the debt obligations of eligible recipients only where such debt was incurred on or after September 20, 2017: Provided further, That the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may retain up to \$1,000,000 of the funds appropriated herein for management and oversight: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### RELATED AGENCIES

##### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

###### FOREST SERVICE

###### FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For an additional amount for “Forest and Rangeland Research” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires, \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended for the forest inventory and analysis program: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

###### STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

For an additional amount for “State and Private Forestry” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires, \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

For an additional amount for “National Forest System” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires, \$63,960,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

For an additional amount for “Capital Improvement and Maintenance” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, and the calendar year 2018 wildfires, \$36,040,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Wildland Fire Management”, \$720,271,000, to remain available through September 30, 2022, for urgent wildland fire suppression operations: Provided, That such funds shall be solely available to be transferred to and merged with other appropriations accounts from which funds were previously transferred for wildland fire suppression in fiscal year 2018 to fully repay those amounts: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

##### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

##### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For an additional amount for “National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences” for necessary expenses in carrying out activities set forth in section 311(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9660(a)) and section 126(g) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 related to the consequences of major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) in 2018, \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 601. Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the agencies receiving funds appropriated by this title shall provide a detailed operating plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this title by State and Territory, and by program, project, and activity, to the Committees on Appropriations: Provided, That no such funds shall be obligated before the operating plans are provided to the Committees: Provided further, That such plans shall be updated, including obligations to date, and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations every 60 days until all such funds are expended.

#### TITLE VII

##### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

##### EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

##### TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Training and Employment Services”, \$50,000,000, for the displaced workers assistance national reserve for necessary expenses directly related to the con-

sequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, or the California wildfires occurring in calendar year 2018, to remain available through September 30, 2020: Provided, That the Secretary of Labor may transfer up to \$1,000,000 of such funds to any other Department of Labor account for reconstruction and recovery needs, including worker protection activities: Provided further, That these sums may be used to replace grant funds previously obligated to the impacted areas: Provided further, That of the amount provided, up to \$500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be transferred to “Office of Inspector General” for oversight of activities responding to such consequences: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

##### SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

##### HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “Health Surveillance and Program Support”, \$30,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2019, for grants, contracts and cooperative agreements for behavioral health treatment, crisis counseling, and other related helplines, and for other similar programs to provide support to individuals impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, and the California wildfires occurring in 2018 in those areas for which a major disaster or emergency has been declared under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 and 5191): Provided, That obligations incurred for the purposes provided herein prior to the date of enactment of this Act may be charged to funds appropriated under this heading: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

##### SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

For an additional amount for “Social Services Block Grant”, \$250,000,000, which shall remain available through September 30, 2020, for necessary expenses directly related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, and the California wildfires in 2018 in those areas for which a major disaster or emergency has been declared under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 and 5191): Provided, That notwithstanding section 2002 of the Social Security Act, the distribution of such amount shall be limited to States directly affected by these events: Provided further, That the time limits in section 2002(c) of the Social Security Act shall not apply to funds appropriated in this paragraph that are used for renovation, repair or construction: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this paragraph are in addition to the entitlement grants authorized by section 2002(a)(1) of the Social Security Act and shall not be available for such entitlement grants: Provided further, That in addition to other uses permitted by title XX of the Social Security Act, funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for health services (including mental health services), and for costs of renovating, repairing, and construction of health care facilities (including mental health facilities), child care centers, and other social services facilities: Provided further, That of the amount provided, up to \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be transferred to “Office of the Secretary—Office of Inspector

General” for oversight of activities responding to such hurricanes, typhoons, and wildfires: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this paragraph shall not be available for costs that are reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, under a contract for insurance, or by self-insurance: Provided further, That obligations incurred for the purposes provided herein prior to the date of enactment of this Act may be charged to funds appropriated under this heading: Provided further, That up to \$3,000,000 may be used to supplement amounts available for the necessary expenses of administering subtitle A of title XX of the Social Security Act: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Children and Families Services Programs”, \$60,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for Head Start programs, including making payments under the Head Start Act, for necessary expenses directly related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, and the California wildfires in 2018 in those areas for which a major disaster or emergency has been declared under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 and 5191): Provided, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be included in the calculation of the “base grant” in subsequent fiscal years, as such term is defined in sections 640(a)(7)(A), 641A(h)(1)(B), or 645(d)(3) of the Head Start Act: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this paragraph are not subject to the allocation requirements of section 640(a) of the Head Start Act: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this paragraph shall not be available for costs that are reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, under a contract for insurance, or by self-insurance: Provided further, That up to \$2,000,000 shall be available for Federal administrative expenses: Provided further, That obligations incurred for the purposes provided herein prior to the date of enactment of this Act may be charged to funds appropriated under this heading: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

##### EDUCATION RECOVERY

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Education Recovery” for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, the California wildfires in 2018, the November 2018 Anchorage Earthquake or the volcanic eruption and earthquakes in Hawaii in 2018 in those areas for which a major disaster or emergency has been declared under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 and 5191) (referred to under this heading as a “covered disaster or emergency”), \$165,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2019: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That such assistance may be provided through any of the programs authorized under this heading in division B of title VIII of Public Law 115–123 (as amended by Public Law 115–141), as determined by the Secretary of Education, and subject to the terms and conditions that applied to those programs, except that references to dates and

school years in Public Law 115–123 shall be deemed to be the corresponding dates and school years for the covered disaster or emergency: Provided further, That the Secretary of Education may determine the amounts to be used for each such program and shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate of these amounts not later than 7 days prior to obligation: Provided further, \$2,000,000 of the funds made available under this heading, to remain available until expended, shall be transferred to the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Education for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated under this heading, and up to \$1,000,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be for program administration.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 701. (a) Section 1108(g)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1308(g)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and (E)” and inserting “(E), and (F)”;

(2) in subparagraph (C), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “and (E)” and inserting “and (F)”;

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F);

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (D), the following:

“(E) Subject to subparagraph (F), for the period beginning January 1, 2019, and ending September 30, 2019, the amount of the increase otherwise provided under subparagraph (A) for the Northern Mariana Islands shall be further increased by \$20,000,000.”; and

(5) in subparagraph (F) (as redesignated by paragraph (3) of this section)—

(A) by striking “title XIX, during” and inserting “title XIX—

“(i) during”;

(B) by striking “and (D)” and inserting “, (D), and (E)”;

(C) by striking “and the Virgin Islands” each place it appears and inserting “, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands”;

(D) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) for the period beginning January 1, 2019, and ending September 30, 2019, with respect to payments to Guam and American Samoa from the additional funds provided under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall increase the Federal medical assistance percentage or other rate that would otherwise apply to such payments to 100 percent.”.

(b) The amounts provided by the amendments made by subsection (a) are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 702. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education shall provide a detailed spend plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this title, including estimated personnel and administrative costs, to the Committees on Appropriations: Provided, That such plans shall be updated and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations every 60 days until all funds are expended or expire.

SEC. 703. The second proviso under the heading “Hurricane Education Recovery” under the heading “Department of Education” under title VIII of subdivision 1 of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123; 132 Stat. 95) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” after the semicolon; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(K) assistance provided to an eligible entity under this heading, including assistance provided to an eligible entity before the date of en-

actment of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019, may be used by the eligible entity for a purpose described in section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster and Relief Emergency Act (42 U.S.C. 5172), notwithstanding section 102(e)(3) of title IV of division B of Public Law 109–148 (119 Stat. 2794), if the eligible entity will receive funds for that purpose under such section 406; and

“(L) any duplicative Federal assistance provided under this heading to an eligible entity may be retained by the entity and used for other activities to restart school operations in accordance with this paragraph;”;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (11); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

“(10) amounts available under paragraph (4) that exceed the amount required to meet the need for such funds as determined by the Secretary as of December 31, 2018, shall be available to carry out paragraph (3); and”.

Provided, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### TITLE VIII

##### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

##### GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, for audits and investigations related to Hurricanes Florence, Lane, and Michael, Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut, the calendar year 2018 wildfires, earthquakes, and volcano eruptions, and other disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): Provided, That, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Government Accountability Office shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a spend plan specifying funding estimates for audits and investigations of any such declared disasters occurring in 2018 and identifying funding estimates or carryover balances, if any, that may be available for audits and investigations of any other such declared disasters: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### TITLE IX

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$115,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for planning and design related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael on Navy and Marine Corps installations: Provided, That none of the funds shall be available for obligation until the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate receive a master plan for the installations and a form 1391 for each specific project: Provided further, That, not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy, or his designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being

for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Air Force”, \$700,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for planning and design, and construction expenses related to the consequences of Hurricane Michael: Provided, That none of the funds shall be available for obligation until the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate receive a basing plan and future mission requirements for installations significantly damaged by Hurricane Michael: Provided further, That, not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force, or his designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Army National Guard”, \$42,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael: Provided, That none of the funds shall be available for obligation until the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate receive form 1391 for each specific request: Provided further, That, not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Director of the Army National Guard, or his designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading: Provided further, That such funds may be obligated or expended for planning and design and military construction projects not otherwise authorized by law: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Medical Facilities”, \$3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for necessary expenses related to the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael and Typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu: Provided, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address needs as a result of the consequences of Hurricanes Florence and Michael and Typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu, may transfer such funds to any discretionary account of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Provided further, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit notice thereof to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: Provided further, That none of these funds shall be available for obligation until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed expenditure plan for funds provided under this heading: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE X

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

For an additional amount for the “Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program” as authorized under section 5324 of title 49, United States Code, \$10,542,000 to remain available until expended, for transit systems affected by major declared disasters occurring in calendar year 2018: Provided, That not more than three-quarters of 1 percent of the funds for public transportation emergency relief shall be available for administrative expenses and ongoing program management oversight as authorized under sections 5334 and 5338(f)(2) of such title and shall be in addition to any other appropriations for such purpose: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

Of the amounts made available for “Federal Aviation Administration—Operations” in division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123), up to \$18,000,000 shall also be available for necessary expenses related to the consequences of major declared disasters occurring in calendar year 2018: Provided, That amounts repurposed under this heading that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

For an additional amount for the Emergency Relief Program as authorized under section 125 of title 23, United States Code, \$1,650,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Community Development Fund”, \$1,160,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses for activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster that occurred in 2018 (except as otherwise provided under this heading) pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): Provided, That funds shall be awarded directly to the State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe (as such term is defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974) at the discretion of the Secretary: Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading that remain available, after the funds under this heading and under the same heading in Public Law 115–254 have been allocated to meet unmet needs for disasters that occurred in 2018, up to \$100,000,000 shall be allocated to meet unmet infrastructure needs for grantees that received allocations for disasters that occurred in 2017 (excluding disas-

ters specified in section 501(a) of title V of this Act) under this heading of division B of Public Law 115–56 and title XI of Public Law 115–123: Provided further, That of the amounts provided in the previous proviso, the Secretary’s unmet infrastructure needs determinations shall not take into account mitigation-specific allocations: Provided further, That any funds made available under this heading and under the same heading in Public Law 115–254 that remain available, after the funds under such headings have been allocated for necessary expenses for activities authorized under such headings, shall be allocated to grantees, for mitigation activities in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster that occurred in 2018: Provided further, That such allocations shall be made in the same proportion that the amount of funds each grantee received under this Act and the same heading in division I of Public Law 115–254 bears to the amount of all funds provided to all grantees that received allocations for disasters that occurred in 2018: Provided further, That of the amounts made available under the text preceding the first proviso under this heading and under the same heading in Public Law 115–254, the Secretary shall allocate to all such grantees an aggregate amount not less than 33 percent of the sum of such amounts of funds within 120 days after the enactment of this Act based on the best available data, and shall allocate no less than 100 percent of such funds by no later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the Secretary shall not prohibit the use of funds made available under this heading and the same heading in Public Law 115–254 for non-Federal share as authorized by section 105(a)(9) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(9)): Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading, grantees may establish grant programs to assist small businesses for working capital purposes to aid in recovery: Provided further, That as a condition of making any grant, the Secretary shall certify in advance that such grantee has in place proficient financial controls and procurement processes and has established adequate procedures to prevent any duplication of benefits as defined by section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155), to ensure timely expenditure of funds, to maintain comprehensive websites regarding all disaster recovery activities assisted with these funds, and to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds: Provided further, That with respect to any such duplication of benefits, the Secretary and any grantee under this section shall not take into consideration or reduce the amount provided to any applicant for assistance from the grantee where such applicant applied for and was approved, but declined assistance related to such major disasters that occurred in 2018 from the Small Business Administration under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)): Provided further, That the Secretary shall require grantees to maintain on a public website information containing common reporting criteria established by the Department that permits individuals and entities awaiting assistance and the general public to see how all grant funds are used, including copies of all relevant procurement documents, grantee administrative contracts and details of ongoing procurement processes, as determined by the Secretary: Provided further, That prior to the obligation of funds a grantee shall submit a plan to the Secretary for approval detailing the proposed use of all funds, including criteria for eligibility and how the use of these funds will address long-term recovery and restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas: Provided further, That such funds may not be used for activities reimbursable by, or for which funds are made available by, the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the Army

Corps of Engineers: Provided further, That funds allocated under this heading shall not be considered relevant to the non-disaster formula allocations made pursuant to section 106 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306): Provided further, That a State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe may use up to 5 percent of its allocation for administrative costs: Provided further, That the first proviso under this heading in the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (division I of Public Law 115-254) is amended by striking "State or unit of general local government" and inserting "State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe (as such term is defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302))": Provided further, That the sixth proviso under this heading in the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (division I of Public Law 115-254) is amended by striking "State or subdivision thereof" and inserting "State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe (as such term is defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302))": Provided further, That in administering the funds under this heading, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the obligation by the Secretary or the use by the recipient of these funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, non-discrimination, labor standards, and the environment), if the Secretary finds that good cause exists for the waiver or alternative requirement and such waiver or alternative requirement would not be inconsistent with the overall purpose of title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974: Provided further, That, notwithstanding the preceding proviso, recipients of funds provided under this heading that use such funds to supplement Federal assistance provided under section 402, 403, 404, 406, 407, 408 (c)(4), or 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) may adopt, without review or public comment, any environmental review, approval, or permit performed by a Federal agency, and such adoption shall satisfy the responsibilities of the recipient with respect to such environmental review, approval or permit: Provided further, That, notwithstanding section 104(g)(2) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5304(g)(2)), the Secretary may, upon receipt of a request for release of funds and certification, immediately approve the release of funds for an activity or project assisted under this heading if the recipient has adopted an environmental review, approval or permit under the preceding proviso or the activity or project is categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.): Provided further, That the Secretary shall publish via notice in the Federal Register any waiver, or alternative requirement, to any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers pursuant to title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 no later than 5 days before the effective date of such waiver or alternative requirement: Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading, up to \$5,000,000 shall be made available for capacity building and technical assistance, including assistance on contracting and procurement processes, to support States, units of general local government, or Indian tribes (and their subrecipients) that receive allocations pursuant to this heading, received disaster recovery allocations under the same heading in Public Law 115-254, or may receive similar allocations for disaster recovery in future appropriations Acts: Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading and under the same heading in Public Law 115-254, up to

\$2,500,000 shall be transferred, in aggregate, to "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Program Office Salaries and Expenses—Community Planning and Development" for necessary costs, including information technology costs, of administering and overseeing the obligation and expenditure of amounts under this heading: Provided further, That the amount specified in the preceding proviso shall be combined with funds appropriated under the same heading and for the same purpose in Public Law 115-254 and the aggregate of such amounts shall be available for any of the same such purposes specified under this heading or the same heading in Public Law 115-254 without limitation: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 1001. (a) Amounts previously made available for activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster, including funds provided under section 145 of division C of Public Law 114-223, section 192 of division C of Public Law 114-223 (as added by section 101(3) of division A of Public Law 114-254), section 421 of division K of Public Law 115-31, and any mitigation funding provided under the heading "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund" of Public Law 115-123, that were allocated in response to Hurricane Matthew, may be used interchangeably and without limitation for the same activities in the most impacted and distressed areas related to Hurricane Florence. In addition, any funds provided under the heading "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund" in this Act or in division I of Public Law 115-254 that are allocated in response to Hurricane Florence may be used interchangeably and without limitation for the same activities in the most impacted and distressed areas related to Hurricane Matthew. Until HUD publishes the Federal Register Notice implementing this provision, grantees may submit for HUD approval revised plans for the use of funds related to Hurricane Matthew that expand the eligible beneficiaries of existing programs contained in such previously approved plans to include those impacted by Hurricane Florence. Approval of any such revised plans shall include the execution of revised grant terms and conditions as necessary. Once the implementing Notice is published, any additional action plan revisions shall follow the requirements contained therein.

(b) Amounts made available for administrative costs for activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation in the most impacted and distressed areas under this Act or any future Act, and amounts previously provided under section 420 of division L of Public Law 114-113, section 145 of division C of Public Law 114-223, section 192 of division C of Public Law 114-223 (as added by section 101(3) of division A of Public Law 114-254), section 421 of division K of Public Law 115-31, and under the heading "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Community Planning and Development—Community Development Fund" of division B of Public Law 115-56, Public Law 115-123, and Public Law 115-254, shall be available for eligible administrative costs of the grantee related to any disaster relief funding identified in this subsection without re-

gard to the particular disaster appropriation from which such funds originated.

(c) The additional uses pursuant to this section for amounts that were previously designated by the Congress, respectively, as an emergency requirement or as being for disaster relief pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### TITLE XI

##### GENERAL PROVISION—THIS ACT

SEC. 1101. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or rescinded or transferred, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

##### TITLE XII—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 1201. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (division C of Public Law 115-245) is further amended by striking the date specified in section 105(3) and inserting "February 8, 2019".

This Act may be cited as the "Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019".

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, is in order except those printed in part B of House Report 116-2. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

##### AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,900,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak on behalf of this amendment, which is cosponsored by my very good friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT), and 12 other distinguished Members on both sides of the aisle.

As I said during general debate, Hurricane Michael devastated my district and left a path of destruction all the way up to Virginia. Across the State of

Georgia, many producers suffered nearly 100 percent crop loss. Damages were experienced by the pecan, peanut, cotton, vegetable, and timber industries, and this is the third straight year these folks were hit.

A few weeks before that, Hurricane Florence hit the Carolinas, causing \$22 billion in damage. Last year, Californians witnessed another devastating wildfire season, while Hawaii suffered from volcano damage, the Northern Mariana Islands were hit by typhoons, and American Samoa, by a horrific cyclone.

This disaster supplemental bill provides funds to begin addressing these needs for our agriculture and our rural communities. The bill increases payments for losses from 85 to 90 percent for producers who have crop insurance and from 65 to 70 percent for producers without crop insurance.

Unfortunately, the \$1.1 billion in the bill was based only on USDA's assessment of need, nationwide. However, the various State departments of agriculture, those States that were devastated by these disasters, submitted to the committee assessments which came to over \$7 billion.

To ensure that more of these needs can be fully met, Mr. SCOTT and I put our heads together. We looked at the numbers and concluded that the original estimate by the Department of Agriculture of \$1.1 billion in damages could very well and was, most likely, going to be too low; so we have offered this amendment to increase it by \$1.9 billion, for a total of \$3 billion.

I urge a "yes" vote on the Bishop-Scott amendment. It was needed. We want to make sure that we can do what is necessary to allow Americans who were devastated by these natural disasters to have sufficient recovery.

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, although it is a technical opposition. I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, throughout middle and late October and into the first of November, Congressman BISHOP and I crisscrossed paths many times and sometimes—in fact, many times—ended up in the same room trying to help our farmers. The storm straddled our districts.

I have never seen the devastation to our crops that I saw over those couple of weeks, and that devastation is still there.

I can't thank my colleague, Congressman BISHOP, enough for his work and his help on this amendment. I would also like to thank his staff and the staff of both the Democrats and Republicans on the Appropriations Committee.

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) has been a tremendous

amount of help, as has Ms. GRANGER, and Chairwoman LOWEY on the Democratic side. Mr. MCGOVERN has been a lot of help. A lot of people have reached out and been willing to help those of us in the Southeast, and I can't say thank you enough for that.

Our losses are estimated at over \$5.4 billion for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas.

The underlying text of the bill is good—in fact, I think it is very good—and sets a framework that will be used as we go forward in the years to handle disaster relief for agriculture. The primary problem is that the request of \$1.1 billion currently included in the base text simply does not fund the formula for the losses.

With Congressman BISHOP's help, we have worked to draft the amendment, increasing that amount by \$1.9 billion, to a total of \$3 billion, which I believe, along with Mr. BISHOP, more accurately reflects the need to fund the formula.

I, again, hope my colleagues will support the amendment.

I want to thank Congressman BISHOP and the many others who have worked with us on this.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my good colleague and friend, AUSTIN SCOTT, for his leadership on this, as well as, certainly, the chairman, Chairman BISHOP from Georgia, whom, by the way, I have heard lots about for many, many years from many mutual friends that he and I both have. I look forward to working with him not only on this, but on many other matters as they come before us.

There is absolutely no question: agriculture all across the Southeast has been significantly damaged, devastated in many, many parts.

In North Carolina, we are still reeling from the hurricane in 2016, Hurricane Matthew. And then, of course, Hurricane Florence came and hit not only the same areas that Hurricane Matthew hit, but hit a much broader area of North Carolina. In fact, why don't we just say it really devastated and inflicted a lot of harm all across eastern North Carolina, this on top of a 5-year decline in farm income not only in North Carolina, but across the country.

So you have had a significant shortfall in income for all these farm families all over the country, North Carolina included.

Then comes Hurricane Matthew in 2016, floods all those out who are in its path. And when I say "floods," I mean a real flood, flooding that you have not seen in many, many years.

And then Hurricane Florence comes in 2018. It is not only the same areas that Hurricane Matthew hit in 2016, but hits a much broader geographical region in North Carolina and elsewhere.

So over the last 5 years, you have not only had a huge decrease in farm in-

come, you have had all kinds of natural disasters—not just in North Carolina, but elsewhere. As a result, all these farm families have lost all their equity. They have no equity left.

Without the disaster recovery package that Congress has previously passed and what we hope to pass eventually here, that is contained in this body of work today, will be a start to rebuild, to enable these folks to cash-flow, to enable them just to get the financing that they need to put in the ground a new crop for the year 2019.

So I commend both of my colleagues for their help and their support on this, and I encourage the rest of the body to join with us and adopt this amendment.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, to close, I just want to reiterate how important it is for us to pass sufficient resources in order to allow these communities that have been devastated all across the United States, as well as the territories, to recover from these natural disasters.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act for the Army Corps of Engineers or Department of Homeland Security may be obligated or expended to plan, develop, or construct a new physical barrier along the Southwest border.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I don't get to say this often, but I agree with Senator TED CRUZ. Yesterday, along with members of the Texas congressional delegation, he wrote to President Trump. Part of his letter read: ". . . we are strongly opposed to using funds appropriated by Congress for disaster relief and mitigation for Texas for any unintended purpose."

I agree. Disaster funding should go where Congress intended: to the sites of actual disasters, to communities dealing with things like hurricanes, mudslides, wildfires and floods.

That is what my amendment is all about. It states that none of the funds in this disaster supplemental for the Army Corps of Engineers or Department of Homeland Security may be used to plan, develop, or construct the President's border wall. It is that simple.

If someone like me, a progressive Member of the House, can see eye to eye with Senator TED CRUZ on this, one of the biggest cheerleaders for the President's border wall, then this amendment should pass with broad bipartisan support.

It isn't about whether or not you support building a border wall; it is about whether we support a President moving disaster funding away from where Congress said it should go, away from communities that are rebuilding. These people aren't interested in building a wall. They need to rebuild their homes.

So today, we are talking about President Trump and the wall. But, Mr. Chairman, if we don't take a strong stand against subverting the will of Congress this time, then it opens the door for the next President, Democrat or Republican, to use disaster funding as a piggy bank for their priority, whatever it may be.

I think the border wall would be ineffective and a waste of taxpayer dollars, but you can disagree with me and still support my amendment, because we all should agree that no President should be redirecting funding away from where Congress said it should go.

The supplemental provides \$12 billion in disaster relief for communities trying to rebuild. Let's make sure every penny actually goes to disaster relief.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. PLASKETT). The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Chair, the funds in this bill, especially those funds for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard, are specifically for repairing storm damage in our communities. The agencies have identified specific projects and calculated estimates to bring our infrastructure and agency assets back to full operation.

Not a single paragraph in the bill before us includes funds for a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, yet this amendment restricts funds for this purpose.

My colleagues, this amendment walks away from all the good work Chairwoman LOWEY tried to do for the Corps and the Coast Guard and blocks the necessary border investments required in a final compromise.

Unfortunately, this amendment will be viewed by many of my colleagues as a poison pill. It ignores investments that those on my side of the aisle believe are necessary to fund a way forward, that will provide disaster funds, address the border crisis, and reopen the government.

I urge a "no" vote on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD a letter to the President from the Texas delegation objecting to using disaster money for the border wall.

These individuals support the wall, I assume most of them do, but they don't support the President's promise that he might use executive powers to go into disaster money to pay for the border wall.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, January 15, 2019.

Hon. DONALD TRUMP,

President of the United States,

The White House, Washington, DC.

MR. PRESIDENT: The widespread flooding, storm surges and high winds that resulted from Hurricane Harvey's landfall (DR-4332) left many parts of the Texas coast paralyzed for months. Harvey leveled thousands of homes and businesses, altering many Texas communities forever. This disaster required a massive, coordinated response at the state, local and federal levels to help individuals restore their lives to normal as quickly as possible. Texas continues to rebuild through coordinated efforts at all levels of government and important work is underway to mitigate against future storms.

We—and the millions of Texas citizens we represent—remain thankful to the numerous federal agencies and first responders who coordinated and contributed resources and personnel. Shortly after the rains subsided, Congress swiftly acted by passing three separate disaster supplemental bills, including the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123), which contained over \$15 billion dollars for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works projects.

Recent reports have indicated that your Administration is considering the use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funds, appropriated by Congress and intended for Hurricane Harvey recovery and mitigation efforts, in an effort to secure our southern border. We strongly support securing the border with additional federal resources including tactical infrastructure, technology, ports of entry improvements and personnel. However, we are strongly opposed to using funds appropriated by Congress for disaster relief and mitigation for Texas for any unintended purpose. As Texans continue to rebuild and prepare for future disasters, these funds, appropriated by Congress to be spent directly on rebuilding and mitigation, are critical to helping our communities recover, preventing future flooding and protecting our constituents. Thank you for your commitment to help Texas respond to Hurricane Harvey and to secure the southern border. We ask that you ensure necessary efforts on border security do not jeopardize long-term hurricane recovery and mitigation in Texas.

Sincerely,

Greg Abbott, Governor, State of Texas; John Cornyn, U.S. Senator; Ted Cruz, U.S. Senator; Michael McCaul, Member of Congress; Randy Weber, Member of Congress; Will Hurd, Member of Congress; Kevin Brady, Member of Congress; Pete Olson, Member of Congress; Lance Gooden, Member of Congress; Brian Babin, Member of Congress; Kenny Marchant, Member of Congress; Bill Flores, Member of Congress; Dan Crenshaw, Member of Congress; Lizzie Fletcher, Member of Congress; K. Michael Conaway, Member of Congress; Roger Williams, Member of Congress; Kay Granger, Member of Congress; John Carter, Member of Congress; Sheila Jackson Lee, Member of Con-

gress; Filemon Vela, Member of Congress; Vicente Gonzalez, Member of Congress; Henry Cuellar, Member of Congress; Sylvia Garcia, Member of Congress.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR).

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Chair, I thank Chairman MCGOVERN for yielding and for offering this amendment.

Madam Chair, I rise today in support of amendment No. 2, which would prevent funds in the underlying bill, made available for the Army Corps of Engineers or the Department of Homeland Security, from being used for the planning, development, or construction of any new physical barrier along the southwest border.

Sadly, this amendment is necessary because this administration wants to divert critical disaster relief funds meant for other projects to go toward border wall construction.

The reality is that our country needs help recovering from some of the greatest natural disasters that we have seen in our lifetime.

Let's ensure that our Nation has the necessary tools to recover, rebuild, and mitigate future natural disasters.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and to hold this administration accountable and ensure that they do not deceive the American people by pulling a bait-and-switch.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Chair, I would inquire how many more speakers the gentlewoman has.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Chair, I have no further speakers.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Chair, I want to thank Representatives VELÁZQUEZ, HASTINGS, TORRES, JACKSON LEE, JAYAPAL, POCAN, and ESCOBAR for cosponsoring this amendment with me.

This is not about whether or not you believe a border wall is necessary or not. I don't believe it is. Some of my friends on the other side believe it is. But when the President said he was going to declare an emergency and dip into emergency funds, disaster funds, that are dedicated to helping people deal with real disasters to pay for this wall, that set off alarm bells here.

So no matter what side you are on on this border wall issue, you should support this amendment, because this President, and no President, should dip into disaster relief money to use it for something different than what Congress intended.

The people who this money is aimed at helping are not interested in building a wall; they are interested in rebuilding their homes.

Let us not put these moneys in jeopardy. Let's have a bipartisan moment when we all can agree that the disaster money ought to be disaster money, period.

Madam Chair, I urge a strong vote in favor of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Chair, I urge a “no” vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. RICE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 59, line 17, strike “labor standards, and the environment” and insert “and labor standards”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, a commonsense fix that gives HUD the flexibility to waive redundant and unnecessary environmental requirements that slow down the disaster recovery process.

Anyone from a district that has endured one of these devastating hurricanes, wildfires, or floods can attest to the fact that Congress should do everything in our power to quickly give these communities relief.

Madam Chair, 3 years ago, South Carolina was struck by Hurricane Matthew. As a result of that storm, South Carolina was awarded \$95 million, which was to be used to repair the households of 1,300 indigent families.

The three counties that were most affected were three of the very poorest counties in South Carolina, Marion, Dillon, and Marlboro, and 2 years and 6 months later, about \$25 million of that \$95 million has been spent, about 400 of those houses have been repaired, which leaves about 1,000 South Carolina families, indigent families, people who had nothing to begin with, either out of their homes or living in substandard, mold-infested housing that could burn down from electrical problems, or the flooring is buckled and so forth. We have to do better.

Why does it take so long? Why does it take two-and-a-half years to get these people back in their homes?

What I want to do, what my amendment does, is remove some of the burdensome Federal requirements that stand in the way of delivering the relief that the Federal Government has offered up money to pay for.

Now we come to Hurricane Florence. Hurricane Florence parked on top of my district and the southern part of North Carolina for 3 days in September and dumped over 40 inches of rain in places. And then when the storm finally did leave, for the next 2 weeks, the rivers rose and people were driven from their homes.

16,000 houses in my district were damaged. 12,000 of those houses had what they call moderate damage, which in their definition means that the house had water inside of the house but it was less than 2 feet deep.

Since the first major hurricane hit my district, I have been in constant contact with all Federal and State agencies involved in the recovery and rebuilding process. I frequently visit homes that are under construction and check with my constituents to ensure the process is going smoothly.

With respect to Matthew from two-and-a-half years ago, almost 1,000 of my constituents are still not in their homes.

My top question is, Why is this taking so long? And what can we do to fix it?

Part of their answer is reforming the long, expensive, and redundant environmental review process.

Currently, before a home is rebuilt with HUD funds, the South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office must conduct two environmental assessments. After completing a countywide assessment, every single home that is eligible to be repaired with HUD funds must undergo a second assessment, no matter the size or type of repair that they are using the HUD dollars to complete.

For example, if someone is using FEMA funds to repair a hole in the roof, the contractor can repair the hole without the homeowner having to complete an environmental study. However, if a home is being repaired using HUD funding, a costly and time-consuming environmental assessment must be completed before even the most minor of repairs can be made to the home.

This onerous regulatory requirement is just one more roadblock that my constituents face in the recovery process.

And I tell you again, the counties that were affected by this storm most severely are the poorest counties in South Carolina; majority African American, these people never had anything to begin with, and whatever they had has been taken away from them, and they need relief and they don't need Federal regulatory roadblocks.

Bringing the regulations that apply to HUD in line with other Federal agencies will create a more streamlined process and ensure the Federal dollars are put to use in a more prompt fashion.

We need to cut down the time and the costs that are preventing people in my district from getting back in their homes, back to normal, and on with their lives, and this practical amendment will do just exactly that.

Madam Chair, I have to reiterate that the House Republicans passed this disaster package in December, and here we come, the Democratic majority has put it back up, but has subjected it to reopening the government, and has made that a poison pill to make it impossible to be passed in this House.

Certainly it will not pass in the Senate, and the President will not sign it even if we pass it in this House.

Madam Chair, I urge Members to vote for this amendment and I urge the Democratic majority to stop playing politics with disaster recovery funds.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chair, the National Environmental Policy Act was first enacted in 1970, and since then, it has ensured that new projects comply with environmental standards that protect both human health and the environment. It is unwise and unnecessary to waive these requirements as we undertake disaster recovery.

This amendment is particularly troubling when we consider that the loss of wetlands has actually contributed, contributed heavily, to an increase in coastal flooding from hurricanes.

A 2017 study led by the University of California Santa Cruz showed a strong correlation between wetland cover and reduced property damage. The study estimated that wetlands in New York and New Jersey prevented a half a billion dollars in flood-related damage.

So our public policy should aim to reduce the impacts of future disasters, which is why this bill contains more than \$800 million in mitigation funding.

To allow the Secretary to waive environmental requirements would undermine the principle that disaster recovery efforts should ensure communities are in a better position to withstand future natural disasters.

Also, many disaster recovery projects involve multiple Federal funding sources. This provision actually could slow down recovery efforts, since HUD's environmental standards would no longer match those of other Federal agencies.

If we are going to get serious about mitigating the effects of climate change and the impacts of natural disasters, we need a robust environmental framework, and for 49 years, NEPA has provided that guidance.

This bill is not the place to discard decades of environmental protections. I urge a “no” vote on the amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. VELÁZQUEZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Chair, I rise in support of my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 23, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)” after the dollar amount.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Chair, I rise in support of my amendment, which I believe will make meaningful strides to help alleviate problems of poverty and hunger in Puerto Rico.

Unlike the States, Puerto Rico has been forced to work with the limited NAP block grant since 1982. This has led to a systemic underfunding of the nutritional needs of these American citizens for nearly 4 decades.

Sadly, with a severely restricted budget resulting in reduced benefits and eligibility on the island, we are leaving thousands of families hungry every day.

Already tragic, these problems were made worse when Hurricanes Irma and Maria made landfall. Puerto Rico was devastated, leaving a large share of the population out of work and unable to meet their basic needs.

In the year since the immediate aftermath, the island is still suffering. Poverty levels have risen dramatically and the economy continues struggling. Sixty percent of the children in Puerto Rico live in poverty.

□ 1545

This has meant an increase in the share of individuals who would otherwise be eligible for NAP, except for the fact that the program is capped. NAP is simply incapable of meeting the needs of Puerto Ricans, particularly given the current circumstances resulting from the disaster.

The underlying bill we are debating today will provide Puerto Rico with an additional \$600 million for disaster food assistance. I thank the chairwoman for including this critically needed funding.

This funding, and previously appropriated disaster resources, address two critical needs in Puerto Rico. First, it is providing NAP recipients with a bit more support to feed their families. Second, it aids an additional 200,000 people who lost their jobs and homes.

However, I believe Hurricanes Maria and Irma taught us some painful les-

sons with regard to nutritional support in Puerto Rico. We should be evaluating the benefits that adequate nutritional assistance has on Puerto Rican's health and economy.

My amendment would provide up to \$5 million to support the Commonwealth in conducting such a study. This will be an independent analysis that includes a survey of NAP participants on the island and fully investigates the impact disaster nutrition assistance has on the food security, health status, and well-being of the people of Puerto Rico.

I should note that the USDA conducted similar studies for the SNAP program that operates in 53 jurisdictions during and after the Great Recession. It is my hope that this analysis will provide Congress with additional insight and tools to further reduce poverty, hunger, and hardship on the island.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. VELÁZQUEZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Chair, I rise to offer my amendment, No. 5.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 16, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$25,000,000)”.

Page 17, line 5, after the colon, insert: *Provided further*, That of this amount \$25,000,000 shall be used for Corps of Engineers ecosystem restoration projects.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Chair, I rise to discuss an environmental and humanitarian crisis affecting the people of San Juan.

For decades, Cano Martin Pena has been a repository for sewage overflow, mercury, and PCBs. The Cano Martin Pena was once a navigable and commercially used channel. Today, it is so clogged that it is possible to walk across it on some parts.

Due to the clogging, the approximately 25,000 U.S. citizens who live near the Cano Martin Pena face significant public health and safety challenges. Combined stormwater and the regional sewage system contribute to high concentrations of coliforms in the channel.

Frequent flooding is a constant risk that can put residents into direct contact with polluted water. Exposure to these polluted waters causes an ele-

vated risk of gastrointestinal diseases and a higher prevalence of chronic diseases and asthma. Sadly, we often see these ailments in children 5 years old and younger. Those who reside near the canal live in constant fear that the next rainfall could become a major flood, dumping raw sewage into homes, schools, and businesses.

After the 2017 hurricanes, which exacerbated the Cano Martin Pena crisis with greater flooding, the communities that live near the 3.7 miles of this channel need our help more than ever.

Because of the hurricanes, more than 1,200 families partially or totally lost the roofs of their homes, and 70 percent of the community flooded with wastewater in the immediate aftermath.

These are the working people of San Juan, with one of the highest labor participation rates in the island. All they want is to be able to raise their families in safe and healthy communities. If we are ever to bring justice to these afflicted communities, we must dredge this canal and work toward its long-term remediation.

Puerto Rico has spent millions of dollars attending to the problem, but without additional Federal funds, this project will stall. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is ready to initiate construction as soon as Federal funding is made available.

My amendment will jump-start the most important flood mitigation project for Puerto Rico, ensuring the resiliency of critical infrastructure and doing justice to the working families living in this vulnerable area.

Madam Chair, this is not only an environmental project but a pressing issue of social and environmental justice. The people who live along this troubled canal have suffered long enough, but Hurricanes Maria and Irma underscored how quickly these problems can worsen with extreme weather. We have an obligation to act before the next hurricane or flood.

Madam Chair, I have been there and seen with my own eyes the devastation and hardship caused by this ecological disaster. I have seen children wading in contaminated waters after every heavy rainstorm. I ask my colleagues to join me in helping Puerto Rico by voting in support of this amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, first, I would like to assure my colleague that I am not opposed to the project she is trying to fund. I am aware of the project and its importance to Puerto Rico. In a different context, I could support it.

In fact, as the previous chairman of the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, I have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to provide funding for ecosystem restoration projects well above the annual budget request.

What I am opposed to is funding the ecosystem restoration projects in a disaster supplemental appropriations bill. A disaster supplemental is not simply a chance to clear the Army Corps of Engineers' construction backlog. That is what the annual appropriations process is for.

A disaster supplemental is intended to protect storm-ravaged areas against future storms and to reduce Federal liabilities from future storms. That is why the underlying bill is consistent with previous disaster bills and limits funding to projects that provide real benefits for that type, namely, flood and storm damage reduction projects.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not point out that the particular project of interest would not even be eligible for funding under this amendment.

The underlying bill restricts construction funding to areas impacted by various storms, none of which impacted Puerto Rico. We should not raise hopes knowing the project isn't even eligible.

While I am happy to offer to work with my colleague and try to support the project through the regular appropriations process, which I am sure the new chairwoman, Chairwoman KAPTUR, is willing to do also, I must oppose funding in a disaster supplemental appropriations bill for ecosystem restoration projects.

Madam Chair, therefore, I oppose the amendment. I urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I thank Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ for her daunting and unparalleled leadership in trying to help the people of Puerto Rico.

And I thank our very distinguished ranking member for his interest in helping to solve the real challenge of Cano Martin Pena.

I have to say to the people of Puerto Rico and our fellow citizens, those who reside in Puerto Rico and those who reside stateside here: We are very aware, from Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ's work, how devastated Puerto Rico is. She has spent so much of her substance in trying to educate the membership here. We are very fortunate for her abiding leadership.

We all need to stand up for the residents of Puerto Rico. I appreciate her work, and all of our colleagues' efforts, to do just that.

I am committed to working with her to address any issues with this amendment as we move forward. Its intent is absolutely on point. I think that, working together on a bipartisan basis, we can find a way to help heal our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico and bring a better way of life there in the future.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I would just say, again, it doesn't really matter

whether you vote for this amendment or not. It doesn't really do anything because the project is not eligible. What we are doing by adopting this amendment is raising false hopes, knowing that the project isn't even eligible.

I encourage the gentlewoman to withdraw the amendment and work with us to see if we can fund this through the regular appropriations process.

Madam Chair, I encourage a "no" vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. STEWART

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Mr. STEWART. Madam Chair, I rise to offer my amendment on the floor.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 35, beginning line 5, strike "\$63,960,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,*" and insert "\$84,960,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* that of this amount \$21,000,000 shall be used for hazardous fuels management activities: *Provided further,*"

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. STEWART. Madam Chair, I thank Mr. MCGOVERN of the Rules Committee for making this vital amendment in order.

The base text of the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2019 provides critical relief for natural disasters that have recently plagued our Nation. The supplemental is necessary, and it is needed, but we do have a problem, and it is a problem that we have to fix.

The interior West and, for example, my home State of Utah have been largely ignored. My amendment seeks to rectify this and seeks to increase funding for the West to address the impacts of ongoing drought and, something that we are all aware of, the catastrophic wildfires that we have been experiencing.

The amendment provides increased funding for hazardous fuel management activities in the hopes of doing three things: first, to increase the resiliency of our forest; second, to protect against future catastrophic fires; and, third, to reduce the amount of damage caused by these fires.

Like many Western States, and, as I mentioned, my home State of Utah, we suffered a devastating fire season that burned countless acres and threatened life and property. Now we are left with the scars of the burns that can be al-

most as damaging, with flooding, mudslides, and threats to water supplies.

If adopted, my amendment will not only help mitigate the losses from past fires but help to create future resiliency in our forests and lessen the devastating aftermath.

The simple fact is, we can do better. We can actively manage our forests by combating undergrowth, disease, and insect infestation. The Forest Service estimates that my home State of Utah has something like 436 million dead trees that are just waiting to burn. If this is not a threat, I don't know what is.

Madam Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), my friend, Madam Chair of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for the time.

As I pointed out earlier, the supplemental includes \$824 million to the U.S. Forest Service to help California and those who have been impacted by wildfires and Hurricanes Florence and Michael to recover.

While the funding includes \$27 million for hazardous fuel, I support the gentleman's proposal to increase this amount because we know we have a lot of work to do in fuel reduction. I would like to point out to the gentleman, I also support the continuing resolution portion of this legislation in front of us today because we need to reopen the Forest Service so we can use these funds.

□ 1600

Mr. STEWART. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. STEWART. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, line 15, insert "and harvested adulterated wine grapes" after "milk".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of my proposed amendment.

Over the past 2 years communities across my district and throughout the State of California have been devastated by some of the biggest, deadliest, and most damaging wildfires in history. These disasters have catastrophic consequences for our agricultural communities.

Wildfires can and do incinerate entire fields of crops, but they also pose a threat of smoke contamination, exposure to high levels of smoke which damages crops beyond repair.

While smoke damage can affect a range of crops, wine grapes are particularly vulnerable. I have heard from dozens of my constituents who are facing the loss of their crop as their grapes are rejected due to this smoke damage.

I want to thank the Appropriations Committee and their staff for working with me to ensure that grape growers like those in my district are supported.

However, many wine grape growers do not discover smoke damage until after removing their fruit from the vine. These growers sustain heavy losses and deserve support. They should not be penalized simply because the damage to their grapes was discovered after the harvest.

My amendment would clarify that assistance offered under H.R. 268 is available to growers who discover smoke damage after removing their grapes from the vine. This situation is tragic and far too common, and this clarification is needed to ensure that growers like those in my district receive the support that they deserve.

Madam Chair, I want to reiterate my thanks to the Appropriations Committee and their staff, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 54, line 18, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$50,000,000)".

Page 55, strike line 9 and all that follows through "up to" in line 12.

Page 55, line 12, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$50,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentleman

from California (Mr. THOMPSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise in support of amendment No. 8, which provides an additional \$50 million in community development funds for the 2017 federally declared disasters.

In October 2017, my district experienced, at that time, the most devastating fires in the history of California. The October 2017 wildfires devastated nearly 300,000 acres in California, destroyed some 7,000 homes, caused billions of dollars in damage, burned to the ground many businesses, and, most sadly, took the lives of 44 people.

In response to these fires, Congress enacted legislation that delivered California Community Development Block Grant disaster relief funding to address unmet needs and mitigation against future disasters.

As communities in my district continue the long and hard process of rebuilding, we are finding that the unmet needs are greater than the Federal relief provided. Local inspections of residences damaged or destroyed in the October 17 fires indicate that FEMA's individual assistance inspection process significantly underestimated the number of homes damaged or destroyed in Santa Rosa, one of the cities in my district, by a difference of nearly 2,900 homes.

Because the FEMA IA data may have informed HUD's initial allocation to the State of California, this leaves some communities in California, including Santa Rosa, with considerable unmet need for homeowners who are rebuilding.

In terms of public infrastructure, California's CDBG-DR action plan allocates 3 percent, at a total of \$3.5 million for the entire State, to aid unmet need for public infrastructure. However, Santa Rosa alone has significantly greater needs for recovery of public infrastructure with its projected local cost share for the repair of the damage infrastructure over \$11 million.

In addition to the local match requirement for FEMA public assistance projects, there are several large infrastructure projects needed due to the 17 wildfires, including street repairs, street tree removal, repair to the sidewalks in one particular area, and restoration to neighborhood parks.

The estimated cost for these projects is more than \$20 million. My amendment aims to help close this gap by providing the additional moneys in community development funds for the 2017 federally declared disasters.

Continued support from the Federal Government is essential as residents seek to rebuild and my district continues its long-term recovery.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to my colleague from California (Mrs. TORRES).

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding and for being such a great leader in helping those impacted by the devastating California wildfires.

The numbers are devastating. Nearly 2 million acres burned. Upwards of \$3.5 billion in damage, 8,500 individual fires, 98 civilians killed, 6 firefighters killed, and over 11,000 homes destroyed.

With climate change only making things worse, we must help California rebuild because this is just the beginning. Rainstorms will now further ravage communities, causing mudslides and flooding.

The amendment I have offered with Representative THOMPSON begins that rebuilding process by increasing funding for the community development fund by \$50 million, specifically for those communities that were hardest hit in the previous year.

Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for his work on this.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), the chair of the subcommittee, and I thank him for all of his help.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chair, we have no objection to this amendment, in fact, urge its adoption. The amendment ensures that States and territories that have suffered from natural disasters in 2017 are made whole with respect to increased costs to repair public infrastructure.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 58, line 10, strike "That such" and all that follows through "of Engineers:" on line 13 and insert "That such funds may not be used for activities reimbursed by, or for which funds have been made available by, the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the Army Corps of Engineers, in excess of the authorized amount of the project or its components:".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Chair, since 1980, we have had about 220

disasters that have caused over \$1 billion in damages. In fact, when you add all that money up, we have spent about \$1.5 trillion in disaster recovery, nearly all of that being emergency spending, adding to our deficit.

Now, the thing that we do here in the Federal Government to help bring an offense to the table, to help address resiliency, is largely the mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: projects for flood protection, for water management, for ecosystem restoration that can help improve the resiliency of our communities, hurricane protection in my home State of Louisiana.

Yet we have a \$100 billion backlog in Corps of Engineer projects across the United States. This Congress provides between \$1 billion and \$2 billion a year in construction.

Madam Chair, you can do the math. You have \$100 billion in authorized projects. You get \$1 billion to \$2 billion a year in construction, you will finish that backlog approximately never. You are not going to finish it.

And so what we did in the Disaster Recovery and Reform Act in October, that was signed into law in October and passed through this body three times, is we did a provision that says that FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds can be used to build a Corps of Engineers' project if your State, if your community determines that is the highest priority.

Right now, under Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds, there is a prohibition—and this is largely boilerplate language—that prohibits these funds from being used for a Corps of Engineers' project.

What this amendment does is it simply removes that if a State, if your community determines that that is the highest priority, addressing resiliency, telling your community that it is okay to build back here because we are going to make it safer, we are going to reduce the risk, prevent you from having future disaster, future damages.

Madam Chair, right now, sitting in the gallery is a group of students from Ed White High School in my home State of Louisiana. They have a project in their community that has been in the study phase since 1992, and the Corps of Engineers has spent \$80 million studying it. That is ridiculous. It has caused billions of dollars in flood damages in this area. This project has not moved forward.

We have got to make sure that we are advancing these projects as quickly as we can, improving the resilience of our communities. So this amendment, again, makes the CDBG-DR funds eligible if your State, if your community determines that is the highest and best value, the best investments of the funds.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to refrain from referencing occupants of the gallery.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to

claim the time in opposition, even though I am not actually opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chair, this amendment amends a section of the base bill that sets out the sequence of assistance for communities seeking relief.

The base bill maintains that CDBG-DR funding should be used after grantees sought out funding from FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers to meet any needs that remain.

Public Law 105-276 limits the use of CDBG-DR funding to \$250,000 per Army Corps of Engineers' project, and this provision would not be changed by the amendment.

The amendment would allow communities to utilize CDBG-DR funds for a project in advance of FEMA or Corps of Engineers' funding. The CDBG-DR funding would still be subject to the usual limitations on duplication of benefits.

I have some concern that the amendment's language is ambiguous with respect to the phrase "in excess of the authorized amount of the project." I assume that the gentleman means the authorized amount by FEMA or the Army Corps, respectively, and not an amount authorized by HUD.

I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), if he would respond and confirm my understanding.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Chair, I appreciate the gentleman's question, and certainly there is no intention under the provision as written to appropriate or provide more funds than are authorized under the existing act or allocated to that State or county or parish or what have you.

□ 1615

In addition, obviously, there would be no intention under the provision to spend more money than the project is actually authorized for because you couldn't build a project more than once.

I hope that was responsive to the gentleman's question.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. The question, though, is: Authorized by whom?

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Chair, the chairman brings up a good point in that is the authorized amount the full authorized amount that the Federal law for a Corps of Engineers project provides? For example, if Congress authorized a flood protection project for \$100 million, could they possibly get more than \$100 million? The answer to that question is no.

The second question to attempt to clarify would be, if a community is allocated \$50 million through the CDBG-DR program, would it be possible for them to spend more than \$50 million on

the project? Once again, to the chairman's question, the answer would be no. This would not intend to obligate or in any way spend more money that is allocated to them under CDBG-DR or under the authorized project in Federal law.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. So when the amendment states the phrase "in excess of the authorized amount of the project," can I confirm that the gentleman is saying that he means the authorized amount by FEMA or the Army Corps and not the authorized amount by HUD?

Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Yes. Absolutely. That is the intention that we would not exceed the authorized amount of the project authorized by the Corps or by FEMA. As I indicated, we couldn't build a project more than once, so whatever that authorized level is in existing Federal law, that would apply.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman.

Given that understanding, the amendment is a modest change to the existing program, and I have no objection.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina and thank the Rules Committee for making this in order.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. RICHMOND

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 57, line 13, strike "and any grantee" and all that follows through line 19 and insert the following: "shall act in accordance with section 1210 of Public Law 115-254 (132 Stat. 3442) and section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155):".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer a simple bipartisan amendment. This amendment would ensure the language in the bill conforms with current law.

All of us who represent areas around the country that have experienced natural disasters know how difficult and complicated the recovery process can be.

Last Congress, we came together to pass the Disaster Recovery Reform Act, a bipartisan bill that made key changes to improve how we respond after disasters and also make recovery an easier process.

One of those changes was a provision outlining a better way to handle concerns over duplication of benefits after a disaster. It created a process that allows greater flexibility to respond to the unique situations that occur after every disaster.

It is important to my constituents and anyone dealing with the effects of a natural disaster that this administration has clear instructions and that they can readily act on what Congress has instructed them to do. The language of this amendment eliminates the risk of any confusion over what process the administration should follow.

Madam Chair, this is just another attempt by my colleague and me from Louisiana who have, unfortunately, had the benefit of surviving through a number of natural disasters and just trying to make it easier for our constituents to navigate the process and difficulty of FEMA and recovery. So what this amendment does is helps every area that will have a disaster deal with the question of duplication of benefits.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption of the amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), who is the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am happy to express support for his amendment.

The amendment would clarify that HUD should follow existing law when it comes to duplication of benefits with respect to SBA loans and CDBG-DR grants.

This is an issue that needs clarification. It has affected individuals in my home State of North Carolina as well as people in Louisiana, Texas, and other States recovering from recent disasters.

I agree, we shouldn't be penalizing individuals who take out an SBA loan in good faith and then later discover that that makes them no longer eligible for a CDBG-DR grant.

So I thank the gentleman for the amendment. It is a helpful clarification of our intent, and I have no objection to the amendment.

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Chair, I would just offer support for the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition, but I don't intend to oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Chair, I want to thank my colleague

from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) and the chairman from North Carolina for their help in getting these amendments put together, both the last one and this one.

As my good friend from Louisiana indicated, this is the result of lessons learned, unfortunately, from countless disasters in our home State.

What this does is it assures conformity between this appropriations bill and law, as indicated, the Disaster Recovery Reform Act that was signed into law in October, to ensure—and let me be clear, Madam Chair. That bill passed the House of Representatives three times, the last time by voice vote; and I think the second to last time it passed with maybe 12 opposing votes in this entire body, but not because of this provision. None of those opposing votes had anything to do with this provision.

What it does is it simply says, in the aftermath of a disaster, if you applied for a loan, that doesn't make you ineligible for grants that anyone else can apply for. We shouldn't penalize people for leaning forward, being proactive, and seeking loans, and then tell them later they can't be eligible for a grant. The alternative is they stay in a FEMA-supplied hotel room, incurring taxpayers more cost, and it delays recovery.

So what Mr. RICHMOND's provision does is it ensures conformity to the changes in law that occurred in October in this appropriations bill, the duplication of benefits as applied in a consistent manner. I want to thank him for his continued leadership on this issue and working together.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. WESTERMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 34, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Chair, I would like to first thank my colleague from California, Representative PANETTA, for his cosponsorship of this bipartisan amendment. I also would like to thank Representative MCCOLLUM from Minnesota for her support of this amendment.

Madam Chair, this amendment simply adds \$10 million to the State and private forestry fund. The purpose of this is to prevent some of these catastrophic wildfires that we have been seeing over the past few years.

What we have here is a map that shows what the Forest Service has delineated as a wildland-urban interface. This is where forestry and urban areas intersect, and this is where we have potential for significant loss of property and lives.

There are already programs in place to manage these wildland-urban interfaces, and what we hope to do with this additional appropriation is just to help the State forestry units manage these areas better.

We talk a lot in Congress about Federal lands and how we need to manage those, but across the country, over half of all forestland is owned by private forest landowners. There are literally millions of these private forest landowners, many of them on very small parcels of forestland, and they have no incentive to manage them to help stop the spread of catastrophic wildfire.

What the State and private forestry program does is allows State foresters to go in and help these private landowners to understand how to manage their forests and give them the assistance they need so that we can make these wildland-urban interfaces safer places.

Madam Chair, if we managed everything perfectly on the Federal lands and these wildland-urban interfaces, you still have the issue of all the private lands. The map shows wildland-urban interfaces in places you would expect out in California and other Western States, but because of the population density, we see a lot of these wildland-urban interfaces are in the East where there is more dense populations.

So these funds, although rather small in relation to this huge bill—as a matter of fact, they make up only eight one-hundredths of 1 percent of the total funds in this bill—would have a huge impact all across the country in making our communities more resilient to catastrophic wildfire, would really help to save property and lives in the future, and would also save a lot of future disaster supplemental funding that the Federal Government would have to dish out.

So, again, I am just asking for this amendment to help State and private forests with a \$10 million plus-up to their funds.

Madam Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arkansas has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Chair, I thank Mr. WESTERMAN for all of his work on this.

Madam Chair, our amendment would provide \$10 million in additional funding to the U.S. Forest Service and its State and private forestry account. That account is set up to help State and local landowners recover from damages caused by wildfires and to provide more resources for proactive forest management.

What we have seen, unfortunately, in the last few years is a number of horrific fires throughout our Nation, and especially where I am from in California and the central coast of California. But what we know is that we must do something about it.

This amendment does something about it by providing the necessary resources to maintain certain areas in which human beings are living close to forests and, therefore, making sure that there are certain requirements that are met by the local entities.

But we can do this without sacrificing our environmental protections. This is why we are basically able to increase resources for wildfire mitigation practices such as prescribed burns and maintenance of fuel breaks and technical assistance to landowners. We can make sure that they are advanced, but that they can also be in compliance with environmental safety guards. We can do both in this amendment, and this amount of money does that.

So, Madam Chair, I continue to ask for support of this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yea" on this.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arkansas has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Chair, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, a point of parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, could I ask unanimous consent to rise in opposition even though I am not opposed to the bill, claim 5 minutes, and then the gentleman could have time to close?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is correct.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I leave that to the gentleman. He has 1 minute remaining, Madam Chair, if he would like to use it now and then I will use my own time.

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentleman from Arkansas reserve his time?

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Chair, the supplemental appropriation that we are discussing today includes \$8.24 million for the U.S. Forestry Service to work on disaster relief, and it includes \$2 million for State and private forestry. As I have told the Members here, I totally support the gentleman's proposal to increase the amount, and they have done an excellent job describing why it is so important.

As wildfires continue to increase in both frequency and intensity as a result of climate change, we need to do more to prevent them. The State private forestry programs bring together States, Tribes, and local governments and gives them the tools they need to protect communities and our environment from wildfires. I have seen firsthand. I have spoken to people who have used these programs, and it is money well spent to prevent wildland fires.

□ 1630

However, in order for the Forestry Service to be able to use these critical funds, I will be supporting the CR portion of this bill to reopen the government, because without this continuing resolution the agencies won't be able to receive funds to get to work immediately.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Chair, this bill, again, would help State and private forests. It would help to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. It is sound environmentally, and it is a good investment for the Federal Government.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MS. JAYAPAL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act for the Department of Homeland Security may be used for the construction or expansion of immigration detention facilities.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Chair, my amendment would simply make clear to the Department of Homeland Security that these funds, which Congress is specifically dedicating to the Coast

Guard's environmental remediation efforts as a result of hurricane damage, cannot be reprogrammed to increase DHS's detention capacity.

Madam Chair, this amendment is critical. Just a few months ago, we learned that DHS transferred \$169 million from other agencies to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to detain and remove people.

Madam Chair, \$10 million of that money came from FEMA, diverting funds from the disaster relief agency at the start of the hurricane season when Hurricane Florence was heading toward the East Coast; \$1.8 million of that diverted money came from the Domestic Nuclear Detention Office; \$29 million was taken out from the Coast Guard's budget; and over \$34 million came from several TSA programs. That is simply unacceptable.

ICE continues to spend far above its appropriated funding to detain people, but these funds are being transferred from other critical agencies, in clear violation of congressionally mandated funding.

As of January 1, more than 48,000 people were being held in ICE custody, even though they only have funding appropriated by Congress to detain 40,520 people. In the last appropriations act passed by this Chamber, we provided funding to ICE with the understanding that the funding amount would, "require ICE to reduce the number of detention beds," in use before the end of the year.

We clearly stated our intent to ICE, yet ICE has chosen to ignore the mandates of the United States Congress again and again.

Moreover, the Government Accountability Office has found a number of inconsistencies and errors in ICE's own calculations for its congressional budget justifications. While ICE officials stated their budget documents undergo multiple reviews to ensure accuracy, ICE was not able to provide any documentation of such reviews, and the GAO concluded that "ICE is not positioned to ensure the credibility of its budget requests."

If the GAO concludes that ICE is not positioned to ensure the credibility of its own requests, then we need to be doing a better job of checking for accuracy and exercising oversight.

And, most of all, we need to make sure that these funds that are being appropriated for disaster relief stay for disaster relief.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, first of all, there are no funds in this bill to expand or build detention facilities.

There are no funds in this bill to expand or build detention facilities.

There are no funds in this bill to expand or build detention facilities.

But let me get this straight, see if I have got it straight. We don't want to enhance border security to stop people from coming across the border illegally. We have got immigration courts being overrun. And we don't want to have the necessary facilities to keep those people because they can't get into the immigration courts right away.

What exactly do you want us to do?

Just because Congress says, Hey, I am only giving you funding for 40,000 people. What if 100,000 people come across the border illegally? What do you expect us to do?

You have no answers, except: No, no, don't detain them.

Just let them go?

I know how we can reduce the cost of prisons in this country. Let's only appropriate enough money to house 100,000 prisoners. Regardless of the crimes they have committed or anything else, I am only going to fund 100,000. Above that, just let them go.

I don't get it. I don't know where the heck we are coming from on this. All this does is put another poison pill in this bill that will make it much more difficult to pass and will ensure that the Senate will never take it up, which I doubt they will anyway.

To me, I just don't understand what the heck is going on here. We all know what the answer to this shutdown is. Every one of us, in our heart, knows what the answer is. It is a compromise. And a compromise means both sides give some and get some. That is the nature of a compromise.

That means there are going to be parts in it that I don't like, but I am going to end up voting for it. That means there are going to be parts in it you don't like, but you need to end up voting for it.

Anyway, we need to get back to opening this government and quit putting these poison pills and this nonsense in this bill.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Chair, I am going to yield to my colleague in just a second. But this should be easy to vote for because you yourself said there is nothing in here that provides funding for detentions. So I look forward to seeing the gentleman vote for my amendment because, actually, then you are saying there is no problem here, we are going to make sure that these funds actually go where they are supposed to, to disaster relief.

That is all I am saying in this amendment is let's make sure that the funds we appropriate go to disaster relief, which is necessary, and States across the country—certainly in my part of the country—wildfires, hurricanes—we have lots of issues we have got to deal with here.

So, given that the gentleman just started his remarks with multiple statements saying there is nothing in this bill that would allow for this, I look forward to seeing your yes vote on my amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT).

The Acting CHAIR. Members are again reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment and want to thank Ms. JAYAPAL for allowing me time to speak in support.

As she outlined, this amendment would restrict the Department of Homeland Security from using any emergency funds from being reprogrammed to add beds at immigration detention centers.

Last year, during the historic hurricane season that ravaged Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and parts of Texas, the White House brazenly shifted millions of dollars slated for recovery to Immigration and Customs Enforcement in order to fund the immoral detention of refugees and other immigrants as part of its horrible zero tolerance policy.

Throughout the Gulf Coast, but especially in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done. Businesses must reopen, power infrastructure needs to be restored and made more resilient, and communities must be rebuilt, yet President Trump is threatening to declare a phony national emergency so he can take these critical funds and put them toward a useless, medieval wall and other components of his cruel immigration policies.

I am happy to support this amendment, Madam Chair.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Chair, let me just say how pleased I am that we are on the same page, that disaster relief funding should go to disaster relief; it should not go to expanding detention beds, which are already oversubscribed. So I hope that the other side will be happy to vote yes on this amendment. And I would just say we are happy to have a discussion about immigration and all of the things we need to do to reform our immigration system at the right time.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I would just say that the argument I just heard is kind of ridiculous. If what we are going to do is list everything this bill, these funds, can't be spent on, I don't think we should be able to give any of this money to NASA to put a man on the moon.

We could list everything that the Federal Government does except these things and say we have to specify it in the bill.

No. This is a poison pill.

Again, I didn't hear an answer. What do you expect to do when these people come across the border illegally? What if they are waiting for hearings and stuff and the courts are just being flooded?

There are no answers. You have no answers. This is a bad amendment. Just trying to make a statement.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. SABLAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 44, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$16,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment that increases funding for the Marianas Medicaid block grant.

Our islands were struck by two catastrophic weather events late last year. Typhoon Mangkhut made landfall September 10, and on September 29 the President declared a major disaster for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

While recovery from Mangkhut was still ongoing, super Typhoon Yutu, the second most powerful storm ever in United States history, struck. Yutu caused widespread destruction of homes, businesses, public facilities, and infrastructure. On October 26, the President declared a second major disaster for our islands.

Yutu also brought death.

Never in anyone's memory has a typhoon caused death in our islands, but one person died during Yutu and another in a storm-related accident. Over 130 people were injured.

Our only hospital, which has just 75 beds, packed people into the emergency room to stitch up wounds; remove glass and flying debris from legs, arms, and faces; and attend to those who needed dialysis or other treatment, while waiting days for power to be restored.

Medicaid provides one-quarter of the revenue for the hospital and health insurance for 30 percent of our population, but there is a cap on how much Medicaid funding is available to the Marianas. When a storm strikes, the program has to steal from tomorrow to pay for today.

The disaster appropriation the House passed on December 21, generous though it was, provided no money for Medicaid for the Marianas.

Chairwoman LOWEY, recognizing the lapse, added \$20 million in H.R. 268 for the Marianas Medicaid program to be available for the rest of the year. After her bill was drafted, however, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, informed appropriations staff that the Marianas can actually use \$36 million in the wake of the typhoons.

Following that advice from CMS, I am offering an amendment that adds \$16 million to the original bill, bringing total assistance for the rest of the year to the recommended \$36 million.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues for their support of my amendment and of the underlying bill, H.R. 268. The \$36 million I am requesting, by adding \$16 million to the \$20 million already in the bill, is what CMS told Chairwoman LOWEY's staff that the Marianas can spend this year in the aftermath of Typhoon Mangkhut and super Typhoon Yutu.

□ 1645

Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD a recent news report, "From Something to Nothing," published in the Honolulu Civil Beat.

'FROM SOMETHING TO NOTHING': LIFE IN SAIPAN AFTER SUPER TYPHOON YUTU  
(By Anita Hofschneider)

CHALAN KANO, SAIPAN.—Elkanah Igisaiar watches her daughter climb onto an old car and lift herself up onto the branches of a tree. It's late afternoon on the Wednesday before Christmas and Igisaiar is sitting in a plastic chair outside at her family's compound in this tiny village in southern Saipan.

The cluster of homes down the street from the island's cathedral is where her family has lived for generations.

But since Super Typhoon Yutu blew through her neighborhood in October, her mother's house is uninhabitable—and their street is now a cluster of tents.

"Most of us are not really ready to talk about the storm," says Igisaiar, 27. "We are just kind of in disbelief that we went from something to nothing."

Two months after the worst storm to hit the U.S. since 1935, thousands of people like Igisaiar are still sleeping in tents or outdoors. They're waiting for electricity to go back on. And they are wondering how they'll afford to rebuild their homes even if they are lucky enough to get some federal aid.

Despite the severity of the storm, there's been little news media coverage of what life is like in its aftermath. The islands are thousands of miles away from the mainland U.S. and the storm had only one reported casualty.

But the low death toll belies how drastically Yutu continues to affect thousands of people.

Before Yutu, there were fewer than 100 homeless people sleeping outdoors on the island of Saipan, the capital of the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Despite widespread poverty—more than half of the community was below the U.S. poverty line and the median income was \$19,201 in 2016—it was rare to see people living in tents.

But overnight, the storm displaced an estimated 15,000 to 17,000 people, more than a quarter of the commonwealth's population of about 55,000 people.

Severe storms are common in the Mariana Islands, an archipelago in the western Pacific that includes Guam. Three years ago, another storm downed half of Saipan's power poles, leaving some families without electricity for three months.

The expectation that every year will bring extreme weather events means government buildings and schools are built from concrete to withstand strong winds.

More than 80 percent of houses had concrete walls as of 2016, and more than half had concrete roofs. Locals are well-versed in the annual rituals of buying nonperishable food, filling buckets of water and boarding up windows to protect them from flying debris.

But Yutu exceeded expectations.

Its 180-mph sustained winds with gusts over 200 mph broke the National Weather Service's wind instruments, flipped over containers and ripped off thousands of roofs. Families hid beneath cabinets, under beds and inside bathrooms to stay safe. Even elderly people who had survived countless typhoons on the islands say they feared for their lives. One woman was killed by a collapsing building.

Igisaiar was in her second-floor apartment during the storm, watching roofs flying off her neighbors' homes. She saw one family trying to escape their house, temporarily blocked by a huge piece of tin that flew onto their doorway. As they crawled underneath to get out, Igisaiar's boyfriend went downstairs to urge them to hide in their apartment.

By the time the sun rose, Igisaiar says several neighbors were sheltering with her, her boyfriend and four children.

The storm damaged so many public schools that students didn't have classes for more than a month and still only have half-days. The tourism-based economy came to a standstill, with fewer than 6,000 visitors in November, down from 48,000 the previous year.

Two months later, debris has been cleared from many villages and the economy is rebounding. It's once again common to see tourists on the sidewalks and their bubble-gum-colored convertible rental cars on the roads.

But on the southern side of Saipan and throughout the neighboring island of Tinian, families are still sifting through the wreckage of their lives, sleeping outdoors and waiting for the electricity to be turned back on. The storm destroyed or severely damaged more than 5,000 houses, some of which were home to multiple families.

And unlike disasters on the U.S. mainland, victims can't just drive to the next county to find another place to live.

There aren't enough undamaged units on the islands of Saipan and Tinian to house everyone who has been displaced. Instead of handing out rental subsidies like they did after Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Florence, federal disaster responders have passed out more than 1,700 tents along with military rations.

"When you've been hit like this, things get real primal real fast and we understand that so our objective is to provide a safe and sanitary living arrangement," says Victor Inge, a FEMA spokesman based on Saipan.

The housing shortage is so severe that FEMA is calling families and offering to buy them plane tickets out of the islands. So far, 29 households have taken advantage of the program and have booked tickets to Hawaii and other states.

But even though more than 3,600 people are eligible to leave, the vast majority are choosing to stay. Igisaiar's family is Caro-

linian, an indigenous Micronesian community that sailed in canoes to the Marianas in the 19th century after a typhoon devastated the Caroline Islands.

Although Yutu was the worst storm she's seen in her life, Igisaiar says she wouldn't leave the Marianas even if FEMA gave her money to do so.

She doesn't want her kids to miss more school. She's worried about their house.

"If we leave, there's nothing that can be done with our house," Igisaiar says. "If we go, how are we going to get the assistance?"

THE HAZARDS OF CLEANING UP

Igisaiar felt lucky at first. She didn't lose her roof. But the next day she says her landlord asked her to move out anyway because of the hazards posed by the damaged apartment building.

They took just their clothes and one bed, leaving their children's beds and their refrigerator. They drove to what was left of the house of her mother, Rufina Angui, in Chalan Kanoa.

The U.S. military built the house out of wood and tin 30 years ago after Typhoon Kim destroyed the previous house, Rufina Angui says.

Angui was 27 then. Now 57, it's the first time in her life that she's been homeless. The heat and the mosquitoes aren't the only challenge—the lack of power means she can't use the breathing machine she relies on to help with her sleep apnea.

Angui only recently moved back to the house and started sleeping in the tent. During and immediately after the typhoon, she stayed at her brother's house, which is concrete, while Igisaiar and her boyfriend tried to fix up the Chalan Kanoa house.

It was too dangerous to sleep inside the broken house at first, so Igisaiar and her boyfriend lay pallets outside and secured a tarp over them to block the rain. Igisaiar's boyfriend, a construction worker, missed work for three weeks to help clean up. They stacked plywood, tin and debris in separate piles along the roadside.

Even though there were shelters available, they slept outside and cleaned. They worried about missing their FEMA inspection if they weren't around. Plus, who would fix up what was left of the house if they weren't there?

But increasingly Igisaiar realized fixing the house was an impossible task. The mold made her sick—it started with a cough but progressed to a sinus infection until she couldn't hear or smell well.

When Angui saw her three weeks after the storm, her daughter was so weak that she was having a hard time breathing. Igisaiar didn't want to leave her kids, but Angui convinced her to go to the hospital.

EXACERBATING POVERTY

The first 24 hours after the storm, no one went to the emergency room of the hospital on Saipan. And then suddenly the ER was flooded with twice as many patients as on a normal day—so many that there weren't enough beds in the ER.

The flow of injuries has slowed over the past two months but hospital officials say that the disaster has illuminated the major gaps in health care coverage. Temporary clinics set up in devastated villages revealed that nearly half of patients were uninsurable because they were guest workers, undocumented immigrants or citizens of Pacific island nations who are ineligible for Medicaid.

Esther Muna, the CEO of the local public hospital, says she's currently most worried about mental illnesses. She's seen patients with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression and says there's been a spate of recent suicides.

Food safety is another concern. Commonwealth officials say they had just reached

their goal of providing 24-hour water to all villages on Saipan in September, and storm damage has set them back again.

Many locals say that the U.S. government's response to Yutu is much better than it was for Soudelor, another powerful storm that hit Saipan three years ago.

But a speedy recovery is hindered by the islands' distance from the rest of the U.S. The Mariana Islands are at least an eight-hour flight from Hawaii, not including a stop in Guam. Disaster responders have to ship in everything from concrete poles to tents, lumber, tin, wire, transformers, even screws.

It's even harder to reach the island of Tinian, which is between Guam and Saipan and home to about 3,500 people, similar to the island of Lanai in Hawaii.

The entire island was engulfed by the eye of the storm. At the commuter airport on Saipan that facilitates flights to Tinian, airplanes were destroyed, preventing travel for days. Passengers now buy tickets from a makeshift airport building made out of containers and tents.

Staff of the Tinian Health Center, an outpost of the public hospital, hid in the radiology room to survive the storm. Ninety percent of the 35-member staff lost their homes, Muna says.

#### THINGS COULD BE WORSE

Things have been a lot easier ever since Igisaia got back from the ER. She wishes she remembered the name of the doctor who helped her and got her family a tent to sleep in.

Sleeping inside the tent is a huge improvement over sleeping under the tarp, even though it's hot during the day.

Life now consists of waiting. Waiting until FEMA tells her mother and aunt how much money they qualify for, waiting until they can figure out what to do with the house and how much it will cost to rebuild it.

She's thought about selling her families' goats—they have seven, with names like Olaf and Elsa. But she wants to keep them because her kids love them. Plus, in Carolinian culture you're supposed to value gifts more than things you buy.

She thought about applying to FEMA for funds to make up for losing their cell phones and appliances when their apartment flooded during the typhoon. But she decided against it.

"For me, those are nothing," she says. "There are other people that just totally lost everything so why not give it to the people that need it the most?"

She did apply for money from the Red Cross and used the \$750 to buy school supplies and clothes for her kids.

Every morning, she goes to buy ice so that her kids can have cold water. She spends the day watching her children and helping her mom. They have even started volunteering at Empty Vessel, a Christian social service organization that hands out clothes to those in need.

Angui says she's tired of eating canned goods, but the family knows it's lucky to have food stamps.

"We're not hungry," Angui says.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Chair, I rise in support of Mr. SABLAN's amendment. As chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, I believe we must ensure Americans can access vital health programs, especially in times of dire need.

Yet, after terrible typhoons, Americans in the Northern Marianas could

see Medicaid run out. Unlike States, territories have finite pools of Medicaid funding, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimates the Northern Marianas needs \$36 million to maintain care for Medicaid patients, up from \$20 million, which we provided in the underlying bill.

Mr. SABLAN's amendment would provide that additional \$16 million. We have an obligation to help Americans in Middletown, Connecticut, and, yes, the Northern Marianas access Medicaid as well, especially when they need it the most.

Madam Chair, I strongly support the amendment.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Chair, I have no further statements to make. I ask for support of my amendment and the underlying bill, H.R. 268, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. SABLAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, line 13, insert "(increased by \$15,000,000)" after the dollar amount.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Chair, my second amendment to this Supplemental Appropriations Act increases emergency food assistance for the Marianas.

As I explained earlier, our islands were struck by not one, but two typhoons last year, one right after another—Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu, the second most powerful storm ever in U.S. history.

Within the first 30 days after Yutu, our local food stamp program had incurred costs of \$10.2 million. That money helped families replace the food they lost in the storms when their homes lost roofs and water poured in and electricity and refrigeration were cut off.

Over 40,000 people, out of our total population of 54,000, received help in that first month, according to the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service. H.R. 268 replaces that first month's expenditure with an appropriation of \$10.2 million.

I thank Chair LOWEY for recognizing the need, but beyond that first month of emergency, more is needed.

The Marianas is not part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP. Instead, we receive a block grant from the Federal Govern-

ment. With the block grant, there is no reserve, as with SNAP. When disaster strikes, not only is money used up faster than planned on the front end, future costs also rise until families get back on their feet.

Madam Chair, I have no official projection of the ongoing costs, because Agriculture employees are furloughed. But just before the lights went out, my staff learned that about 20 percent of the people who received food assistance right after the storm were expected to remain eligible.

If these projections hold true, total caseload will double from 3,000 households to 6,000 households. The \$15 million in my amendment will provide a little over 6 months of funding for those newly eligible households until their incomes can recover.

If \$15 million proves too generous, which I very much doubt, the Secretary has authority to grant only as much as needed to respond to the disaster caused by Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu. I ask my colleagues for their support of my amendment and of H.R. 268.

Madam Chair, again, because the Marianas is not part of SNAP, there is no contingency funding to absorb the costs of this disaster. With more families eligible for assistance, unless we make more funds available, benefits will have to be cut across the board. That is not a right way to respond when people are trying to put their lives back together so they can support themselves and their families again.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to support my amendment making another \$15 million available so these families have enough food. I urge your support for the underlying bill as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MISS GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN OF PUERTO RICO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in part B of House Report 116-2.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Chair, I rise as the designee of the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN), and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 23, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)" after the dollar amount.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 43, the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Chair, today, I rise to offer an amendment to increase the nutritional assistance funding amount of

the bill by \$5 million so the bill can include American Samoa in the emergency appropriation due to the damage caused by Cyclone Gita in February of last year.

The 100 mile-per-hour winds of Cyclone Gita wiped out an entire growing season for the American Samoan people, a rural community that largely depends on subsistence farming. Staple crops of bananas, breadfruit, and taro were lost wholesale, which led to an enormous drain on the islands' small nutritional assistance grant.

These funds are vital to sustain the basic local population and help fulfill the basic nutritional assistance needs of the American Samoan population. By approving this amendment, approximately 6,000 people in the territory will benefit and will have greater access to food security.

Madam Chair, I believe that including American Samoa in the disaster bill will do what the people need there. I ask for your support for this emergency provision to benefit the people of American Samoa, on behalf of Congresswoman AMATA RADEWAGEN.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

The amendment was agreed to.

VACATING DEMAND FOR RECORDED VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. STEWART

Mr. STEWART. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the request for a recorded vote on my amendment be withdrawn to the end that the Chair put the question de novo.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 116-2 offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 230, noes 197, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 37]

AYES—230

Adams  
 Aguilar  
 Allred  
 Amash  
 Axne  
 Barragán  
 Bass  
 Beatty  
 Bera  
 Beyer  
 Bishop (GA)  
 Blumenauer  
 Blunt Rochester  
 Bonamici  
 Boyle, Brendan F.  
 Brown (MD)  
 Brownley (CA)  
 Bustos  
 Butterfield  
 Carbajal  
 Cárdenas  
 Carson (IN)  
 Cartwright  
 Case  
 Casten (IL)  
 Castor (FL)  
 Castro (TX)  
 Chu, Judy  
 Cicilline  
 Cisneros  
 Clark (MA)  
 Clarke (NY)  
 Clay  
 Cleaver  
 Clyburn  
 Cohen  
 Connolly  
 Cooper  
 Correa  
 Costa  
 Courtney  
 Cox (CA)  
 Craig  
 Crist  
 Crow  
 Cuellar  
 Cummings  
 Davids (KS)  
 Davis (CA)  
 Davis, Danny K.  
 Dean  
 DeFazio  
 DeGette  
 DeLauro  
 DelBene  
 Delgado  
 Demings  
 DeSaulnier  
 Deutch  
 Diaz-Balart  
 Dingell  
 Doggett  
 Doyle, Michael F.  
 Engel  
 Escobar  
 Eshoo  
 Espallat  
 Evans  
 Finkenauer  
 Fitzpatrick  
 Fletcher  
 Foster  
 Frankel  
 Fudge  
 Gabbard  
 Gallego  
 Garamendi

García (IL)  
 García (TX)  
 Golden  
 Gomez  
 Gonzalez (TX)  
 González-Colón (PR)  
 Gottheimer  
 Green (TX)  
 Grijalva  
 Haaland  
 Harder (CA)  
 Hastings  
 Hayes  
 Heck  
 Higgins (NY)  
 Hill (CA)  
 Himes  
 Horsford  
 Houlihan  
 Hoyer  
 Huffman  
 Jackson Lee  
 Jayapal  
 Jeffries  
 Johnson (GA)  
 Johnson (TX)  
 Kaptur  
 Keating  
 Kelly (IL)  
 Kennedy  
 Khanna  
 Kildee  
 Kilmer  
 Kind  
 Kirkpatrick  
 Krishnamoorthi  
 Kuster (NH)  
 Langevin  
 Larsen (WA)  
 Larson (CT)  
 Lawrence  
 Lawson (FL)  
 Lee (CA)  
 Lee (NV)  
 Levin (CA)  
 Levin (MI)  
 Lewis  
 Lieu, Ted  
 Lipinski  
 Loebsack  
 Lofgren  
 Lowenthal  
 Lowey  
 Luján  
 Luria  
 Lynch  
 Malinowski  
 Maloney,  
 Carolyn B.  
 Maloney, Sean  
 Matsui  
 McAdams  
 McBath  
 McCollum  
 McGovern  
 McNeerney  
 Meeks  
 Meng  
 Moore  
 Morelle  
 Moulton  
 Mucarsel-Powell  
 Murphy  
 Nadler  
 Napolitano  
 Neal  
 Neguse  
 Norcross

NOES—197

Abraham  
 Aderholt  
 Allen  
 Amodei  
 Armstrong  
 Arrington  
 Babin  
 Bacon  
 Baird  
 Balderson  
 Banks  
 Barr  
 Bergman  
 Biggs  
 Bilirakis

Norton  
 O'Halleran  
 Ocasio-Cortez  
 Omar  
 Pallone  
 Panetta  
 Pappas  
 Pascrell  
 Perlmutter  
 Peters  
 Phillips  
 Pingree  
 Plaskett  
 Pocan  
 Porter  
 Pressley  
 Price (NC)  
 Quigley  
 Raskin  
 Rice (NY)  
 Richmond  
 Rose (NY)  
 Rouda  
 Roybal-Allard  
 Ruiz  
 Ruppersberger  
 Rush  
 Ryan  
 Sablan  
 Sánchez  
 Sarbanes  
 Scanlon  
 Schakowsky  
 Schiff  
 Schneider  
 Schrader  
 Schrier  
 Scott (VA)  
 Scott, David  
 Serrano  
 Sewell (AL)  
 Shalala  
 Sherman  
 Sherrill  
 Sires  
 Smith (WA)  
 Soto  
 Spanberger  
 Speier  
 Stanton  
 Stevens  
 Suozzi  
 Swalwell (CA)  
 Takano  
 Thompson (CA)  
 Thompson (MS)  
 Titus  
 Tlaib  
 Tonko  
 Torres (CA)  
 Torres Small (NM)  
 Trahan  
 Trone  
 Underwood  
 Vargas  
 Veasey  
 Vela  
 Velázquez  
 Visclosky  
 Wasserman  
 Schultz  
 Waters  
 Watson Coleman  
 Welch  
 Wexton  
 Wild  
 Yarmuth

Davidson (OH)  
 Davis, Rodney  
 DesJarlais  
 Duffy  
 Duncan  
 Dunn  
 Emmer  
 Estes  
 Ferguson  
 Fleischmann  
 Flores  
 Fortenberry  
 Foxx (NC)  
 Fulcher  
 Gaetz  
 Gallagher  
 Gianforte  
 Gibbs  
 Gohmert  
 Gonzalez (OH)  
 Gooden  
 Gosar  
 Granger  
 Graves (GA)  
 Graves (LA)  
 Graves (MO)  
 Green (TN)  
 Griffith  
 Grothman  
 Guest  
 Guthrie  
 Hagedorn  
 Harris  
 Hartzler  
 Hern, Kevin  
 Herrera Beutler  
 Hice (GA)  
 Higgins (LA)  
 Hill (AR)  
 Holding  
 Hollingsworth  
 Horn, Kendra S.  
 Hudson  
 Huizenga  
 Hunter  
 Hurd (TX)  
 Johnson (LA)  
 Johnson (OH)  
 Johnson (SD)  
 Jordan  
 Joyce (OH)

Joyce (PA)  
 Katko  
 Kelly (MS)  
 Kelly (PA)  
 Kim  
 King (IA)  
 King (NY)  
 Kinzinger  
 LaHood  
 Lamb  
 Lamborn  
 Latta  
 Lesko  
 Long  
 Loudermilk  
 Lucas  
 Luetkemeyer  
 Marchant  
 Marshall  
 McCarthy  
 McCaul  
 McClintock  
 McHenry  
 McKinley  
 Meadows  
 Meuser  
 Miller  
 Mitchell  
 Moolenaar  
 Mooney (WV)  
 Mullin  
 Newhouse  
 Norman  
 Nunes  
 Olson  
 Palazzo  
 Palmer  
 Pence  
 Perry  
 Peterson  
 Posey  
 Ratcliffe  
 Reed  
 Reschenthaler  
 Rice (SC)  
 Riggleman  
 Roby  
 Rodgers (WA)  
 Roe, David P.  
 Rogers (AL)

NOT VOTING—12

Jones  
 LaMalfa  
 Marino  
 Massie

Mast  
 McEachin  
 Payne  
 Radewagen

Rooney (FL)  
 San Nicolas  
 Sensenbrenner  
 Wilson (FL)

□ 1726

Mr. PENCE, Ms. SLOTKIN, Messrs. CRAWFORD, UPTON, MCKINLEY, and Ms. GRANGER changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE) having assumed the chair, Ms. PLASKETT, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 268) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 43, she reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the

Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. DUNN. Yes, in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Dunn moves to recommit the bill H.R. 268 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike title XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, this motion to recommit strikes title 12 from the bill, H.R. 268. This was inserted by Democratic leadership at the eleventh hour today. Title 12 is a continuing resolution, meaning it will never be taken up or passed by the Senate; it will never be signed by the President.

Three months ago, Hurricane Michael devastated north Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. Five months ago, Hurricane Florence caused severe damage in all of the Carolinas. Wildfires in California, all fall long, caused billions of dollars in damage and took almost 100 lives. Typhoons and volcanos in Hawaii and the American trust territories also caused savage destruction. Disaster victims across the Nation are in dire need of our help right now.

Today, we will be voting on a bill that we had been told would be a stand-alone emergency funding bill, addressing only the 2018 disasters, unencumbered by hot button, divisive issues. Unfortunately, we are voting on a very different bill. House Democrat leadership pulled a bait-and-switch at the last minute and made this otherwise good bill into an attack on President Trump.

Madam Speaker, my people at home are hurting. I worked hard on this bill. I truly believed that we were having a good faith conversation on how to help suffering victims all across our Nation.

Instead, House Democrats chose to play political games rather than help our victims. They knew full well, when they inserted this poison pill continuing resolution at the eleventh hour, that they doomed any chance of this bill passing the Senate, and yet they did just that. It is now dead on arrival in the Senate.

I have people back home, in my district, sleeping in tents, in the cold, in the rain, because FEMA housing has not yet arrived.

I lost two hospitals. One was a level two trauma center. That has never happened in the history of the country.

I have sheriff's deputies who are homeless, but they are still working. They are still performing their duties. They are still protecting and serving the people. You would like to think that Congress could follow their example.

Madam Speaker, the people of America have lost a great deal of faith in their government over the years. But the one thing that they still believe in is that when a disaster strikes, their government will come to their aid. And now we are letting them down on even that simple promise.

I won't allow the people of north Florida, suffering after Hurricane Michael, to be used as political pawns against the President. That is why I urge all Members of this House to support the motion to recommit. We can remove the bitterly divisive part of this bill and pass a truly bipartisan, compassionate bill that provides urgently needed relief to millions of people across all of our Nation and our territories, who are desperate for that relief. After we address this disaster, we can work on a compromise to address border security and reopen the rest of the government.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the motion to recommit, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, in fact, I am not even sure I heard correctly. Trump, the President, opposes the dollar amount in the bill because the only emergency is building the wall? Did I hear that correctly, my friends?

Madam Speaker, this shutdown, frankly, has gone on long enough. Perhaps, my good friends don't know the people who are suffering, who are living paycheck to paycheck and who have to worry about taking care of their kids. It is really puzzling to me that a statement like that is being made tonight.

My friends, this shutdown has gone on long enough. This motion to recommit would only further prolong the shutdown and the suffering and the people who are really victims of this action.

The bill we are voting on today is very similar to the same package that my Republican colleagues voted on back on December 21.

H.R. 268 provides disaster relief to those communities affected by hurricanes, wildfires, typhoons, other natural disasters, and it funds the entire government through February 8. In fact, this package provides even more relief to those disaster-affected communities following the adoption of the bipartisan and Republican amendments here today. The only component that is not in this package that my friends on the other side of the aisle voted for in

December is the President's wall money.

So, to use this MTR to further delay the government, this doesn't make any sense to me at all, because this package being delayed is unconscionable. Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose the motion to recommit, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 193, noes 231, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 38]

AYES—193

|               |                 |               |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Abraham       | Fleischmann     | Loudermilk    |
| Aderholt      | Flores          | Lucas         |
| Allen         | Fortenberry     | Luetkemeyer   |
| Amash         | Foxx (NC)       | Marchant      |
| Amodei        | Fulcher         | Marshall      |
| Armstrong     | Gaetz           | McCarthy      |
| Arrington     | Gallagher       | McCaul        |
| Babin         | Gianforte       | McClintock    |
| Bacon         | Gibbs           | McHenry       |
| Baird         | Gohmert         | McKinley      |
| Balderson     | Gonzalez (OH)   | Meadows       |
| Banks         | Gooden          | Meuser        |
| Barr          | Gosar           | Miller        |
| Bergman       | Granger         | Mitchell      |
| Biggs         | Graves (GA)     | Moolenaar     |
| Bilirakis     | Graves (LA)     | Mooney (WV)   |
| Bishop (UT)   | Graves (MO)     | Mullin        |
| Bost          | Green (TN)      | Newhouse      |
| Brady         | Griffith        | Norman        |
| Brooks (AL)   | Grothman        | Nunes         |
| Brooks (IN)   | Guest           | Olson         |
| Buchanan      | Guthrie         | Palazzo       |
| Buck          | Hagedorn        | Palmer        |
| Bucshon       | Harris          | Pence         |
| Budd          | Hartzler        | Perry         |
| Burchett      | Hern, Kevin     | Posey         |
| Burgess       | Herrera Beutler | Ratcliffe     |
| Byrne         | Hice (GA)       | Reed          |
| Calvert       | Higgins (LA)    | Reschenthaler |
| Carter (GA)   | Hill (AR)       | Rice (SC)     |
| Carter (TX)   | Holding         | Riggleman     |
| Chabot        | Hollingsworth   | Roby          |
| Cheney        | Hudson          | Rodgers (WA)  |
| Cline         | Huizenga        | Roe, David P. |
| Cloud         | Hunter          | Rogers (AL)   |
| Cole          | Hurd (TX)       | Rogers (KY)   |
| Collins (GA)  | Johnson (LA)    | Rose, John W. |
| Collins (NY)  | Johnson (OH)    | Rouzer        |
| Comer         | Johnson (SD)    | Roy           |
| Conaway       | Jordan          | Rutherford    |
| Cook          | Joyce (OH)      | Scalise       |
| Crawford      | Joyce (PA)      | Schweikert    |
| Crenshaw      | Katko           | Scott, Austin |
| Curtis        | Kelly (MS)      | Shimkus       |
| Davidson (OH) | Kelly (PA)      | Simpson       |
| Davis, Rodney | King (IA)       | Smith (MO)    |
| DesJarlais    | King (NY)       | Smith (NE)    |
| Diaz-Balart   | Kinzinger       | Smith (NJ)    |
| Duffy         | Kustoff (TN)    | Smucker       |
| Duncan        | LaHood          | Spano         |
| Dunn          | LaMalfa         | Stauber       |
| Emmer         | Lamborn         | Stefanik      |
| Estes         | Latta           | Steil         |
| Ferguson      | Lesko           | Steube        |
| Fitzpatrick   | Long            | Stewart       |

Stivers  
Taylor  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Timmons  
Tipton  
Turner  
Upton  
Wagner  
Walberg

Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Waltz  
Watkins  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Wright  
Yoho  
Young  
Zeldin

Speier  
Stanton  
Stefanik  
Stevens  
Suozi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib

Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres Small (NM)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Van Drew  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela

Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wexton  
Wild  
Yarmuth

NOES—231

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Axne  
Barragán  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan F.  
Brindisi  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Cunningham  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Delgado  
Demings  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Engel  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Español  
Evans  
Finkenauer  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Frankel  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)

Garcia (TX)  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gottheimer  
Green (TX)  
Grijalva  
Haaland  
Harder (CA)  
Hastings  
Hayes  
Heck  
Higgins (NY)  
Hill (CA)  
Himes  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Horsford  
Houlihan  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (TX)  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
Lamb  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe y  
Luján  
Luria  
Lynch  
Malinowski  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McAdams  
McBath  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Napoli tano  
Neal  
Neguse

Norcross  
O'Halleran  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Rose (NY)  
Rouda  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schrier  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Shalala  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Sires  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Speier  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Suozi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres Small (NM)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Van Drew  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Wexton  
Wild  
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—9

Jones  
Marino  
Massie

Mast  
Payne  
Rooney (FL)

Sensenbrenner  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)

□ 1747

Mr. LAMB changed his vote from "aye" to "no."  
So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 237, nays 187, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 39]

YEAS—237

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Axne  
Barragán  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan F.  
Brindisi  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Cunningham  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Delgado  
Demings  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Engel  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Español  
Evans  
Finkenauer  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Frankel  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)

Fitzpatrick  
Fletcher  
Poster  
Frankel  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gottheimer  
Green (TX)  
Grijalva  
Haaland  
Harder (CA)  
Hastings  
Hayes  
Heck  
Herrera Beutler  
Higgins (NY)  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Horsford  
Houlihan  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Hurd (TX)  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (TX)  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
Lamb  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe y  
Luján  
Luria  
Lynch  
Malinowski

Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McAdams  
McBath  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Mucarsel-Powell  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Napoli tano  
Neal  
Neguse

NAYS—187

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bergman  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (UT)  
Bost  
Brady  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Cheney  
Cline  
Cloud  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comer  
Conaway  
Cook  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Curtis  
Davidson (OH)  
Davis, Rodney  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Duffy  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ferguson  
Fleischmann  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Foxy (NC)  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gianforte  
Gibbs

Gohmert  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hagedorn  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hern, Kevin  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill (AR)  
Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Kustoff (TN)  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Latta  
Lesko  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Marchant  
Marshall  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
Meadows  
Meuser  
Miller  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunes

Oison  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Posey  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (SC)  
Riggleman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose, John W.  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Shimkus  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smucker  
Spano  
Stauber  
Steil  
Steube  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Taylor  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Timmons  
Tipton  
Turner  
Upton  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Waltz  
Watkins  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Wright  
Yoho  
Young  
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—9

Chu, Judy  
Jones  
Marino

Massie  
Mast  
Payne

Rooney (FL)  
Sensenbrenner  
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1754

So the bill was passed.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:  
Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, for final passage of H.R. 268, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, I am not recorded because I was

absent on account of attending a U.S. Army Basic Combat Training graduation ceremony.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 39.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 28, FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Ms. SCANLON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-3) on the resolution (H. Res. 52) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 28) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO TERRORISTS WHO THREATEN TO DISRUPT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-7)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995, with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process, is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 2019.

The crisis with respect to grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that led to the declaration of a national emergency on January 23, 1995, has not been resolved. Terrorist groups continue to engage in activities that have the purpose or effect of threatening the Middle East peace process and that are hostile to United States interests in the region. Such actions continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12947 with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process and to maintain in force the sanctions against them to respond to this threat.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 16, 2019.

□ 1800

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer a resolution previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 53

Whereas the United States has always been a proud multicultural Nation;

Whereas since early in our history our Nation has recognized the strength that our diversity brings by making our national motto *E Pluribus Unum*;

Whereas on July 13, 2006, on the floor of the House of Representatives, comparing immigrants to livestock, Representative Steve King of Iowa stated, "We could also electrify this wire with the kind of current that would not kill somebody, but it would simply be a discouragement for them to be fooling around with it. We do that with livestock all the time.";

Whereas on March 8, 2008, in an interview with KICD Studios, Representative King stated, "I don't want to disparage anyone because of their race, their ethnicity, their name—whatever their religion their father might have been. . . . I'll just say this: When you think about the optics of a Barack Obama potentially getting elected President of the United States—I mean, what does this look like to the rest of the world? What does it look like to the world of Islam?";

Whereas on May 21, 2012, while speaking with constituents in Pocahontas, Iowa, Representative King compared vetting immigrants to choosing hunting dogs saying, "You want a good bird dog? You want one that's going to be aggressive? Pick the one that's the friskiest.";

Whereas in July 2012, at a tele-townhall, on President Barack Obama's place of birth, Representative King stated, "It would have been awfully hard to fraudulently file the birth notice of Barack Obama being born in Hawaii and get that into our public libraries and that microfiche they keep of all the newspapers published. That doesn't mean there aren't some other explanations on how they might've announced that by telegram from Kenya. The list goes on. But drilling into that now, even if we could get a definitive answer and even if it turned out that Barack Obama was conclusively not born in America, I don't think we could get that case sold between now and November.";

Whereas on January 4, 2013, in a press release announcing the introduction of his bill, H.R. 140, Representative King stated, "The current practice of extending U.S. citizenship to hundreds of thousands of 'anchor babies' must end because it creates a magnet for illegal immigration into our country. Now is the time to ensure that the laws in this country do not encourage law breaking.";

Whereas on July 24, 2014, in an interview with Newsmax discussing undocumented im-

migrants in the United States, Representative King stated, "For everyone who's a val-edictorian, there's another 100 out there who weigh 130 pounds—and they've got calves the size of cantaloupes because they're hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert.";

Whereas on July 20, 2016, in an interview with The Washington Post, Representative King stated, "The idea of multiculturalism, that every culture is equal—that's not objectively true.";

Whereas on July 18, 2016, in an appearance on MSNBC, Representative King stated, "Where did any other subgroup of people contribute more to civilization [than White people]?";

Whereas on September 18, 2016, on Twitter, Representative King stated, that "Cultural suicide by demographic transformation must end.";

Whereas on March 12, 2017, on Twitter, Representative King shared a story about far-right Dutch politician Geert Wilders and added, "We can't restore our civilization with somebody else's babies.";

Whereas on March 13, 2017, on CNN, Representative King stated, "I'd like to see an America that's just so homogenous that we look a lot the same" and "There's been this effort, we're going to have to replace that void with somebody else's babies. That's the push to bring in [so] much illegal immigration into America, living in enclaves, refusing to assimilate into the American culture and civilization.";

Whereas on June 12, 2018, Representative King retweeted Mark Collett, a self-described "Nazi sympathizer";

Whereas on September 2, 2018, in an interview with *Unzensuriert*, a publication linked to a fascist Austrian political party, Representative King stated, "What does this diversity bring that we don't already have? Mexican food, Chinese food, those things—well, that's fine. But what does it bring that we don't have that is worth the price? We have a lot of diversity within the U.S. already.";

Whereas on January 10, 2019, in the *New York Times*, Representative King stated "White nationalist, White supremacist, Western civilization—how did that language become offensive?";

Whereas Representative King's statements have drawn praise from known White supremacists like former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke;

Whereas Representative King dishonors not only immigrants but every American with his racist and xenophobic rhetoric; and

Whereas Representative King has failed to retract his statement and apologize to the Members of the House

or Americans across the country: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That—*

(1) Representative Steve King of Iowa, by his despicable conduct, has dishonored himself and brought discredit to the House and merits the censure of the House for the same;

(2) Representative Steve King of Iowa be censured;

(3) Representative Steve King of Iowa forthwith present himself in the well of the House of Representatives for the pronouncement of censure; and

(4) Representative Steve King of Iowa be censured with the public reading of this resolution by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution presents a question of privilege.

MOTION TO REFER

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. HOYER moves to refer the resolution to the Committee on Ethics.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized 1 hour.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I am moving to refer this resolution to the Committee on Ethics.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The previous question was ordered.

The motion to refer was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, Daniel Garcia-Barbon has been an air traffic controller for 10 years at Miami International Airport. It has been his life's dream to help passengers travel our skies. But last Friday Daniel was one of thousands of Floridians who received a pay stub in the amount of zero. He was forced to cancel his 4-year-old's birthday, and he is unsure how much longer he can afford to support his family.

Our government is failing our public servants.

I would like to ask this President and the Republican Party if they understand the value of the work that Daniel and thousands of other Floridians do to keep us safe.

We Floridians have weathered many storms, including this shutdown, but we always come together. Just this weekend, I witnessed kindness from an owner of a creole restaurant in the airport who was offering lunches to Federal employees.

This shutdown must end. It is preposterous to punish thousands of Americans for political gain. The Senate has a constitutional duty, and it must rein in this reckless President.

Madam Speaker, today, once again, I stand here before you to implore the Senate to reopen the government.

#### HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. UNDERWOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

#### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM 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 Religious Freedom Day to celebrate the numerous faiths that people hold across this great Nation.

Today we commemorate the 233rd anniversary of the passing of a State law that has shaped and secured our important legacy of religious liberty. On January 16, 1786, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom. The bill, written by Thomas Jefferson, states: "All men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion."

Just a few years later, this bill served as the inspiration for the First Amendment, which affirms our right to choose and exercise faith without government coercion or retaliation.

Today, Americans from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds remain committed to the values of faith, honesty, integrity, and patriotism.

Madam Speaker, our Constitution and laws guarantee Americans the right not just to believe as they see fit, but to freely exercise their religion. We observe this day in our homes, schools, and houses of worship because we have the freedom and the right to do so.

#### DEMOCRATS STAND FOR HUMANITY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I think it is important for us to know what just happened today.

Democrats stood on the floor, unanimously, to open the government. Democrats stood on the floor, unanimously, to be able to provide for desperate Americans suffering from devastating floods, hurricanes, and wildfires.

Yes, we helped our friends in the Northern Mariana Islands for our good colleague to stand on the floor and to have amendments that would provide Medicaid for his constituents. Democrats stood for the humanity of Americans.

Democrats are also standing for our Coast Guard, members who are on the front lines everywhere around this Nation and in our seas stopping drugs and saving people.

Democrats are simply asking that there be humanity in this Congress, in this House, for those who understand TSAs are trying to do their job without food or gas.

Democrats are asking for Senator MCCONNELL to put our bills that were just passed to open the government on the Senate floor and to act like there is leadership in this Nation, to send them to the President.

Mr. President, sign the bill to open the government now and stand for what America is: a nation that cares.

□ 1815

#### STAND FOR LIFE

(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, early next week, America marks the dark anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's decision of *Roe v. Wade*.

Since that date, over 60 million babies have been aborted. Those babies had no voice to defend themselves.

The tide is turning, though. Thanks to President Trump and a pro-life Congress the last 2 years, we have continued to take a stand for life in legislation, through executive action, and in the courts. There is much to do to make sure that every baby is protected under our law yet.

I am especially grateful that Arizona was recently recognized as the most protective of life in the United States. Thank you to all the officials and advocates who work tirelessly to make this happen.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, let's be clear. The longest shutdown in our history is not about border security. Both Democrats and Republicans agree we need strong border security; we need new technology; we need stronger ports of entry; and we need more personnel.

But the President is tossing aside what we agree upon so that he can hit taxpayers for \$5 billion for his wall, and he is making 800,000 hardworking Federal employees and contractors, and their loved ones, pay an even higher price right now.

I have heard from constituents who should be working as aviation safety inspectors to keep our skies safe. Instead, one is waiting in the unemployment office. One cabin safety inspector is struggling to pay for cancer medication. Another is negotiating a payment plan for his mother's care, and his mother is an 88-year-old veteran living with dementia.

Let's end the pain of this shutdown, reopen the government, get Federal workers back on the job and being paid. We can work together to strengthen our borders, and we can treat asylum seekers with respect.

#### WHAT WOULD DR. KING SAY?

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, on April 3, 1968, the Reverend Martin Luther King gave what the world didn't know would be his final speech. Seven times in that address, Dr. King said, "But I wouldn't stop there," as he spoke of his dreams for a better world.

This Martin Luther King Jr. Day, it is critical that we not forget the many lessons Dr. King taught us, lessons that emphasize ways to treat our peers and our neighbors with respect, despite our differences, in order to make the dream of a better and more unified tomorrow possible.

That message should resonate today more than ever to my peers in this Chamber.

I have been thinking of this a lot lately, what Dr. King might say if he was here with us today, as he might see the divisive partisanship that lives among these halls, and I think he would deliver one clear message: We must unify to make meaningful changes. We must bridge the gaps that divide our Nation by working together to find common good civilly.

It is no secret that division brings pain and disables our capacity to solve problems.

As Martin Luther King said in his last speech in Tennessee, "I wouldn't stop there."

#### 116TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the 116th anniversary of Korean American Day, which recognizes the first wave of Korean immigrants who arrived to the United States on January 13, 1903.

They reached our country in pursuit of the American Dream, determined to secure a better life for themselves and their families.

They served as farm workers, wage laborers, and section hands, laying the groundwork for the success of their children and future generations to come.

Today, our Nation is home to nearly 2 million Korean Americans who enrich every aspect of American life. They embody the ideals that define our country: hard work, resilience, and community spirit.

I am proud to represent the largest Korean population in the country in California's 34th Congressional District, and I am honored to reintroduce this resolution in the 116th Congress, recognizing their contribution 116 years after their arrival.

Please join me in acknowledging the generation of Korean Americans—the dreamers, the trailblazers, and the visionaries—who have realized the American Dream and continue to inspire us all.

#### MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, it is an honor today to represent hun-

dreds of thousands of men, women, and children who will be marching this week in Washington, D.C., and around the country through the cold, through the wet, and, frankly, through the ridicule.

We don't march for the recognition or for the headlines. We march on behalf of the millions of children who have had their opportunity to make an impact on this world stolen from them.

We don't march because it is merely a political statement. We march because it is right. We march for life.

We must continue to prevent taxpayer dollars from being used to end the lives of innocent children here in the United States and around the globe.

When an organization prioritizes abortion over adoption and creating a culture of life, we must question why our government funds them at all.

Now more than ever, Madam Speaker, we are called to speak up for those who cannot for themselves. We must all stand firm to defend the sanctity of life, for the challenge is great and the cause is noble.

Together, we will march in solidarity for those who have never had the opportunity to walk on their own, and, in coming days, our voices will be heard louder than ever.

#### COAST GUARD MISSING FIRST PAYCHECKS

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

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, last week, I spoke on this floor about the first bill I introduced, a bill to fund our Coast Guard through this government shutdown.

Incredibly, our Coast Guard is still not being paid. Yesterday was payday, but they got nothing.

Just an hour ago, I spoke with Admiral Charles Ray, Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, who emphasized to me just how hard this is for young members of the Coast Guard who have not yet accumulated savings. As he said to me, these men and women do everything we ask of them. All they ask is that we stand by them.

This is no way to treat those who put their lives on the line in our defense. Members of every branch of our military, and the families who serve alongside them, need to know that our government's commitment to them is unbreakable.

Our government has betrayed the values of service and camaraderie embodied by our military families. We need to remember and honor those values. That means funding our Coast Guard and ending this crisis right now.

#### HELPING VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS MEN AND WOMEN

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

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, today, the House came together to pass H.R. 190, led by my friend and colleague from Kansas' Big First, Dr. ROGER MARSHALL. This act helps service-disabled, veteran-owned small business men and women.

The path of the American veteran is tough. So is the path of the small business man. Where those paths intersect are the people, innovation, and drive that make America the greatest country in the world.

This legislation not only helps veterans but helps us all through economic growth and through job creation.

When an American veteran finds his or her new mission, identity, and team in a small business, we got your 6.

#### HONORING MAJOR JAMES M. BROPHY

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

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Major James M. Brophy, a marine from Staatsburg who lost his life while serving our country and was laid to rest this past Friday.

Major Brophy was a decorated combat veteran who served in Afghanistan as well as Japan. He dedicated his life to our Nation, and he was a devoted father, husband, and son.

This is a tremendous loss to not only his family but to the entire Dutchess County community, and he serves as an example to all of us.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends, and I offer my sympathy, support, and gratitude for his selfless service to our country.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I am frustrated. For 26 days, critical functions of the Federal Government have been nonoperational. Coastguardsmen have not been paid, and there is no end in sight.

We must work together to pass a bill, end the shutdown, and fund security measures at our borders. Put all 435 of us in a room with no phones, no TV, until the job is done.

I came from the private sector. In the private sector, you do not leave until the job is done.

Is our job done here in Washington? Did we end the shutdown? Did we adequately fund border security? The answer is no, we have not.

House leadership has refused to bring any serious attempt to open the government and address critical security needs to the House floor. Rather than playing political games with government funding, let's work on solutions.

I am ready to stay here until we get the job done. Let's get to work.

## DISASTER RELIEF

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

Mr. MCADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 268, the legislation that we voted on earlier today to provide disaster relief, including relief for my home State of Utah.

Specifically, this bill includes money for the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission for critical environmental work in the Strawberry River watershed and part of the Diamond Fork drainage.

Last summer, the Dollar Ridge fire burned an area of almost 70,000 acres, centered over the Strawberry River watershed. This area has been a critical focal point of the Central Utah Project for almost 40 years. The Central Utah Project diverts, stores, and delivers large quantities of water from numerous Utah rivers to meet the needs of central Utah's citizens.

In cooperation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the mitigation commission is working to repair tremendous damage to the area, both from the fire itself and subsequent rain and runoff events.

Water quality has suffered greatly. Money from this legislation will be used to reseed, replant, and set up monitoring stations to better respond to the future mudslide and sediment flows.

A portion of the funds will also be used to begin restoring an area in the Diamond Fork Canyon that was affected by a second fire.

I also commend my Utah colleague Representative CHRIS STEWART for his amendment to the bill, providing much-needed funding for fire protection.

## HONORING JAMES C. HIGH

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

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, Columbus County and many throughout North Carolina and beyond are mourning the passing of Mr. James C. High, known to his many friends and colleagues as Jim.

As the publisher of The News Reporter, a family-owned newspaper in Whiteville for 61 years, Mr. High was a strong advocate for a free press and was highly recognized in the industry for making The News Reporter a leading community newspaper.

He has been long admired in the community for his years of dedicated leadership, service to others, and distinguished contributions to Columbus County.

Mr. High's impact went beyond just the newspaper. He helped lead the effort to create the Committee of 100 to bring industry and jobs to Columbus County.

He was influential in many different capital campaigns, including those for the Carolyn T. High Memorial Library, the Whiteville High School gymnasium, the Angel House Hospice Care Center, and many others too numerous to list.

Jim High was a vital part of Columbus County, and he will be greatly missed. His was a life lived well, and he leaves a great legacy of enrichment that will continue to benefit many.

## APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. HIMES, Connecticut  
 Ms. SEWELL, Alabama  
 Mr. CARSON, Indiana  
 Ms. SPEIER, California  
 Mr. QUIGLEY, Illinois  
 Mr. SWALWELL, California  
 Mr. CASTRO, Texas  
 Mr. HECK, Washington  
 Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY, New York  
 Mrs. DEMINGS, Florida  
 Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Illinois

□ 1830

## NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I represent Michigan's 10th Congressional District—northern Macomb County and the Thumb. For us in Michigan, it is simple. I am from here.

I am co-chair of the Congressional School Choice Caucus with Senator TIM SCOTT from South Carolina. Today, a number of Members are gathered here on the floor to celebrate all types of school choice—from traditional public schools, to public charter schools, public magnet schools, online learning, private schools, homeschooling, and more.

Every year, National School Choice Week offers an opportunity to parents, educators, and students from around the country to come together and

share the many successes of education choice in this country.

Yesterday, I introduced a resolution in the House recognizing the importance of school choice the week of January 20 through January 26. I spent 35 years in business focused on career and technical education and workforce education. I know the importance of a preparatory education, of a K-12 education to success in the future.

I am the oldest of seven children. My family struggled. Dad built trucks on the line when he wasn't laid off, and mom worked at the Salvation Army. I was the first of my extended family to ever set foot on a college campus, never mind actually graduate. I saw, firsthand, the importance of that education and the skills I could acquire if I put my mind to it.

My mom convinced me I could be anything, and, to her credit, I became CEO of a fair-size company devoted to workforce education, to helping people gain the skills necessary for a career, or to retrain if they lost their jobs.

My company ran some of the largest welfare-to-work programs in the country back when welfare-to-work meant going to work. I personally benefited from that alternative education when I went to college.

As a father of six, I also know that no two kids are alike. Yes, I am the father of six. You would think I would have learned after being the oldest of seven, but I didn't. We have a blended family. My oldest is in her 30s, and my youngest is 8 years old. We adopted him from Russia 6 years ago.

I know that one size of education does not fit for all children. One of my children, my daughter, who is 17 now, attends a virtual academy because those who have teenagers know that getting your child up as a teenager early in the morning to go to school is like running a zoo. It doesn't go well. So she goes to virtual school, controls her schedule, controls what classes she does that day, controls her time, and learns to manage time like we all have to learn as we get older.

My youngest son has special needs that traditional schools have not handled well. He has learning disabilities. He has dyslexia and ADHD. It has been suggested I suffer from that as well some days. So we had to find an alternative for him. Luckily, my wife was able to stay home and homeschool him, but not everyone has that choice.

Today, we are here to celebrate the range of choices of education, innovation education, and to encourage that. I would like to start by recognizing one of my colleagues to talk about education. I would like to start by recognizing and yielding time to Representative TIM WALBERG from Michigan's Seventh District.

I am proud to introduce him. He is a good friend of mine from Michigan, who also recognizes the importance of alternative education, of education options in our home State, and I now yield to Mr. WALBERG.

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Michigan, and I appreciate the opportunity to talk about something that is extremely important.

In our Michigan State Constitution, Article VIII, section 1, it says: "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

That article—that line was taken from the Northwest Ordinance. I think it showed the wisdom of some of our Founders of this great Nation, the greatest in the entire world, that they understood that education and the means of education gave the opportunity, and, in fact, to a great degree, assured the freedom and opportunity of a Nation and the morality of a Nation that understood the wisdom that came even from the centuries and the ages.

I think we would all agree that schools should meet the unique educational needs of children, wouldn't we? I know my colleague would agree with that. And why, then, would we question the fact that there ought to be choice? Choice in education, even as we seek choice in our daily lives is what makes America great.

School choice gives parents and children the option of allowing the children to flourish. That is the intended goal, isn't it? Michigan has a variety of options, and I am grateful for that. It didn't always have those same options, but we do now.

Just 25 years ago, as of this week, Michigan struck out on a new opportunity in the fact of allowing charters, public charters, to take place, and in those past 25 years, we have literally seen a million students attend Michigan's charter schools. Has every charter been perfect or successful? No. But overwhelmingly, charters have served Michigan well as a choice, as an option.

I think of the community—a community like Detroit wherein the Detroit News just, this week, an article was written talking about the success there of the Detroit Edison Public School Academy; ranked the number one open-enrollment school in the entire city when it comes to college enrollment. Over half of the students in Detroit, a great city, now have the opportunity and take the opportunity to attend charter schools, and they are flourishing.

Michigan has a variety of options available to our 2.2 million children living in that State, including the opportunity to attend traditional public schools outside neighborhood boundaries. That is a good thing. Again, it gives choice, meeting the needs of students.

Now, I had choice, like my colleague, relative to my children. Not all people back in the 1980s and mid-1990s, when my children were going to their grade school and high school education opportunities, had the same choices. Each one of my three kids were dif-

ferent in unique ways. They learn different. They have different aptitudes and desires and longings and interests.

We had the opportunity to send our three children to public school, private school, and homeschool, and one of our children to vocational school, as it was called at the time, for a career in technical education that changed her life, literally.

I thank God for that opportunity. We used it, not simply to make choices and have differences, but to meet those unique educational needs and opportunities of our kids, and it worked. It worked for them.

You know something, I so appreciate my good friend and colleague having this Special Order tonight, because it is a time when we can talk through some of what we would call common-sense ideas and values and beliefs, but too often we forget about it.

For instance, do parents know their children's unique needs, unique abilities, unique strengths and weaknesses better than anyone else? I think the answer is, and that you and I would agree, that the overwhelming majority of parents—we can always pick out that dysfunctional family, and, sadly, we need to work in those areas—but the overwhelming majority of parents have a clear love for their kids, know their needs, and if given the opportunity, will make the best choices for their educational experience.

I have seen that. I have seen that in upper-income strata. I have seen that in lower-income strata. I have seen that in rural communities. I have seen that in urban communities. I have seen that in suburban communities. Parents generally want the best for their kids, and that includes education.

So, for us, to support and encourage choice, and with that choice, to certainly hold accountable, but nonetheless to encourage choice and for parents to make those choices for the best interest of their kids, I see that as an American way. Having the option to choose the learning environment, the styles of education that works best for the student, whether it be through charter school, private school, home education, or traditional public school, having choices allows students to grow and find their sweet spot.

I saw that with my kids, and I want that for all children. So I thank Representative MITCHELL for encouraging us to think this through during this special National Choice Week and to double our efforts to say we want kids to be educated, we want to give them that choice, we will support that, and, in fact, then we will promote quality in education.

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for joining us tonight in talking about school choice, as he sees it. You see, parents have a choice to give their kids a chance, in many cases a chance that their ZIP code or their learning limitations otherwise would limit them from.

Let me give you an example. In K-12 education, I was regularly placed out-

side the classroom at a desk to work independently on projects. Why? Well, because I asked too many questions. That isn't exactly a learning model we would endorse these days.

My senior year of high school, I was asked to attend one class each semester by the assistant principal, debate and public speaking because, again, I asked too many questions, and it was easier for everybody if I just took exams and wrote reports rather than go to class because it was simpler for the teacher.

See, school choice is not about public versus private schools. It is not about the school system. That is a false dichotomy. It is about creating an environment in which the students' needs are met. They are met to gain skills, not to meet standards, not to get grades, but to have the skills necessary to be successful in their life.

Let me give you one quick example before I turn it over to my colleagues. Aley Minton from Port Huron, part of my district, has a story I want to tell.

She was skeptical about educational choice until dire circumstances drove her to enroll both her sons in a cyber school, not unlike my daughter.

The St. Clair County family's old brick-and-mortar school left them in a difficult place by not adapting to the special needs for their children.

She says: "Our family chose to utilize school choice because our youngest son is epileptic and our oldest son is dyslexic." She knows how one son was struggling academically while the timing and intensity of his seizures interfered with him regularly going to school and maintaining full school hours. Her other son with dyslexia was having a difficult time keeping up with school work.

Now in their sixth year at Michigan Connections Academy, the Minton boys are making great strides in their freedom to learn how best for them. She says: "When we first started virtual learning, our oldest son was on a second-grade level in the fifth grade. He is now on grade level, being successful". Their needs are being met, and, guess what, they are happy going to school.

Let me take a moment and ask another of my colleagues to join us, Congressman ANDY BIGGS from Arizona's Fifth District. He knows firsthand, given his experience with the State, the success with school choice models as Arizona continues to be a national leader in providing options for parents and their children and for educators.

I yield to Congressman ANDY BIGGS from the Fifth District of Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative MITCHELL. I am grateful for this opportunity to highlight National School Choice Week, which will be next week, January 20 through 26.

Like many in Congress, I believe the path to success for our Nation's youth is through quality education. The best way to provide quality is to create competition in the education marketplace.

For decades, students and families had few options when they went to choose education for their children. Today, there is a flourishing education marketplace. Some States have erased school district lines, directly creating choice within their traditional public school systems. Many others have embraced charter schools and dual-enrollment programs, and still others have provided educational savings accounts for parents and allowed voucher programs to assist families with offsetting the cost of private school tuition.

Educational options should meet the variety of unique needs of students. I am glad to see leaders across the country understand those needs and promote policies that provide an abundance of options.

Nearly 30 years ago, my wife and I studied the options available to us as parents as we went to educate our children in Arizona. At that time, there were very few options. I took the required general certification test that allowed us to home educate our oldest children.

□ 1845

As our family and children grew, so did educational choice in Arizona. Our children are each unique individuals with varying talents, abilities, and interests. Homeschooling worked for some of our children, charter schools for others, and, even within the charter schools, different charter schools worked for different children. But each of our children received a quality education that allowed them to flourish and which prepared them for life.

Four of our children have graduated from college, the fifth has attended college, and our youngest is in her freshman year of college. My wife and I are pleased with their successes and are deeply appreciative of Arizona's liberal school choice policies that allow every child an opportunity to thrive and grow in a school that is the best fit for them.

Today, in Arizona, there are more than 550 charter schools, with 186,000 students enrolled in the 2016-2017 school year. That is an increase of 6,000 students, or almost 6 percent over the previous school year, and makes up about 17 percent of all of Arizona's public school students.

But school choice doesn't stop with charter schools in Arizona. We also offer scholarships funded by State tax credits to help make private schools more affordable, as well as education savings accounts that help more than 5,400 students and their families choose the educational option that is best for them.

I firmly believe parents and students should be in the driver's seat when determining which educational path best fits their needs. They can only do this if local, State, and Federal leaders continue to reduce involvement in education decisionmaking.

Again, I thank Representative MITCHELL and the leaders here today

and those who are working for school choice across this country, those who are fighting for policies that benefit students and their families.

Today's youth will be our future leaders in this great Nation, and even in the world. It is, thusly, imperative that we provide them with the highest quality education to ensure they have the foundation necessary to become the leaders we need.

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman BIGGS for sharing his experience and background. I really appreciate him taking the time this evening to talk about the importance of school choice.

As he notes, education should be measured by skills gained, not by standardized tests, not by grades, but what young people can do as they move through an educational process, begin postsecondary education, and start careers. Because long-term, ultimately, the assessment is not what a standardized test said; it is what you can get done in a day and what you can achieve.

Part of that is an exposure to STEM—science, technology—vocational skills, trades. The reality is we don't do enough in the education system to give those choices to young people. In many cases, where they live limits their access to those options.

I have an example of neighbors of mine. Their son wishes to take a vocational program that is offered in the school on the other side of the county line.

Now, ironically, by the way, it is closer if he goes there, but because of the funding limitations in the school systems, he can't. Again, we don't want to limit young people's choices. We want to give them options.

In order to make education options more available, students, parents, and school choice advocates must work together to get out the information of why it is so important, what difference it makes.

Let me give you a couple more examples.

Natalie Fenchel testified before the Michigan Civil Rights Commission in July of 2018 talking about school choice. She says:

There are a lot of misconceptions about charter schools.

Fenchel said:

I really got a lot of benefits from going to a charter school and continue to go throughout my college career. Especially with my nursing school, I feel so well prepared.

She lives in Traverse City, by the way, northern Michigan.

Traverse City is pretty rural, and charter schools really provided a second option for me. Grand Traverse Academy provided so many benefits that would be unable to be achieved for rural students that otherwise it would be difficult. I'm just really grateful I went to a charter school. It's helped me pursue my nursing degree.

Let me give you one more example I think will kind of tell the story of school choice and school options.

Kendra, now at Howard University, says:

Things could have turned out differently if I didn't have the opportunity to pursue a different educational path when I was younger. Thankfully, my parents were given the option to exercise school choice, which is, unfortunately, not the norm for every student.

Kendra is right. It should be the norm for every parent and every student.

We can't wait, nor should we, for government policy to fix it. There should be no Federal policy. I am not here advocating a Federal policy for school choice. Rather, I am advocating that we make those options available through sharing information, highlighting models, encouraging States and communities to make sure they are meeting the needs of young people across America because, as Congressman BIGGS notes, the future of America is those young people.

Parents, not Washington bureaucrats—I suggest, not bureaucrats in States—know what is best for their children. School systems, educational options, and funding options for that education need to be determined by the parents, working with their children as they get older.

School choice enables communities and local educators to focus upon preparing young people for the future, again, rather than preparing them for standardized tests, grades, or to push them into a model.

We need to stop with the whole idea of putting a round peg in a square hole and saying that is the best we can do, because America can do better for our young people.

Ultimately, our number one priority ought to be and needs to be getting children, getting kids an effective education that will enable them to pursue their lives going forward, whatever career path they choose, so they are prepared to be successful in this world today.

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

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take a moment as we honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on his

90th birthday yesterday, and we continue to honor him throughout this week and next Monday.

During this time, we recognize that we are in a society that is still riddled with injustices. As Representatives, we have a duty to lift up those who are marginalized and work to ensure that we continue a path toward justice for every person. No person should ever feel less than in the United States of America.

May we remember his legacy and his words and recommit to fighting for justice and equality. May we also speak out loudly and unapologetically about the ills of our society and work every single day to stay on the right side of justice.

Madam Speaker, in regard to the government shutdown, I am very passionate about making sure that we put a human face to this crisis, so I rise today, during the 26th day of this reckless government shutdown.

The real crisis here is the negative human impact. In the homes of each of the Federal workers across this Nation, nearly a month without pay. Our Federal workers are having to go to pawn shops to get cash to live. This is not right.

Yes, there is a crisis for the families in my district who have corporate polluters today in their backyards that do not have any EPA inspectors monitoring our air quality.

Yes, there is a crisis for the families who are wondering if their housing assistance will come next month from HUD.

The shutdown will have a long-lasting negative impact on our lives, and it must end immediately.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take some time today to share stories about residents in Michigan who are impacted directly.

Gregory Simpkins, who is president of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 778, said four of the union's TSA employees quit last week and three the week before. Right now, TSA employees are deemed essential and still going to work but are not getting paid.

Ms. Wilson, one of our TSA employees, said the morale is so low she has never seen anything like it. With personal budgets stretched, she is afraid they will lose even more workers. One worker said to her that he can't pay for gas money to get to work, and he is worried and scared for the future of his family and for his life.

Federal environmental protection workers right now are not at work protecting us, so when I think of this, I think of Line 5, which is a very dangerous oil pipeline that threatens the drinking water supply for Michiganders and our freshwater in the Great Lakes.

We are in trouble, Madam Speaker, because the computers that run that model for emergency response is shut down during this crisis.

Mark Coryell, president of the American Federation of Government Em-

ployees Local 3907, represents EPA workers who work in the Motor Vehicle Emissions Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He and his colleagues are furloughed, meaning they are not working right now and not getting their pay.

For the public, this means they are not working on regulations that are now lagging because they are not showing up. Their lab certifies fuel efficiency numbers automakers display when selling cars to ensure that they protect our air quality and abide by the emission standards.

So, Madam Speaker, this is reckless and irresponsible. It is reckless that MITCH MCCONNELL's Senate cannot muster up the courage to reopen the government.

Senator MCCONNELL works for the American people. He has been missing in action during this crisis. He doesn't work for the President of the United States; he works for the American people. I ask him to stand up and do what is right for all of us and for our Nation and to open up government.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR).

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 26th day of what is now the longest running government shutdown in history, a shutdown which is nothing more than a manufactured crisis designed to distract us from the instability and dysfunction that rules the Trump White House.

Trump has orchestrated this shutdown because he is looking for someone else to blame for the ineffectiveness of his administration. He wants to point to us here in Congress and claim that we are the reason he is failing to lead this country.

But that blame, Madam Speaker, belongs to Trump—and Trump only. He singlehandedly forced seven agencies to stop their crucial work, work that impacts the health and safety of every American.

Soon, millions of people could start to go hungry as the government runs out of money to fund nutritional assistance through the SNAP program.

Thousands could face eviction and become homeless as HUD becomes unable to deliver desperately needed housing assistance.

Federal courts could shut down.

Our aviation system could come to a halt as flights are grounded.

And the list, Madam Speaker, goes on and on.

But even before this shameful shutdown began, the executive branch agencies were already struggling to operate under Trump's leadership, or the lack thereof. As of today, there are more than 200 critical agency positions for which Trump has failed to even put forward a nominee. That is more than 200 agencies, offices, and programs that are operating without defined leadership, full staff, or resources.

Consequently, even once we are able to end this debilitating shutdown, our Federal Government will still be oper-

ating at less than full capacity so long as we have an ineffective, ego-driven President at the helm.

As Members of Congress, we took an oath to put the people of this country first, to protect their rights, safety, and well-being. That is why we, here in the House, voted on day one of this Congress, and nearly every day since, to reopen this government.

The President took a similar oath, and it is time that he honor it because, Madam Speaker, the American people deserve better.

The 400,000 furloughed Federal employees deserve better, including the 6,000 workers in my district, alone, who are currently wondering how they are going to pay their rent at the first of the month and if they are able to afford simple necessities like childcare and food. They deserve better.

□ 1900

If the President wants to have a real conversation about border security, we are ready to have it. We can talk about finding a solution to our broken immigration system and how to adopt policies that extend humanity and compassion to migrants and refugees.

Every day, families are fleeing violence and untold hardships in countries like Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. These people are running from situations that are so brutal, that most Americans, thankfully, could not comprehend, but as a refugee from Somalia, I do. So I invite the President to engage in a real conversation with Congress on immigration.

If he wants, we can talk about the \$2 million the Guatemalan Government paid to D.C. lobbyists and how our government is cozying up to corrupt regimes in that country.

If he is interested, we could also talk about the U.S. funding and training for Honduras security forces that are involved in serious human rights violations and how these policies that we support are forcing people to flee from their homeland.

If he wants to talk, we are ready to talk, but we don't need a government shutdown to do it.

I join the similar calls made by my colleagues today, and I demand that the President end his temper tantrum and quest for a racist and cynical big wall, and I demand that he work with us to reopen the government before any more damage is done.

Enough is enough. The American people deserve better.

Ms. TLAIIB. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ).

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to tell the story of one of my constituents, Yahey Obeid.

Mr. Obeid was born in Yemen and came to the United States when he was 8 years old. His childhood dream was to become a pilot, and he knew and felt that in the United States, all things are possible and his dream could come true.

Mr. Obeid's dream did come true. He has been a Federal employee for 14 years, has two children, and a mortgage for his home in the Morris Park neighborhood of the Bronx. He studied hard, got his pilot's license, and is now an air traffic controller supervisor at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City.

I spoke with Mr. Obeid today over the phone. He and air traffic controllers like him across the country missed their first paycheck this past week. He was telling me about how stressful his job is. Every single day, air traffic controllers have thousands of people's lives in their hands. With weather changes, flight delays, staffing complexities, and a myriad of other issues, their days almost never go exactly to plan. His job is to find solutions, analyze and adapt in real time to keep people safe in one of the busiest airspaces in the United States and the world.

It is terrifying to think that almost every single air traffic controller in the United States is currently distracted at work because they don't know when their next paycheck is coming.

Federal workers' jobs are stressful enough. The rise in New York City's cost of living is stressful enough. The fact that Mr. Obeid's family cannot be reunified due to fears over the Muslim ban is stressful enough. His several-thousand-dollar-a-month Bronx mortgage is stressful enough. The anti-immigrant sentiment of this administration is stressful enough.

The truth of this shutdown is that it is actually not about a wall, it is not about the border, and it is certainly not about the well-being of everyday Americans.

The truth is this shutdown is about the erosion of American democracy and the subversion of our most basic governmental norms.

It is not normal to hold 800,000 workers' paychecks hostage. It is not normal to shut down the government when we don't get what we want. It is not normal for public servants to run away and hide from the public that they serve. And it is certainly not normal to starve the people we serve for a proposal that is wildly unpopular among the American people.

Each and every Member of this body has a responsibility to this Nation and to everyone in the United States of America, whether they voted for us or not. This President shares in that responsibility as well, which means he has a responsibility to my constituent, Mr. Obeid.

President Trump has a responsibility to all air traffic controllers, FDA inspectors, TSA workers, and he has a responsibility to maintain the basic functioning of the United States Government.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, on my first day in office, I

joined Democrats and Republicans in voting to reopen the government and end this senseless and now record shutdown.

And we have passed Republican legislation. Make no mistake: this is the same legislation that Senate Republicans supported just last month to fund the Federal Government, but instead of taking that legislation up for a vote, MITCH MCCONNELL and Senate Republicans have joined President Trump in what can be best described as a temper tantrum.

As the father of a 6-year-old and a 4-year-old, occasionally I know something about a temper tantrum.

MITCH MCCONNELL and Senate Republicans have joined President Trump in holding 800,000 Federal workers hostage over a demand for an ineffective, wasteful wall, a fifth century technology for a 21st century problem.

Don't get us wrong. Democrats continue to support strong, smart, effective border security solutions, including the following:

First, we support new drug, weapons, and contraband scanning technology at official ports of entry; installing new technology to eventually scan all commercial and passenger vehicles for illegal drugs and other contraband at our ports of entry. According to both CBP and DEA, 90 percent of heroin, 88 percent of cocaine, 87 percent of methamphetamine, and 80 percent of fentanyl being smuggled into the U.S. are seized at official ports of entry, not areas between the ports of entry, where President Trump wants to build his wasteful border wall.

Second, we support advanced technology to detect unauthorized crossings; cameras, sensors, and radar to spot moving people and objects in any weather or time of day that are mounted on towers and border patrol vehicles and on drones to surveil tough terrain.

Third, we support more customs personnel, filling the more than 3,000 vacancies for customs officers who facilitate trade and travel at our land, air, and sea ports of entry, inspect commercial and passenger vehicles for illegal drugs and other contraband, and ensure that travelers are vetted and screened before entering the United States.

Fourth, we support expanded port of entry infrastructure, building up our port of entry infrastructure to improve security and better facilitate trade and travel, ending the long delays for visitors and commercial shipments that cost our country billions in economic activity and thousands of jobs.

We support all these measures, and we have for some time, and we will continue to support these measures, but we will not waste billions of taxpayer dollars on an ineffective, expensive wall that can be tunneled under, climbed over, or cut through, a wall that Mexico was supposed to pay for.

A discussion about border security is no reason for President Trump to keep government shut down. Perhaps even more importantly, we cannot and must

not allow this President or any President to hold our government and Federal workers hostage every time we have a disagreement.

Federal workers in the communities I serve in California are being directly hurt by this shutdown, just as they are being hurt all across this country.

I recently heard from a Fish and Wildlife Service employee whose co-workers don't know how they are going to pay their bills and make ends meet.

I heard from members of the Coast Guard. And, yes, the Coast Guard is being impacted by this shutdown, because they are funded through the Department of Homeland Security. I heard from the Coast Guard.

I heard from air traffic controllers, and they are being forced to work without pay, and this becomes a security issue.

If this President and Senate Republicans truly cared about security, they would want to fund the Coast Guard and they would want to fund air traffic controllers and they would want to fund TSA agents at our airports.

I have heard from veterans. I have a huge number of veterans in my district. One-third of the Federal workforce consists of veterans, both Federal employees and contractors, and they have been negatively impacted by this.

So, Mr. President, you claim to care about veterans. How can you allow this to continue to hundreds of thousands of veterans who have served our country and who are working without pay?

The solution that we Democrats support is simple. Let's reopen the government, and then we can talk about the best way to secure our border.

Earlier today, I was honored to join some of my freshmen colleagues in trying to deliver a letter to Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL, simply asking him on behalf of the freshman class to end this shutdown. We couldn't find him, but we will keep at it.

We have got to get this government back open again. We have got to get people back to work.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER).

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, huge critical elements of our Federal Government have now been shut down for 26 days. 800,000 blameless Federal employees have already missed their paychecks, and they don't know when their next paychecks are coming.

These furloughed workers are in crisis. They are facing impending loan defaults, utility shutoffs, long-term reductions in their credit scores, and potentially foreclosure or eviction proceedings. They are unable to buy necessities for themselves and their families, including necessary medications like insulin.

About 42,000 of those Federal workers are in my home State of California, and they are hurting. The costs of housing are a real challenge for families in my district, California's 45th. Thousands of Orange County residents

rely on Federal affordable housing programs to pay the rent each month.

Nationwide, this shutdown has already forced the expiration of over 1,100 rental assistance contracts between the government and private landlords and developers. These housing units are at risk of being permanently removed from our affordable housing stock.

In my district, California's 45th, the tenants of 749 homes rely on the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help pay their monthly rent. Our local Public Housing Authority distributes those funds to needy families. As required by law, 75 percent of these funds help applicants who are low-income.

Orange County's rental costs are the ninth highest in the country, averaging over \$2,000 per month. The cost of living is entirely unaffordable for many tenants without this Federal housing assistance.

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This past spring, our Federal Reserve found that 40 percent of Americans—4 in 10 Americans—don't have the cash to pay for an unexpected \$400 expense without selling a belonging or borrowing funds. American workers cannot withstand the financial shock of going unpaid.

For workers living paycheck to paycheck, this shutdown can easily spiral into bankruptcy. Even if we provide workers with backpay, which we have passed legislation to do, it will not make the harms of this shutdown erased.

The government isn't paying for groceries or utilities or child care. When the government reopens, it won't be paying the late fees that these workers have incurred in the meantime. It also won't pay the interest on new loans taken out by Federal workers to try to make ends meet until the President chooses to put people over politics.

These families will still have \$30 late fees on credit card payments. They will still have to pay interest on mortgage payments, which can be hundreds of dollars. They will still have delinquencies on their credit reports, which can drop their credit scores and stay on their records for up to 7 years.

That is why I have asked the major financial institutions of this country to step up and provide relief to Federal workers and their families who, through no fault of their own, have found themselves in financial distress. These banks and credit card companies should waive fees, pause debt payments, and stop eviction and foreclosure proceedings until weeks after workers receive their pay.

Lenders should also stop reporting negative information to credit reporting agencies during this difficult time.

Many of our Nation's credit unions are offering zero percent interest, short-term loans to help furloughed workers.

I have sent letters to all of the Nation's largest lenders and, each day,

have been meeting with representatives of the major banks, urging them to do more to help those affected by this shutdown. I have been pleased with some of their responses.

For example, Discover is allowing furloughed workers to use its existing disaster relief program to cope with the financial shock of going unpaid. This generous program halts all payments and prevents the imposition of late fees.

Ally Financial has created a customer assistance program that offers help to those hurt by the shutdown. Ally is willing to refund transaction fees, to eliminate bounced check fees, to waive late charges, and to remove early withdrawal penalties on CDs and other savings accounts.

Wells Fargo is waiving fees and pausing negative credit reporting, auto repossessions, and foreclosure proceedings for furloughed workers.

I urge all lenders to contact our office to share what they are doing proactively to help customers, their customers, who are going unpaid through no fault of their own.

I will continue to share with my colleagues what banks and lenders are doing so that they may do outreach to constituents in their districts who are being affected by the furlough.

The damage the shutdown has caused, and will continue to cause, doesn't end there. Thousands of IRS employees have been furloughed because of the shutdown, which has delayed tax refunds and income verification processing.

Without income verification documents, lenders may not be able to finance or refinance mortgages or other loans. For families experiencing recent financial hardship, access to refinancing could be critical to helping them right themselves.

These delays in tax processing are particularly harmful to low-income filers, especially those who qualify for the earned income tax credit and the additional child tax credit. The EITC is one of our government's largest anti-poverty programs, and millions of taxpayers rely on tax refunds each year to catch up on bills, to pay off debts, and to fund items like delayed medical procedures.

Understaffing will make it difficult for the IRS to answer taxpayer questions this year. This is the first year that taxpayers will be filing after the Republican tax law was implemented.

As a result of President Trump's tax law, Californians are, for the first time in our country's history, unable to deduct all of their State and local taxes. The elimination of this deduction is incredibly punitive to Californians in my district. At this moment, Californians, who are about to owe more Federal taxes than they did a year ago, don't have access to the Federal Government, to the IRS, to help them navigate this tax morass.

From late January through March 2, 2018, the IRS paid out tax refunds to-

taling over \$147 billion to 48.5 million households. Californians submit more tax returns than any other State. For families expecting an average refund of about \$3,000, the shutdown will have very real consequences.

If that weren't enough, the shutdown has also created an open season on the American consumer. Consumer protection websites run by agencies, like the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications Commission, are closed due to lack of funding.

The FTC maintains the National Do Not Call Registry. Consumers can't sign up, and telemarketers can't check the updated lists. There is no one on the beat to enforce robocalling regulations.

The FTC has also shut down its critical website [identitytheft.gov](http://identitytheft.gov). In normal times, victims of identity theft can use this website to file a report and get the paperwork that they need to prove to banks and businesses that someone stole their identity. That website is no longer operating.

I want to take a minute to speak directly to every American hurt in any way by the shutdown.

Whether you are a Federal employee or someone who relies for support on one of those employees, I encourage you to ask for help. The shutdown is not your fault and you could not have predicted the longest shutdown in our history. I know how hard it is to ask for help. But do not let embarrassment prevent you from protecting your credit score and maintaining your financial well-being.

I have spent the last few days meeting with those representatives from our Nation's banks. Every bank I have met with has said to please contact them and ask for help, and do it sooner rather than later. They will waive your late fees. They will push back your payment deadlines, whether it is car insurance or your mortgage or credit card or some other line of credit. If you need something specific, like to delay foreclosure or have a bounced check fee waived, ask for that thing.

I have cast my vote to end the shutdown multiple times, and it makes me sick to think about how working families are hurting. I have dedicated my career to protecting consumers from financial hardship and from bankruptcy. I am proud to have the opportunity to use that expertise to help my constituents and unpaid Federal workers across this country.

Call your lender, call your bank, call your credit card company and ask for help. And if you need more help, call my office. Until the President ends this shutdown, it will be my priority in Congress to help all those who are being hurt by it.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, as you can see, there has been a huge challenge among the American people across the country. In my district alone, I have the third poorest congressional district, with ZIP Codes with the worst air quality in the country.

Many of the workers who are not showing up to work are directly providing critical services to our residents back home. It is important for us to see beyond, obviously, the numbers of 800,000 workers. What were they doing? How were they providing for the American people? How were they serving our Nation?

We to continue to be very focused on the fact that this is a huge crisis that needs to be addressed, and we need the leadership of the Senate to rise and to support the bills, the same ones we sent to them before our January swearing in. They supported it then. I have no idea why they haven't been able to pass again the same exact bills they supported before we became the leaders in the majority in the House.

Madam Speaker, I, again, urge all of the Americans who are directly impacted by the shutdown to please reach out to us. Seek out help.

As the gentlewoman from California said, we are here to serve you. We are here to help you in any way that we can.

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, today is day 26 of the Trump Shutdown. Federal workers missed their first paycheck last Friday, and still there is no end in sight to this cruel and senseless shutdown. It is truly shameful that President Trump and Congressional Republicans are so desperate to secure taxpayer funding for an irrational border wall that they're willing to harm hardworking Americans and jeopardize national security by shutting down the federal government.

This outrageous shutdown has furloughed 400,000 federal workers, and it's forcing another 400,000 federal workers to work without pay. Among those working without pay are 53,000 Transportation Security Administration employees, more than 24,000 air traffic controllers and other Federal Aviation Administration employees, 54,000 Customs and Border Protection agents and customs officers, 42,000 service members in the United States Coast Guard, 17,000 Bureau of Prisons correctional officers, 14,000 FBI agents, and 6,000 Forest Service firefighters.

These dedicated public servants go to work every day for the American people. These hardworking people keep us safe. They should not have to worry about how they will keep a roof over their heads and feed their families.

My congressional district is home to Los Angeles/International Airport (LAX), the sixth busiest airport in the world and the third busiest in the United States. In 2017, more than 84 million passengers used LAX. All of these passengers depend upon the TSA's airport security screeners and the FAA's air traffic controllers to get them to their destinations safely.

The Trump shutdown doesn't just affect government employees. An economic study in 2011 reported that operations at LAX generated 294,400 jobs in Los Angeles County with labor income of \$13.6 billion and economic output of more than \$39.7 billion. The economic vitality of Los Angeles County depends upon the safety and security of LAX and the TSA and FAA employees who work there.

TSA employees are dedicated public servants who risk their lives every day to keep our

nation's airports and travelers safe. On November 1, 2013, a Transportation Security Officer named Gerardo Hernandez was tragically killed in the line of duty during an active shooter incident at LAX. He was the first TSA employee to be killed in the line of duty, and my colleagues and I passed the bipartisan Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015 in his honor. Our President has forgotten the critical role these American patriots serve in our national security.

Today, at LAX and airports throughout the country, Transportation Security Officers like Gerardo Hernandez are working without pay.

The Trump Shutdown is endangering public safety, national security, and the livelihoods of the people whose job it is to protect us.

Democrats want to end this shutdown now. On Day One, the new Democratic House of Representatives passed Senate Republican legislation to end the Trump Shutdown and re-open government. Despite the Republicans' relentless obstruction, Democrats have continued to take further action to re-open government, passing individual Senate Republican appropriations bills to re-open all government agencies.

American families and workers should not be punished because of a policy disagreement in Washington, D.C. Donald Trump should stop holding the safety, security, and paychecks of workers in my district, and throughout the country, hostage. He must re-open the government immediately.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 251. An act to extend by two years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

#### BORDER WALL IS NOT ANTI-IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I know we have had a lot of people talking today on the issue of the shutdown. I thought I would like to give a little different talk, or a little bit of explanation, as far as what is going on here, to the American people.

The first thing that offends me is when people imply that the position of the President is that he is anti-immigrant. Every year, in this country, we swear in 700,000 new people to become citizens of this country—700,000. On a per capita basis, that is, for example, twice what Germany swears in and over 50 times the number of people who become new Mexicans each year.

We should not apologize for swearing in 700,000 new people, and President

Trump has made no effort to reduce that amount. He is just saying people who want to come here illegally should get in line and be one of those 700,000.

I also want to point out, in addition to that, we let in another million people every year, primarily because they are relatives of other people who are already here. We let in over 180 million people for other reasons, including about 70 million people, every year, who want to work here.

There is no reason why anybody should, under any circumstances, as President Trump let's these things go on, say that he is anti-immigrant, or anybody who wants to build a wall is anti-immigrant, because that will not affect these very generous numbers.

Now, let's look where America is compared to historically. We, right now, have a higher percentage of people born in other countries in America than any time since World War I, and those are people who we can confirm. It is very difficult to get accurate numbers on the people who are here illegally, for obvious reasons.

We have had an increase in the number of people who speak a foreign language at home, and that is wonderful. I am sure all of our ancestors, or most of our ancestors, at one point spoke a foreign language. But it is nice if, over time, we accept enough immigrants that, at any given time, most of us are speaking a common language.

The number of people who spoke a foreign language at home in 1980 was about 11 percent. It is now 21 percent.

Again, these numbers have not caused Donald Trump to ask for a cut in legal immigration. The American people should realize Donald Trump and the people who want a wall are pro-immigration.

But the next question is: Do we have a crisis?

First of all, about 80 percent of the heroin in this country comes across our southern border. Now, some of it can be prevented by a wall, some can't. But the huge number of people who are dying around the country, to me, makes this a crisis.

We are getting more and more children at the border. Why are we getting more children? Because, I think, the word is out, particularly in Central America, that if you come to America with children, you are going to be able to find a way to get in. We need a border wall, not only to prevent people from coming in, but to send the message that America is treating its immigration laws seriously.

People who sneak across the border, who are, after all, breaking one law, while very few are horrible criminals, of course, are going to bring a given number of people who break the law. We believe, in the last 10 years, illegal immigrants coming across the border have, during their lifetime, been charged with over 1,000 homicides. We have enough high crime areas in America as it is without letting people come through here without being appropriately vetted.

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There is a huge healthcare cost to allowing our borders to be open because, of course, people come here without health insurance. Now we have the Governor of California openly saying that he wants to give free healthcare to all illegal immigrants.

People disagree on the cost of illegal immigration to our country, but when you add up the healthcare and the welfare and the cost to the criminal justice system, organizations easily come up with costs of over \$50 billion a year.

Donald Trump is asking for under \$6 billion for the wall, and that is one-time funding to build the wall. The cost of illegal immigrants is over \$50 billion year after year after year. This is a country that already is over \$22 trillion in debt. Can we really afford to be the healthcare provider for the entire Western Hemisphere?

There are people who feel that Donald Trump has to compromise more, that he is being hard here. Donald Trump is not a perfect person. I have talked to him about some of his tweets, but Donald Trump has been very patient here.

I don't think the American public knows or understands exactly why we have a shutdown. If we are going to fund a border wall, it is going to have to be part of an appropriation bill, which I think people back home would refer to as a budget bill. We don't refer to it as a budget bill, but I think people back home would say it is part of a budget bill.

President Trump has been President now for 2 years. He has signed many appropriation bills, and, obviously, he wants a wall. But because he does not want to shut down the government, for 2 years, he has been signing appropriation bills without funding for the wall.

Finally, in his third year, he has had to say: I am tired of signing appropriation bills which include much spending that he doesn't want, all sorts of provisions that are higher spending than President Trump wanted, but, finally, he had to say: I am tired of signing appropriation bills without getting my wall.

I think that is a reasonable position.

When we talk about the wall and the inability—I want to say we have good news here. About an hour ago, I noticed that eight Democrats left the door open. They were bipartisan toward building a wall, and I would like to thank those eight people for reaching across the aisle. But I have to wonder why we can only get eight Democrats to appear to say that it is okay to fund the wall.

We have to remember that there is a very effective wall in the San Diego area that was built when President Clinton was President. It is well known that when President Bush was President, the second Bush, we built still more of the wall, and at that time prominent Democrats like Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, and CHUCK SCHUMER voted for the wall. Why is the wall now immoral?

And, by the way, some of that wall funded during George Bush was built during President Obama's term.

Why was it okay for Bill Clinton or George Bush or Barack Obama to build a wall, and all of a sudden we hear it is immoral for President Trump to want to add to that wall?

I am not sure. I think part of it is a sad and unfortunate move to the left by not all, but by many Democrats who more and more are, whatever they say, for open borders. I think some of it is just pure party politics. They want to go ahead and let more people in here for 2 years just to embarrass President Trump.

But again, the American people should remember that for 2 years Donald Trump signed appropriation bill after appropriation bill. He wanted the wall. He didn't get the wall.

Finally, he is saying: I am sorry. I desperately want to open the government, but I am going to ask members of the Democratic Party to do what they did under President Clinton or President Bush or President Obama and let me build more of the wall as well.

Now, some people will claim that this is an expensive wall, and I agree that \$5.7 billion is a large amount of money. But then we have to look at it in comparison to other things that this body funds without objecting.

The amount of money we are spending on this wall is about one-seventh of what we spend every year in foreign aid. A few people complain about that, but the vast majority of people in this body have no problem with voting for over \$35 billion a year in foreign aid.

All of a sudden, we are told that when it comes to building the wall for one-seventh of that amount, one time, and they spend this amount on foreign aid year after year after year, all of a sudden we are told this is too much money.

And something I thought was a little excessive, there was a large increase in the defense budget last year, a little larger than I would have liked. The wall would cost about one-twelfth of the increase in defense spending since President Trump became President.

It is about one-ninth of the increase—not the total, one-ninth of the increase—in nondefense discretionary spending, and it is less than one seven-hundredths of our overall budget. Is that really too much to spend that amount of money when we are spending so much money in other places?

The next thing I would like to address is this idea that the wall won't work.

Under President Clinton, we built a wall between San Diego and Tijuana, and the border crossings at that time dropped 92 percent. It would be a great victory if we got the number of people coming here illegally every year to drop 92 percent. I would not say that is nothing.

I look at the border wall that Israel built when they were having a huge

problem of people coming up into Africa and breaking the law by coming into Israel. Israel was getting about 1,800 new people a year coming into their country that they didn't think should be coming into their country. How many people came into their country in the last year? None. That border wall caused the number of people coming into Israel to drop from 1,800 a year to nothing.

There are other walls around the world. There is a wall between Jordan and Syria and Iraq that has been somewhat successful in keeping ISIS out of Jordan. The interesting thing about that wall, it was, to a certain extent, paid for by the U.S. taxpayer. It baffles me that people around here have no problem paying for a wall for Jordan to protect itself, but all of a sudden if Donald Trump wants to build a wall for the United States of America, we can't get it done.

Seventy countries around the world have walls. Ten countries in the EU states have walls. These countries are not building walls because they don't work. They build walls because they do.

The next thing I will address, frequently people get up here and they preface their talk by saying everybody wants security. That is not true. There are, sadly, a lot of people around here who are for open borders. We just heard a speaker prior to me imply that building a wall was racist, which certainly implies that preventing people from coming into this country is racist, and they do not want to have this sort of security.

Keith Ellison, the new attorney general for Minnesota who used to be part of this body, recently said: I don't believe in borders.

And this kind of thinking that maybe we don't need borders, maybe we just need one big country around the whole world, is more well known than one would think.

There are sanctuary States, counties, and cities all around the United States. If people believe in border security, why, if you were a mayor, why if you were a county executive, why, if you were a Governor, would you say: We want a sanctuary State or sanctuary city where we can't ask people whether they are here legally or not?

And that would include people in charge of doling out welfare benefits. It would include law enforcement. Obviously, people who run these cities and States do not think border security is an important thing, which is kind of scary.

In the last session, we took up bills trying to sanction cities and counties that are sanctuary cities or sanctuary counties so they don't open themselves up and, in essence, beg people from other countries to come here.

By the way, this includes the three largest cities of the United States: New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

When Republicans tried to prevent this, I believe there were only three or

four Democrats—and I love my Democrats, but there were only three or four of them who would stand up against sanctuary cities. That sure sounds to me like they don't consider border security that important.

We have a new wave of people coming in saying that we don't need ICE. We don't need immigration enforcement. They are on record with this. Several people have signed on.

Maybe I am wrong, but to me, if you are saying we want to get rid of the agency that enforces immigration, I think we can say there are a lot of people in this body who really don't want any immigration enforcement.

In summary, I would ask the American people to look beyond some of the main talking points in the mainstream media. We are letting 700,000 people here legally. We are not anti-immigrant. And that is before you talk about the tens of millions of people who are let in this country every year to work.

This is a crisis. It is a crisis with regard to cost.

It is a crisis with regard to the change in our fabric as we let people in here who commit crimes up to and including murder.

It is a crisis insofar as we let people in here who wind up, some of them, adopting a welfare lifestyle, which will further erode the morals of America.

Donald Trump has been very patient, waiting 2 years and signing bills with much more spending than he wants because he didn't want to shut down the government. I would now like to ask, in this third year, more than just the eight brave Democrats to stand up. If you want to, you can close your eyes and pretend that Bill Clinton or George Bush or Barack Obama was President, because we know then you wouldn't have a problem voting for it and open our government.

I have a tremendous amount of sympathy for the Federal employees who thought their jobs were secure and that every month they would be getting a constant paycheck. But because of playing hardball, treating Donald Trump differently than you would treat President Clinton or President Bush, we have a problem; and that is we do not have an appropriation bill that is an appropriate compromise like funding the wall would.

And let me point out, even President Trump's request of \$5.7 billion is a huge compromise. Several months ago, we were told we needed \$20 billion or \$25 billion to fund the wall. Now we are dropping to \$5.7 billion. That is a huge compromise.

Please give Americans the protection that Israel or dozens of other countries around the world have. Please allow us to build the wall.

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

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the week of January 14, 2019.

Mr. MASSIE (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of attending a U.S. Army Basic Combat Training graduation ceremony.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 9 a.m.

#### 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:

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 52. A resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 28) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 116-3). 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. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GRUJALVA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WILD, Ms. SCHRIER, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. OMAR, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BEYER, Mr. EVANS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. DELAULO, Ms. SPEIER, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SIRES, Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MENG, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. MOORE, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. RYAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MEEKS, Mr.

RUIZ, Mr. PETERS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SOTO, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. CRIST, Ms. DEAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. TITUS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. VISLOSKEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. PORTER, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. HECK, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. LAMB, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KIM, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. BASS, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CROW, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 582. A bill to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 583. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for pirate radio, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. WILD, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 584. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide the same level of Federal matching assistance for every State that chooses to expand Medicaid coverage to newly eligible individuals, regardless of when such expansion takes place; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 585. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate the exemption for aggregation of emissions from oil and gas sources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana):

H.R. 586. A bill to close loopholes in the immigration laws that serve as incentives to aliens to attempt to enter the United States unlawfully, and for other purposes; to the

Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself, Mr. MAST, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 587. A bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. TED LIEU of California):

H.R. 588. A bill to suspend the enforcement of certain civil liabilities of Federal employees and contractors during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Education and Labor, Ways and Means, the Judiciary, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 589. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply current income tax bracket breakpoints to capital gains brackets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. OMAR, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. McEACHIN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KILMER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. KEATING, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. PALLONE, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SIRES, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KIND, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. HECK, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SOTO, Ms. TLAI, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CORREA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MENG, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr.

CÁRDENAS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. HIMES, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CRIST, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. LAMB, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. LEWIS, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 590. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that an alien may not be denied admission or entry to the United States, or other immigration benefits, because of the aliens religion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland (for himself, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 591. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the research credit with respect to amounts paid or incurred for qualified research occurring in the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 592. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays the misused benefits of veterans with fiduciaries, to establish an appeals process for determinations by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of veterans' mental capacity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Mr. NORMAN):

H.R. 593. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify income tax compliance for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 594. A bill to provide for further comprehensive research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke on unruptured intracranial aneurysms; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 595. A bill to prohibit certain business concerns from receiving assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 596. A bill to prohibit United States Government recognition of Russia's annexation of Crimea; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 597. A bill to extend the right of appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board to certain employees of the United States Postal Service; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. KINZINGER):

H.R. 598. A bill to support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 599. A bill to strengthen and enhance certain ethics requirements for the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EMMER (for himself, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RYAN, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. HAGEDORN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 600. A bill to authorize the Office on Violence Against Women to improve the handling of crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by incorporating a trauma-informed approach into the initial response to and investigation of such crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GAETZ (for himself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. BUCK, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 601. A bill to increase the number of manufacturers registered under the Controlled Substances Act to manufacture cannabis for legitimate research purposes, to authorize health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide recommendations to veterans regarding participation in federally-approved cannabis clinical trials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO):

H.R. 602. A bill to direct the President to impose penalties pursuant to denial orders with respect to certain Chinese telecommunications companies that are in violation of the export control or sanctions laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. PALMER):

H.R. 603. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the permissible use of health savings accounts to include health insurance payments and to increase the dollar limitation for contributions to health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 604. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Fairlawn, Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 605. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require that the Office of Personnel Management submit an annual report to Congress relating to the use of official time by Federal employees; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. HICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. LAMBORN):

H.R. 606. A bill to require the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to make video recordings of the examination and testing of firearms and ammunition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as

fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 607. A bill to require the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education to conduct a survey of all public schools to determine the number of school resource officers at such schools; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 608. A bill to direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Education to develop and implement best practices for occupation-specific education for school resource officers; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):

H.R. 609. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 610. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require notarized acknowledgment by the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces who is eligible for insurance under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Program before the member may elect not to be insured under such Program, to be insured under the Program for an amount less than the maximum amount, or to designate a beneficiary other than the member's spouse or child; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana (for himself, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. AMASH, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. JONES, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LATTA, Mr. TURNER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BRADY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 611. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H.R. 612. A bill to amend the Wilderness Act to authorize U.S. Customs and Border Protection to conduct certain activities to secure the international land borders of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GIANFORTE, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H.R. 613. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 614. A bill to prohibit the sale of shark parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KEATING, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. OMAR, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BASS, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 615. A bill to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. PALMER, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. COMER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. FLORES, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. LONG, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. EMMER, Mr. BILLIRAKIS, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. COLE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. MAST, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. SPANO, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BACON, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. BRADY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. OLSON, Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WATKINS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. GOHMERT, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ESTES, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. BUCK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. MILLER, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. MCKINLEY, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 616. A bill to implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. BILLIRAKIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mrs. LESKO):

H.R. 617. A bill to authorize the Department of Energy to conduct collaborative research with the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to improve healthcare services for veterans in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs,

for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (for himself, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. HURD of Texas):

H.R. 618. A bill to establish the Office of Critical Technologies and Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 619. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from gross income for civil damages as recompense for trafficking in persons; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 620. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for retroactive calculation since the start of combat operations in Afghanistan of days of certain active duty or active service performed as a member of the Ready Reserve to reduce the eligibility age for receipt of retired pay for non-regular service; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H.R. 621. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit kindergarten through grade 12 educational expenses to be paid from a 529 account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. GIBBS):

H.R. 622. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. VARGAS (for himself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 623. A bill to deem an alien who has been issued an employment authorization document under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program to be a person who owes allegiance to the United States for purposes of employment by an office of a Member of the House of Representatives; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself and Mr. MCHENRY):

H.R. 624. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study of Rule 10b5-1 trading plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 625. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand eligibility for participation in the Federal Pell Grant program to certain trade schools; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 626. A bill to prohibit the use of official funds for airline accommodations for Members of Congress which are not coach-class accommodations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 627. A bill to provide for a report on broadening participation in certain National Science Foundation research and education programs, to collect data on Federal research grants to science agencies, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BOST, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. HIMES, Mr. JONES, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PERRY, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. WALKER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. SIREN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CRIST, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. EMMER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MITCHELL, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. BARR, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. FLORES, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. OLSON, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. GRIFFITH):

H.R. 628. A bill to title 38, United States Code, to permit veterans to grant access to their records in the databases of the Veterans Benefits Administration to certain designated congressional employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 629. A bill to provide limitations on maritime liens on fishing permits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ZELDIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. ROSE of New York):

H.R. 630. A bill to require a plan to combat international travel by terrorists and foreign fighters, accelerate the transfer of certain border security systems to foreign partner governments, establish minimum international border security standards, authorize the suspension of certain foreign assistance to countries not making significant efforts to comply with such minimum standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. CHABOT):

H. Con. Res. 4. Concurrent resolution calling for credible, transparent, and peaceful elections in Nigeria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H. Res. 46. A resolution electing Members to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WRIGHT (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. GRIFFITH):

H. Res. 47. A resolution condemning all forms of anti-Semitism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Mrs. DEMINGS):

H. Res. 48. A resolution supporting the observation of "National Trafficking and Mod-

ern Slavery Prevention Month" during the period beginning on January 1, 2019, and ending on February 1, 2019, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas (for himself, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BARR, Mr. CORREA, Mr. BOST, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BILLIRAKIS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. BABIN):

H. Res. 49. A resolution supporting Coptic Christians in Egypt; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia):

H. Res. 50. A resolution memorializing the unborn by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the 22d day of January each year; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. RYAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. EMMER, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. BRINDISI):

H. Res. 51. A resolution supporting the contributions of Catholic schools; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RUSH:

H. Res. 53. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri):

H. Res. 54. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of its 6-day mail delivery service; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. BARR, Mr. COMER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky):

H. Res. 55. A resolution recognizing Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, for 200 years of leadership in higher education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H. Res. 56. A resolution protecting Religious Freedom in America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire:

H.R. 631. A bill for the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 632. A bill to direct the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the vessel Safari Voyager; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 633. A bill to direct the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the vessel Pacific Provider; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

#### 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. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 582.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 583.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, CLAUSE I

Provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 584.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution  
By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 585.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 586.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 4 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution—The Congress shall have Power to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject Bankruptcies throughout the United States.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 587.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article III, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 588.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The "necessary and proper" clause of Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 589.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 590.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 4  
Article 1, section 8, clause 3  
Article 1, section 8, clause 1  
Article 1, section 8, clause 18  
First Amendment  
Fifth Amendment

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:  
H.R. 591.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:  
H.R. 592.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. CHABOT:  
H.R. 593.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:  
H.R. 594.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:  
H.R. 595.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CONNOLLY:  
H.R. 596.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
This bill is introduced pursuant to the authority delineated in Article I, Section I, which includes an implied power for the Congress to regulate the conduct of the United States with respect to foreign affairs.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:  
H.R. 597.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. CONNOLLY:  
H.R. 598.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:  
H.R. 599.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section VIII: The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. EMMER:  
H.R. 600.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8, Clauses I & 18

By Mr. GAETZ:  
H.R. 601.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. GALLAGHER:  
H.R. 602.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, specifically the power to "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations."

By Mr. GALLAGHER:  
H.R. 603.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:  
H.R. 604.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HICE of Georgia:  
H.R. 605.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution states "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution states "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. HICE of Georgia:  
H.R. 606.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution that states that Congress shall have Power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States. . ."

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:  
H.R. 607.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:  
H.R. 608.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. HUIZENGA:  
H.R. 609.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clauses I ("The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States"), 3 ("To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes"), and 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. HUNTER:  
H.R. 610.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:  
H.R. 611.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:  
H.R. 612.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8; Article IV, Section 3

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:  
H.R. 613.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:  
H.R. 614.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. MENG:  
H.R. 615.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

[Page H10170]  
By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:  
H.R. 616.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation makes clear that human life begins at the moment of conception and, therefore, the unborn are entitled to the same rights and protections afforded to all American citizens under the U.S. Constitution. In affirming human life begins at conception, the unborn are granted the right to due process under Section 1 of the 14th Amendment which explicitly states, "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The Life at Conception Act allows for constitutional protection for the unborn that they not "be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law" afforded under the 5th Amendment.

By Mr. NORMAN:  
H.R. 617.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER:  
H.R. 618.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:  
H.R. 619.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SERRANO:  
H.R. 620.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, section 8, of the Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; to provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia; and to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the foregoing powers.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:  
H.R. 621.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SMUCKER:  
H.R. 622.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VARGAS:  
H.R. 623.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution, which states: The Congress

shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or any particular State.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 624.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 625.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 626.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 627.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 628.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 629.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 3 and 18), which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes; and to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 630.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 631

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII—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. YOUNG:

H.R. 632.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 3 and 18), which grants Congress the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes; and to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 633

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 3 and 18), which grants

Congress the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes; and to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 8: Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LAMB, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. NEAL, Mr. HECK, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Ms. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 31: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 33: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 35: Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 51: Mr. CROW and Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 54: Mr. MCADAMS.

H.R. 93: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 94: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 125: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 127: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 129: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 139: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 141: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 146: Mr. RESCENTIALER.

H.R. 147: Mr. RESCENTIALER.

H.R. 152: Mr. TIMMONS and Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H.R. 153: Mr. RESCENTIALER.

H.R. 195: Ms. MOORE and Mr. CURTIS.

H.R. 203: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BOST, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 204: Mr. MASSIE and Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 216: Mr. MITCHELL.

H.R. 218: Mr. WATKINS and Mr. COMER.

H.R. 219: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 222: Mr. HILL of Arkansas.

H.R. 273: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ROUDA, and Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 275: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 276: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 296: Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 301: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 305: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COLE, and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 339: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 344: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 353: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 361: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. ROSE of New York.

H.R. 365: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 367: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. LEE of Ne-

vada, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. KIM, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. YOHO, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 369: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Ms. FOX of North Carolina, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 385: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 395: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 416: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 429: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 434: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 437: Mr. BUDD.

H.R. 447: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. RASKIN, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 448: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 478: Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 485: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 490: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 491: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 504: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 511: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 527: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 535: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 541: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 545: Mr. COLE and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 549: Mrs. MURPHY.

H.R. 550: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PETERS, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. COOK, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. POCAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JONES, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. MENG, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. WELCH, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 553: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. COLE, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. JONES, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BARR, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. KILMER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 555: Mr. BUCK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. Rodgers of Washington, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. Allred.

H.R. 575: Mr. GIBBS.

H.J. Res. 17: Ms. OMAR.

H.J. Res. 18: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 12: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. LAMBORN.

H. Res. 33: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. SIREN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.

#### CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Judiciary in H.J. Res.30 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. NADLER

PETITIONS, ETC.

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Judiciary in H.J. Res. 30 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

1. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to requesting that Congress enact legislation which would prevent re-

ceipt of Federal salary by Members of Congress during a full or partial shut-down of the Federal Government with cumulative wage disbursement to be made to members only when the Federal Government has been restored to full operation; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

No. 9

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Savior, You have been with this Nation from its birth. Use our lawmakers to protect and preserve it against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Give our Senators kind hearts and humble spirits; help them to aspire to become instruments of Your purposes. Lord, guide them to find in each problem and perplexity the prelude to greater understanding and usefulness. May they seek daily to maintain their ethical, moral, and spiritual fitness.

And, Lord, sustain those who are suffering most because of this partial government shutdown.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DISAPPROVING THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO TAKE AN ACTION RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 2, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 2) disapproving the President's proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12:30 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the time on the quorum call be equally divided between the two sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, one dollar—one dollar—that is the amount that the Speaker of the House said she would be willing to invest in physical barriers at our southern border—one dollar. Talk about serious, good-faith negotiations. Talk about taking borders seriously.

The men and women on the ground have been unambiguous about the cri-

sis they are facing: the entry of criminal aliens and gang members into our country, the drugs that go on to infect our communities, the ongoing humanitarian crises that are fueled by our government's mixed signals and our inability to enforce our own laws.

According to Speaker PELOSI, these urgent issues are worth about 33 cents each—33 cents. As we all know, that is because the Speaker has recently defined a brandnew dogma for the Democratic Party: Actually enforcing our immigration laws with the help of physical barriers is “an immorality”—an immorality.

That is quite the indictment of her fellow Democrats' past positions. Recent years have seen Democrats vote for billions—billions—of dollars in physical walls and fencing. Recent years have seen a Democratic administration build the same steel barriers—the very same steel barriers—that this President now wants to expand.

But these days, it seems that Democrats are happy to take their cues from the gentelady from San Francisco and her extreme, fringe position that walls have now become immoral. Really?

Yesterday, President Trump issued yet another bipartisan invitation for Members of Congress to meet at the White House and actually negotiate. Yet, again, only Republicans came to the table.

For the American people, who deserve both a functioning government as well as a secure border, that really is not a promising sign. For Federal workers who are now stretching every dollar until Democrats lose interest in dead-end political games, the Speaker's \$1 punchline is not very entertaining.

So for everyone's sake, I hope our Democratic colleagues will reverse course and work seriously with this White House to reach an agreement that can become law and fulfill our promises to our country.

In the meantime, as the White House made clear just yesterday, cherry-picking continuing resolutions that fail to

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



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address the border crisis will not receive the President's signature. They are not going to.

The only way out of this impasse is a bipartisan agreement, and as the Democratic leader and I have both stated here on the floor, only an all-corners bipartisan agreement will receive a vote here in the Senate.

S.J. RES. 2

Mr. President, on another matter, before the Senate today is a resolution from the Democratic leader that would overrule career civil servants at the Treasury Department and fire from the hip on one of the top foreign policy concerns of the United States.

This is the pending business, despite the fact that the Democratic leader had previously proclaimed he would not let the Senate address any business—any—during this partial government shutdown. Apparently there is an exception to that.

Remember, that was the reason the Democratic leader gave for leading a Democratic filibuster of a bipartisan package that would have reaffirmed our commitment to defend our allies in Israel, stand alongside Jordan, and unlock justice for the victims of Assad's rogue regime.

On one day, they insist we shouldn't do any business; on another, it is time to bring up an unrelated resolution of their own. At the end of the last Congress, they said they would support bipartisan legislation to shore up our allies in the Middle East and deliver justice for victims of unspeakable violence in Syria. Now they are filibustering the bill and have voted against it three times—three times against this potential bill that benefits our allies Israel and Jordan and deals with the victims of cruelty in Syria.

These twists and turns are pretty hard to follow, confusing, until you remember the one key to our Democratic colleagues' thinking these days—political spite for the President comes first, ahead of everything else.

You see, the administration isn't opposed to these bipartisan, urgent bills to back Israel, Jordan, and the Syrian people. President Trump, we expect, would sign these bills. We might actually make a law, which is what people see us here to do, presumably.

Naturally, the Democratic leader isn't interested. Democrats in Congress don't think working with the President to accomplish things suits their political brand these days.

The Democratic leader's new resolution, which he has been happy to prioritize ahead of Israel and the Syrian people, offers him a chance to make a political splash. It overrules the careful actions of career civil servants at Treasury and blows up a nuanced decision the current law actually requires. Current law actually requires what they do.

Supporting Israel? It is not too interesting to my friends across the aisle, but picking a political fight with the President, boy, they are up for that one every day.

This is the key to understanding this unusual moment. This is the central principle. Democrats have made a marketing decision to obstruct President Trump at all costs, even if it hurts substantive priorities they used to support. That is why we are in day 26 of this partial government shutdown, with Democrats refusing to even show up and negotiate on funds for border security, which they used to brag about supporting. That is why Senate Democrats have decided that aid for Israel and help for the people of Syria are not worthy of this body's time but are happy to spend more time trying to blow up a highly technical Treasury Department decision that current law actually requires.

Let me say that again. They are happy to spend floor time trying to blow up a highly technical Treasury Department decision that current law actually requires. Political obstruction is their top priority. Everything else follows from that.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM BARR

Mr. President, on a final matter, even in the midst of this political climate, the President's nominee for Attorney General delivered an impressive performance during the first day of his hearings before the Judiciary Committee. Senators were reminded exactly why he won bipartisan admiration for this body in 1991 and was confirmed as President Bush 41's Attorney General with no opposition—none.

Now, as Mr. Barr himself acknowledged in his testimony yesterday, times have changed, but the core principles that our Nation's Attorney General must uphold haven't changed. As the nominee testified yesterday, "the American people have to know that there are places in the government where the rule of law—not politics—holds sway . . . the Department of Justice must be such a place."

Those are the words of the right man for this job. His testimony made clear what he sees as key priorities for the Department of Justice: building on past progress in preventing violent crime, enforcing and improving our Nation's immigration laws, and protecting the integrity of our electoral system.

He stated definitively where his loyalties lie: with "the rule of law, the Constitution, and the American people. That is how it should be. That is how it must be. And, if you confirm me, that is how it will be."

Experience, integrity, and total commitment—the President has made an outstanding choice. The Judiciary Committee continues its hearings today. I look forward to their continuing review of this nomination and, then, to its being reported here to the floor. The American people deserve the very best. That is just what Attorney General Bill Barr will be.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I just heard Leader MCCONNELL, my good friend, rail on and on. First, he doesn't agree with NANCY PELOSI on the wall. That is a surprise. Second, he doesn't like the fact that we want to get a vote to open up the government before we move forward on S. 1. We know that. His arguments are getting kind of old and stale.

I will say to the leader, very simply—you may disagree with us: Open the government. Open the government. You can do it, Leader MCCONNELL. All your blaming and flailing isn't going to open the government. We all know Donald Trump is the obstacle here. You know it. I know it. We all know it. The only way to help all the folks who need help is to open the government.

There are a good number of Republicans on your side who have advocated that already. To hold the government hostage, you are losing the argument. You are losing it with the public. An overwhelming majority of Americans think the government should not be shut down over a wall. Even a substantial number of people who support the wall say: Don't shut down the government to get the wall.

We have problems on the border. A lot of Americans don't think it is a crisis that demands hurting our economy and our government.

Leader MCCONNELL, we know you disagree with Leader PELOSI and me on what should be border security. We know you think we should pass S. 1 before we open up the government. Leader, you—you—can open the government. That is what the American people want, and I dare say that is what most of your colleagues want, at least if they talk to you privately.

It seems that every day the Trump shutdown drags on, we read another story about a new way it is hurting our economy. Eight hundred thousand public servants have been without pay, including thousands of veterans who work for the Federal Government. Each one of those Americans has a different story about how the shutdown is hurting them and their families. As nine essential Cabinet Departments remain shuttered, we are learning that the effects of the shutdown are even more widespread and continue to worsen. Yesterday, President Trump's own White House Council of Economic Advisers doubled their projections of how much economic growth is being lost each week during the shutdown.

Let me repeat that. The Trump administration's own economic advisers have just said that the Trump shutdown will substantially hurt our economy—twice as much as they originally

predicted. Growth is down. Economic and consumer confidence is down. Billions of dollars have been pulled out of our economy. Some of the leading financial leaders in the country are now saying we might even go into contraction in the first part of this year if this shutdown continues.

Do you think, Leader MCCONNELL, that is benefiting Donald Trump? Do you think, Leader MCCONNELL, that is benefiting the Republican Party, who the Americans know own the shutdown? No. Let's open the government and then debate our differences on border security and whatever else.

Why is our country suffering self-inflicted damage? Because President Trump is using the American government as leverage in an attempt to extract taxpayer money for a border wall he promised Mexico would pay for.

He says: You know, I hear Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity: He promised this in the campaign.

No, he didn't. He promised a wall that Mexico would pay for. He never said once, that I can recall, in the campaign: But if Mexico doesn't pay for it, we will pay for it.

Of course people voted for it—or some, not that many. This is ridiculous. The President makes a campaign promise. He twists the campaign promise around and now shuts down the government so he can show he is keeping not the promise he made but a different one. It would sound ridiculous and absurd if it weren't the reality.

The fact of the matter is that eight Cabinet Departments not named Homeland Security have absolutely nothing—nothing—to do with our disagreements over border security. That is why Democrats have offered, and continue to offer, to reopen the government while we debate border security.

Again, three words for Leader MCCONNELL again: Open the government.

Three words to my Republican colleagues: Open the government.

Three words to President Trump: Open the government.

Then, we can have all the discussion and debating, as we are supposed to do, on these issues where we don't agree.

Democrats have made entirely reasonable proposals. We proposed to open the government by passing Republican spending bills from the last Congress so there would be no controversy. These are not bills the Democrats put together. These are bills the Republicans put together with some Democratic input. Leader MCCONNELL voted for every one of them—every one of them.

As for this idea that he will not move unless Trump agrees, that may have made sense in the first week or two. It makes no sense now because President Trump is adamant, all over the lot, and seems unwilling and unable to tie himself out of his own knots to get the government open. Someone should step in. On our side, we are willing to step in. Where is Leader MCCONNELL? Where are the Republicans?

The American people support passing our bills—bills that we have asked unanimous consent for by wide margins—two to one, including nearly 40 percent of Republicans. Forty percent of Republicans support passing our bills and then debating.

So, Mr. President, even your prized base—a good chunk of it, about a third—is turning away from you on this issue.

When will the President and my Republican colleagues wake up to the hardship being inflicted on so many people across the country? It is time that the Senate act on House-passed bills to open the government.

The President, we know, is inflexible. He is “proud,” as he said, to have shut down the government. He is, amazingly—never seen a President like this—impervious to the pain and suffering of Federal workers and the American people. He makes stuff up: Oh, the Federal workers want the wall. Who? Two people who are on FOX News all the time who are part of a Border Patrol union? That is it, not the average worker.

The President has refused all entreaties to open up the government by Democrats and Republicans, like my friend Senator GRAHAM—one of the President's biggest allies in this Chamber.

His deputies are hardly even empowered to negotiate with the Hill since President Trump retracts their offers almost as soon as they are made. Everyone—everyone—can see how fruitless it is to try and negotiate with this President at the moment.

My friend Leader MCCONNELL is the one who can break the impasse. He has declared before that “he is the guy who gets us out of shutdowns.” He was proud of that. I wish he were still proud of it.

I think we are all ready for that, Leader MCCONNELL, because so long as Leader MCCONNELL hides behind the President and the President's absurd and destructive shutdown strategy, the Senate will be unable to vote on broadly popular legislation to reopen the government.

The longer Leader MCCONNELL allows this to continue, the more he and Republican Senators will be tied to the President and the President's disgraceful tactic of government by extortion.

#### RUSSIA

Mr. President, last night, the Senate voted to proceed to the resolution to disapprove the Treasury Department's plans to relax sanctions on Russia, and 11 Republicans—I am proud of that, proud of them—joined with every Democrat to advance the resolution, which will face a cloture vote today. Two or three more Republican votes will ensure cloture is invoked and the passage of the resolution achieved. So I would like to make a direct appeal to my Republican friends who are wondering about this.

This resolution is about a very simple thing. Do you believe America

should take a tough line on Putin or do you think we should go easy on Putin and his cronies? From where I am standing, that is an easy choice.

The past half decade has seen Putin expand his malign activities around the world, from invading Ukraine and Georgia to annexing Crimea, to propping up the brutal Assad regime in Syria, to directing nerve agent attacks on foreign soil.

Russian intelligence has tried to destabilize Western democracies at every opportunity—France, England, many other European countries, and most obviously here in the United States. As proof positive, they go online, they try to sow dissension in America, this beautiful country.

As Leader MCCONNELL said yesterday—confusingly, before voting against the resolution—“We have long seen Vladimir Putin for the KGB thug that he is.” Those are strong words but accurate.

In the face of this global assault on Western democracies, of course we have seen that the Trump administration has been shamefully and suspiciously weak on President Putin. The President has avoided criticizing Putin at every turn. When asked about President Putin's brutal tactics against his opponents, President Trump demurs.

When this body, near unanimously, passed the Russian sanction legislation, President Trump contemplated vetoing it.

When President Putin told President Trump he didn't interfere in our 2016 elections, the President reportedly said: I believe you.

Last weekend, we learned that President Trump has expressed a desire to withdraw from NATO this summer—the past summer is when he expressed the desire. That is Putin's dream—Putin's dream. All the advice of our military and diplomatic leaders were against it. Somehow, the President wants to do it, and who benefits the most? Putin. Who loses the most? The West.

Now, with this proposed sanctions relief, we have another example of President Trump trying to lighten the burden on Putin's oligarchs. We should not allow it.

For a very long time, the Republican Party predicated its foreign policy on taking a tougher line against Russia and Putin. In so many campaigns for President, we Democrats were accused of not being tough enough on the Russians. I have always felt we have to be tough on the Russians, but it seems acquiescence to the President, a fear of breaking with the President, has held back too many of my Republican colleagues from supporting this resolution.

The resolution, just to repeat, is sort of—I know Treasury made an effort, although I don't have much faith in the strength. I think the Secretary of Treasury is an intelligent man, but he never stands up to Trump, and I don't have any faith in his strength in standing up this time. So if Trump wanted a

weakened resolution because maybe Putin or the Russians wanted it, that is what we have here.

Forty-five percent control is not—45 percent ownership, which is what this does, takes Deripaska out of this? Forget it. Then add to his 45 percent the 7 percent the in-laws own, that the large percentage that Russian banks—controlled by Putin—own, the control is just as tight as it was before. The people who were put in charge have close relationships with Russia. This is not a strong resolution. It is slightly less than a joke—slightly less than a joke.

So I hope some of our colleagues will come around. This is all about America, the West, the stability of our Nation, and if Putin thinks he can manipulate our country and manipulate the President and too many of my colleagues who have always been strong against Russia go along, what is he going to do next? What is he going to do next? What is he going to do next, and what will President Trump do?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, to quote the great Yogi Berra, "It's *deja vu* all over again."

It is the 26th day of the shutdown, and for the 26th day in a row, Democrats are refusing to seriously engage with the President to get the government reopened. Democrats have spent a lot of time talking about their desire to get the hundreds of thousands of furloughed Federal workers back to work, but their actions contradict their words.

The only way for the government to reopen is for both sides to come to the table and compromise. The Democrats are absolutely refusing to consider any concession. Their position is, my way or the highway. Unfortunately, that is not the way things work in the real world. When you have two groups with diametrically opposed positions, both sides have to give a little if they are ever going to get anything done.

The White House has a strongly held position on this issue, but it has also made it clear that it is willing to be flexible and to negotiate with Democrats. The Democrats don't share that willingness, and their refusal to negotiate is victimizing the very workers they claim they want to protect.

Senate Democrats' latest attempt to distract from Democrats' refusal to negotiate is to push for votes on House-passed legislation on reopening the government, but as Democrats know very well, these votes would be meaningless because this is not legislation the President is going to sign.

Indeed, before Christmas, the Democratic leader in the Senate stated: "The President must publicly support and say he will sign an agreement before it gets a vote in either Chamber"; that from the Democratic leader as recently as just a few weeks ago.

Well, there is no point in spending time taking up a bill that hasn't re-

ceived agreement from all parties. We know that, and the Democrats know that as well, but apparently they are willing to flip-flop on this issue if they think it will suit their political purposes. Kind of like how they were for a border fence before they were against it. That is right.

In 2006, the Democratic leader and the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee voted for legislation to authorize a border fence. They were joined in that vote by then-Senator Biden, then-Senator Clinton, and then-Senator Obama. In 2013, every Senate Democrat—every Senate Democrat—supported legislation requiring the completion of a 700-mile fence along our southern border. In 2009, the Democratic leader praised border fencing as a border security accomplishment.

So what has changed? The need to secure our borders hasn't changed. The effectiveness of barriers hasn't changed. That has been well documented.

The House majority leader, STENY HOYER, was asked about the Democrats' flip-flop, whether there is any real difference between what they supported previously and what they are opposing now. Here is what he said: "I don't have an answer that I think is a really good answer."

Well, that is an honest reply. Democrats don't have a good answer because there is no real difference between what they supported a few years ago and what they are opposing now. Democrats have flip-flopped on the issue because they are afraid to oppose the radical far-left wing of their party and because they are committed to obstructing this President no matter what.

If Democrats weren't hurting anybody, their refusal to play ball wouldn't be a problem, but every single day that they refuse to engage in serious negotiations is a day that families aren't getting paid, national priorities aren't getting funded, and important border security is being postponed.

That is where we are. I urge my colleagues to rethink their obstruction and to work with the President to get the government reopened and Federal workers back to work and funding for that critical and important priority of ensuring that we have a secure southern border.

#### MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. President, this Friday, as they do every year, individuals from every corner of the United States will come to Washington, DC, to participate in the national March for Life.

As usual, South Dakotans will be among them. Tens of thousands of individuals will march from the National Mall to the Supreme Court to bear witness to a simple truth; that unborn babies are human beings and that they deserve to be protected.

It can be easy sometimes for human beings to turn their backs on injustice. Maybe because we don't want to get involved, we are reluctant to speak out.

It is particularly easy to turn our backs in the case of abortion because the injustice of abortion is hidden. It happens out of the public view behind closed doors, but we must not forget that every day in the United States, unborn babies are being killed.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which compiles data on the number of U.S. abortions, reports that there were more than 638,000 legal abortions in 2015—638,000. That is roughly equivalent to three-quarters of the population of South Dakota. That is an incredible number of lives lost, an incredible amount of joy lost, an incredible amount of love lost, and it is all too easy to forget because we don't see it happening. We can't forget. We can't forget injustice. We can't let fear or discomfort stop us from speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Fortunately, there are tens of thousands of men and women and young people around this country who are committed to speaking up for the unborn and who travel to Washington, DC, every year to remind us of the truth about abortion, to remind us that abortion is the destruction of an innocent human life, that every abortion kills an innocent human being with her own DNA and her own, distinct identity.

I can think of few greater things than to defend the defenseless, to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves, and I am grateful for all those who will march through the streets of Washington, DC, on Friday to speak up for the innocent unborn. I thank them for reminding us of this great injustice, and I join them in praying that one day every child will be safe from abortion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, this coming Friday, tens of thousands of Americans will take to the snowy streets of Washington, DC, to exercise their fundamental rights on behalf of millions of others who cannot. They will come from every State in the Union, including the State of Utah, to march to the U.S. Supreme Court. Fittingly, they will be marching down Constitution Avenue in the name of justice and in defense of the innocent.

The March for Life is a spectacular tradition in American politics, a mass demonstration of joy. Despite its size and the diversity of its participants—sometimes north of 100,000 souls, born and unborn—the march is typically ignored by the mainstream media.

The marchers also know that the Supreme Court, rightly, is not supposed to be swayed by public opinion one way or another. Yet they march January after January after January, cheerfully, prayerfully, happily, peacefully, bundled up against the cold, with babies in their strollers, and wearing smiles on their faces.

I have been, and I can confirm that the March for Life is the happiest protest you can see because they march not principally in outrage over the lives lost to the scourge of abortion but in abiding hope for the lives yet to be saved.

The March for Life is often seen as the pro-life movement's response to the Supreme Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*. In truth, it is a continuation of the march of human dignity and equality that has defined American history since we first declared "that all men are Created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life"—yes, life—"Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Raised from the crib on the Declaration of Independence, Americans can sometimes take its lofty and inspiring words for granted, but these truths, however self-evident, remain as revolutionary today as they were when they were penned in 1776.

From the dawn of time, powerful men have dehumanized women, the poor, the sick, the disabled, the young and the old, those who thought differently, looked differently, loved differently, or worshipped differently.

Whether enforced by tribal taboos, corrupted science, or judicial fiat, these experiments in dehumanization are the darkest chapters in human history—including the original sin of our Republic, the monstrous evil of slavery.

The story of American history is the story of our Nation standing up to oppression, of our coming to the defense of the vulnerable in our laws and with our very lives. From Independence Hall to the Bill of Rights, from the abolition of slavery to universal suffrage, to the civil rights movement, to the triumph over nazism, fascism, and communism, the American people have fought through prejudice and pride to assert and to defend the equal dignity of every single member of the human family.

For all the powerful forces arrayed against it, the right to life remains a part of who we are—a common heritage and, I believe history will prove, a common destiny. That is precisely why the march grows every single year not only here in Washington but in solidarity marches in State capitals all around the country.

In Salt Lake City on Friday, Utah will host its annual March for Life at the Utah State Capitol building. The same group of people will also be organizing the annual diaper drive for the Pregnancy Resource Center, a non-profit organization that provides free healthcare services to pregnant mothers in need. They know that to love is to serve, and to be pro-life is to be pro every life and not just some lives. Our duty to justice and equality extends beyond the unborn child in the womb; it extends to her mother and to her father, to her siblings and her friends, her neighborhood, her church, and her school—to her whole life.

Abortion is evil, but so is indifference. Human dignity impels us to transcend both, not merely by changing laws but by changing hearts, starting, of course, with our own. It is not enough to restore a legal regime of life; we must also endeavor to forge a new culture of life that is broader and runs deeper than the law.

Those of us who call ourselves pro-life have a particular duty to exercise the very right we fight to win back for the unborn: the right to live, the right to grow, to strive every day to become more fully the person God made us to be. A culture of life can be built only one hopeful soul at a time, one by one. We have a long way to go, of course, but the work is well underway. To see what it looks like, stop by the march.

The struggle for life is just the latest battle in America's long, noble crusade for justice, for equality, for freedom and liberty, and, of course, for dignity. It is another fight worth having, another fight most worthy of our heritage, another fight worthy of our children. One day soon, we are going to win this fight. We are going to win this fight, too, just as we have won others. Until that day, America will continue to march.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. 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. LEAHY. Mr. President—and I welcome the distinguished Presiding Officer, who has probably presided before, but this is the first time I have been on the floor and have seen him preside. I realize he cannot respond, but I welcome him to the Senate.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, for 26 days, President Trump has held funding for our Federal Government hostage, using it as leverage to force Congress to provide \$5.7 billion to build his ill-conceived, expensive, and unfortunately totally ineffective wall on the southern border. We knew this was coming because for months during the campaign, he riled up his base with chants of "Build the wall. Build the wall." He invented a crisis at the southern border and then told supporters that only he could solve it. He gave his word over and over again that Mexico would pay for the wall so American taxpayers would not have to.

That was over 2 years ago, and I think he is feeling the pressure now as he shuts himself in the White House. Having failed to convince both Republicans and Democrats in Congress that the campaign slogan was actually good policy and having failed, as we all knew, to get Mexico to pay for the wall, he turns to a negotiation tactic that he seems to have mastered—bul-

lying. He has shut down the government of the most powerful Nation in the world, making us a laughing stock around the rest of the world, and he says he will keep us shut down until he gets what he wants. It is the height of irresponsibility. It certainly destroys our effectiveness in other parts of the world.

He is the President of this country. We all—Democrats and Republicans—accept that he is the President. But that also means he is supposed to lead the Nation, not run it into the ground like so many of his businesses that had to declare bankruptcy. But he sits in the White House tweeting and watching television all day, ignoring the damaging effect his actions are having on millions of Americans of whatever political persuasion around the country.

The shutdown not only hurts our Federal workers, it is hurting America's economy. The President's own Chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers estimates that gross domestic product will slow by .1 percent for every 2 weeks the government is shut down. Today, there are reports that this estimate is too low and that the impact could be .1 percent for every week the government is shuttered.

Those are numbers, but let me tell you a story and give an example. Small businesses employ more than 59 million people in this country. Small businesses in this country are one of the main drivers of economic growth, but every day the government is closed is a day small businesses can't get Small Business Administration-backed loans to invest and grow their companies.

Last week, I heard from a woman who runs a small sign company in Essex Junction, VT. Essex Junction is in Chittenden County outside of Burlington, VT. It is a beautiful community. It survives by small businesses that expand. She is trying to grow her business, and she is trying to acquire another one, but the SBA backs the space she is trying to purchase, and so she can't bring the sale to finality during the shutdown. As a result, the seller is threatening to just move on. He can't get an answer from the SBA. And, of course, that would throw her expansion plans into jeopardy.

We have many excellent craft breweries in Vermont. They bring in a lot of revenue. They hire a lot of people. They are a key part of our tourism. I heard from one of the head brewers from one of these major craft breweries. He depends upon the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau to approve his license applications, formulas, and the labels he puts on his beer. He has been brewing the beer and it is ready to be labeled, but the office is closed due to the government shutdown. They are not processing applications. He wrote:

I am one of the millions of voters whose livelihood depends on the government operating. . . . Every day that passes without the

ATTB up and running is another potential day of lost sales.

Farmers across the country and in Vermont are also feeling the pain of the shutdown. Just a few weeks ago, we passed the bipartisan farm bill. I was one of the conferees on that bill. I praised Senator PAT ROBERTS, Republican from Kansas, and DEBBIE STABENOW, Democrat from Michigan. They put together this bipartisan bill, and the President took credit when he signed it.

Well, it is a 5-year farm bill, and now the President, right after signing the farm bill, has shut the U.S. Department of Agriculture field offices that help farmers implement the law. Farmers need information now as the new planting and growing season looms. How long will it affect operations heading into the planting year? Most of the staff are on furlough. If you are a farmer in the Midwest and you are preparing your crops, you can't say: Well, you know, we can wait a few months—maybe past the growing season—to find out what the rules are going to be, and then we will plant. The decisions have to be made now.

It also means that farmers can't apply for much needed loans. They need these loans because the drop in commodity prices brought on by the President's tariffs has hit many farmers hard. They need loans to help pay their bills. Many banks are not willing to lend on them, so they have to rely on the Department of Agriculture as a lender of last resort.

Guess what happens in these multiple whammies. Offices that issue these loans are closed due to the shutdown. They need the loans because of the President's tariffs and the President's shutdown, but these offices can't give them the loans.

For those farmers who have better credit, who can access other lending options, many of their loans are also delayed by the shutdown since the lenders are unable to confirm that the farmer has other outstanding loans from the USDA. They could just connect to the USDA office to ask, but it is closed.

Just this week at the Farm Bureau convention, the President loudly proclaimed that he is providing assistance to the Market Facilitation Program to have farmers mitigate the financial losses caused by the Trump tariffs. But as of December 28, there is no one left in the USDA accounting offices to process any new applications for these much needed payments.

I recently heard from a dairy farmer in what we call the Northeast Kingdom in Vermont. She milks 80 cows, and she is proud of her operation, but she has been hit hard by the President's trade policies, which have led to retaliatory tariffs against U.S. dairy exports, and she is now behind in her electric bill. The electric company is threatening to turn off the power to her home, to her barn, to her milk parlor, to her milking machines. She received one install-

ment from the American Facilitation Program to help mitigate the effects of the Trump tariffs, but she hasn't received the second installment because of the Trump shutdown. The second installment is needed to help pay her bills.

She says that she will be in much better shape when the new Dairy Margin Coverage Program from the new farm bill is implemented. Again, I applaud Senator PAT ROBERTS and Senator DEBBIE STABENOW for ushering that through in an almost unanimous vote. Unfortunately, no work is being done to get the program up and running because of the government shutdown. She is frustrated. She is worried about her future. She is looking for help. She is an honest, hard-working person, and she is stymied. I don't blame her.

Implementation of the farm bill, which I spent more than a year working on—I was on the committee conference working hard to deliver for our Nation's farmers on a wide range of key priorities, especially our struggling dairy farmers. It is now on hold during the shutdown with nearly every USDA Agency furloughed. This is life in the age of the Trump shutdown.

The President says that shutting down the government, paralyzing our country, is necessary to address a growing crisis on our southern border. The only crisis we have in our country right now is the one caused by the Trump shutdown. The crisis we face is not at our southern border but at kitchen tables, on family farms, and in small businesses across the country as families hurt by the Trump shutdown try to figure out how to make ends meet.

The President talks of hordes of illegal immigrants rushing across our borders, but border apprehensions have dropped 75 percent since 2000, and the majority of people apprehended at borders today are families—women and children—fleeing violence in their own country. They deserve our compassion, not vitriol.

More people are in this country illegally as a result of visa overstays than from illegal border crossings. This wall does nothing to address that. To address our complex immigration issues, we need comprehensive legislation based on facts, not bumper sticker slogans.

We all support strong border security—every Democrat, every Republican does. By working on a bipartisan basis in the last fiscal year, Democrats and Republicans supported \$21.1 billion for border security and immigration enforcement. This followed a similar investment we made in fiscal year 2017.

As vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I know that we invested in our ports of entry, including the purchase of nonintrusive inspection equipment to detect illegal and illicit contraband. We invested in aircraft to monitor our sprawling border from above and quickly respond to emer-

gencies. We invested in video surveillance, radar systems to detect movement in remote locations. These are smart uses of taxpayer dollars. A 30-foot wall that Mexico will not pay for is not a good solution.

This shutdown is not about border security. If this were about border security, we would be done with it today. The Trump shutdown is the President trying to distract America from his failures as a leader and shore up the support of his base. It is shameful.

It is clear that President Trump will not do the right thing on his own, so it is time for Senate Republicans to step up. Just yesterday morning, Democrats asked unanimous consent to take up two bills that would get this government back open—a six-bill minibus that has bipartisan support, including four bills that passed the Republican-controlled Senate 92 to 6—virtually every Republican voted for it—and a continuing resolution for the Homeland Security Department through February 8. Even though virtually every Republican has voted for this, the Republican leader objected to going forward.

If they continue to object to opening the government, this shutdown is as much on them as it is on the President. We have bipartisan bills before us that could reopen the government. We could vote on them today, and they would pass with veto-proof margins.

Leader MCCONNELL, bring up these bills. Let's vote to end this national nightmare.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor today with a number of my colleagues on the 26th day of this deeply damaging and completely unnecessary Trump shutdown. We are here today to lift up the voices and stories of the people who are being hurt by President Trump and his Senate Republican allies and to once again call on Republican leaders here in the Senate to finally allow a vote and work with us to end this manufactured crisis. While President Trump is very focused on his political game, actual people, their families, and their communities are paying the price.

People we represent—moms and dads, workers, small business owners, people who did not do anything wrong, who just want to work, do their job, serve their communities—all of them have been pulled into President Trump's chaos and dysfunction, and it needs to end.

I am very proud to kick off another effort here in the Senate by those who want to make sure that President Trump and Senate Republican leaders

don't forget whom this is about and understand who is being impacted by their refusal to act.

I want to start with a few from my home State of Washington, where there are nearly 13,000 workers who have been caught up in this Trump shutdown.

Lauren is a furloughed FAA employee who shared her story with me through my website. She told me she supports her family with one income, and now that paycheck has been frozen. She said she has been losing sleep trying to figure out how to cut her own expenses and pay her bills since the Federal Government isn't meeting its obligation to pay her.

I heard from Adam, also from my home State, who is buying his first home with his fiancée. What should be a very exciting time is now filled with unnecessary stress because Federal loans through USDA and FHA are held up. As if closing a home isn't stressful enough, now they don't know when or even if a loan is going to come through. As Adam described to me, home buyers are now caught in the middle, and that is just wrong.

One Federal employee I met with while I was home last week is a scientist at one of the impacted Agencies, and he told me about the stress that he and his family have endured since the start of the shutdown, having to cover their childcare expenses and mortgage while he is not being paid—expenses that total up to \$1,700 each month. Right now, he said he is able to tap into his family emergency fund to make ends meet, but he doesn't think they can hang on much longer.

I am not the only one, by the way, who is hearing from people in Washington State about how President Trump's unnecessary shutdown is impacting their lives. These stories are everywhere.

Earlier this week, the wife of a furloughed TSA employee with a 6-year-old daughter told the Seattle Times about how the shutdown has thrown her family into an economic tailspin. Their family is currently living off of money she makes from babysitting and with the help from her retired father, who has taken now a minimum-wage job to help with the family's finances. She worries how they are ever going to make it if this shutdown continues.

This is a small number of the countless stories coming out of my State and from around the country about how President Trump's reckless government shutdown is hurting real people. They are people in every one of our States in the country. They are people on every side of the border debate. They are people who heard President Trump say he would be "proud" to shut down the government. They are people who simply do not understand why they are being asked to bear the burden, to pay the price because President Trump and Republican leaders here in the Senate have boxed themselves into a political corner.

They are people who are getting angrier and angrier, more and more desperate with every day that goes by, who are going to make their voices heard, and we are going to make their voices heard. We are fighting by their side to end this shutdown. I am going to keep making sure they have a voice in the Senate.

I am proud to be with a number of my Democratic colleagues today. We are going to lift up their stories until President Trump and Republicans here in the Senate agree to end this crisis they started.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Ms. HARRIS. We are now 26 days into the longest government shutdown in American history, and 800,000 workers—800,000 Americans—are going without pay. Half of them are working anyway.

Let's be very clear about how we got into this mess. The Senate unanimously passed a bill to open the government right before the holidays. The vote was 100 to 0. There was such jubilation on this floor that, literally, Members of the Senate were singing Christmas carols.

Yet 2 weeks ago, the House, doing its job, then passed a bill to reopen the government. They sent six bills over to the Senate. This body needs to hold a vote on that legislation and send it to the President and ask him to sign it.

The real obstacle to ending this shutdown is in the White House. The President is holding the American people hostage over his vanity project on the southern border and peddling his usual propaganda to distract from a crisis of his own making.

The President has said that "most of the workers not getting paid are Democrats," as if that is true or if that should matter. He has said that "many of the people that we're talking about . . . agree with what we're doing." It has been said that the workers have said to "stay out until you get the funding for the wall."

Well, that is contrary to what we have been hearing and what I have been hearing. Last week, for example, I heard from a woman by the name of Trisha. Trisha and her husband are both air traffic controllers with nearly 40 years of Federal service combined. Trisha's husband served in the Navy. He now has to work long hours of overtime to compensate for the workers who are absent because they have been furloughed, and he is not being paid.

Trisha's job was deemed non-essential, so she is also not being paid. Neither parent in this family is being paid. They have three young children, and this is on top of the fact that Trisha and her family have already endured hardship these past few months as victims of the Thomas fire.

As she wrote me:

On December 5th of last year, our home was completely destroyed in the Thomas fire and we have used every resource available to us to work towards rebuilding our home.

While their home is being rebuilt, Trisha's family moved into a rental home, and they are currently evacuated from that rental home due to the flood and mudslide risks that are currently an issue in California.

Trisha said:

We have small children that we are most concerned about (with the uncertainty of our careers as Federal employees and the incredibly long road ahead in rebuilding our home but most importantly our livelihood).

She writes:

We will continue to stand with our NATCA Brothers and Sisters in ensuring the safety of the National Airspace System, but without the support staff working, it is a daunting task.

Trisha's message is one of nearly 20,000 phone calls, emails, and letters my office has received since the shutdown started 26 days ago—all pleading with us to reopen the U.S. Government.

They are 2 of the 42,300 workers who are currently being furloughed in California. I don't know which of them are Democrats or Republicans, and it doesn't matter. What matters is the people who are being hurt and the critical government functions that are going undone. They are the TSA agents who protect our flights and the air traffic controllers who help to land our planes. They are park rangers and FBI agents and Coast Guard members. They inspect our food and provide loans to our farmers. They conduct lifesaving research. Right now, though, they are being told to pay their bills by babysitting or selling their belongings on craigslist.

These Americans need their government to do its job. They don't need a wall. They need paychecks. Congress is a coequal branch of government. We don't need a permission slip before we can vote on a bill.

On behalf of Trisha and hundreds of thousands of Americans like her, let's take up the legislation that we have already approved. Let's send it to the President, and let's end this pointless shutdown as soon as possible—right away, now.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I thank Senator MURRAY, Senator HARRIS, and my colleagues who are on the floor.

I point out that we are now on day 26 of this outrageous and dangerous partial shutdown that was totally avoidable. It has been caused by one person—President Trump—and is now being assisted by the Republican leadership in this body by its not allowing the U.S. Senate, which is a coequal branch of government, to take up legislation that would reopen government—legislation that has previously passed this body and would, clearly, pass on a vote if the majority leader would allow us to have that vote. We could then reopen the government.

The unanimous consent request that I offered yesterday with my colleague

from Maryland, Senator VAN HOLLEN, would allow the appropriations bills that have nothing to do with this current dispute with the President to be fully functional, and it would allow for a continuing resolution for the Department of Homeland Security. We could then work, as we should work, to deal with border security and immigration issues. Yet the majority leader objected to the Senate's taking up that legislation, and the shutdown continues.

There are 800,000-plus citizens who work for the Federal Government who are being denied the ability to either get paychecks for the work that they do or are being furloughed without pay. In each one of those cases, there is a hardship that is having an impact that goes well beyond just the 800,000.

There are businesses in Baltimore that are wondering whether they can keep their doors open because they depend on Federal workers to come in and use their services. Whether it is a laundry, a cleaner, a restaurant, or a supply store, they know their sales depend on people having checks to pay their bills. The Federal workforce does not. So it is affecting secondary employment. There have also been a lot of layoffs by those who depend on the contract services of the Federal Government.

There are many individual stories, and Senator VAN HOLLEN and I have traveled throughout our State and have met with government workers. We have heard the account of one person who was supposed to close on a new home, his first home. He is not going to be able to do that because he doesn't have a paycheck that shows the wages necessary in order to support the mortgage because his most recent paycheck is zero.

We have heard from a person in my office who is an air traffic controller. Her husband is also an air traffic controller. They are responsible for relatives who are dependent on them. One needs a medical procedure, but they are not going to be able to move forward with that medical procedure because they don't have the out-of-pocket costs that are going to be necessary to pay for that. The list goes on and on and on of hardship—of people wondering whether their credit scores are going to be affected, which could affect their employment because they are going to be late in paying their mortgage payments. That is assuming they get paychecks in the next couple of months because, then, their homes could well be foreclosed on.

I could put a face on each one of these 800,000, but let me just share an account by Lamar Cobb, who is a lead transportation security officer at BWI Marshall Airport. I was there earlier this week, meeting with the government workers who are keeping our airports and our air traffic safe. These are dedicated people who are working without pay. He came forward.

One of the reporters there asked: Can you give us an individual hardship that you have actually confronted?

He explained that he has a 10-year-old daughter whom he describes as his heart and pride and joy. He had to take her out of cheerleading because he could not pay for it while he works at BWI without receiving a paycheck. Then he said something that, I think, really hit us all. He said at the press conference: It may not seem like the end of the world, but to a 10-year-old, it is pretty close.

These are the circumstances in which we are putting our fellow citizens by saying: Work without pay or be furloughed without pay.

It makes no sense at all. We should never have had the shutdown. We could end it now by the Senate's carrying out its constitutional responsibility as a coequal branch of government. Let's vote on the legislation that can reopen government. Let's do what we are responsible to do—let's end this shutdown.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise to address the Trump shutdown and the real consequences that have occurred since 800,000 Federal workers, including nearly 3,000 Wisconsinites, have been furloughed or forced to work without pay.

The President said this week that his administration is setting records. It is true that he now holds the record for the longest government shutdown in our Nation's history, but every day that it continues, the Trump shutdown is causing real pain for hard-working people in my State.

I recently read the heartbreaking story of Mallory Lorge. Mallory lives in River Falls, WI, and works for the Department of the Interior. On Friday, Mallory, along with thousands of other Federal workers, did not receive a paycheck. Mallory has type 1 diabetes. Without her paycheck, she can't afford her \$300 copay to get the insulin she needs to manage her diabetes and stay alive. Mallory said she is rationing the two vials of insulin she has left. Her blood sugar rose to a high level last week, but she said she felt forced to ignore it. Instead, she said, I just went to bed and hoped I would wake up.

Think about that for a minute. Because President Trump and the Republicans in Congress refuse to support bipartisan legislation to end this shutdown and reopen the government, Mallory can't afford to get the insulin she needs to live. The House has done its job in passing bipartisan legislation to end the shutdown. Now it is time for Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL to stop blocking a vote in the Senate so that we can fund the government.

We are 26 days into the Trump shutdown. It is not just hurting Federal workers and contractors. It is also hurting small businesses and entrepreneurs across the country. In Wis-

consin, we make things—cheese, brats, and, yes, beer. Milwaukee is often called Brew City, but thanks to the government shutdown, there are craft brewers across our State that can't make or sell new beer.

Russ Klisch is the President of Lakefront Brewery in Milwaukee. Lakefront has been making beer in Wisconsin for more than 30 years. The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau approves licenses for new beers and new breweries as well as labels for beers that are sent out of State, but the Agency is not currently serving craft brewers due to the Trump shutdown.

Lakefront Brewery has plans to introduce a brand-new beer in mid-February, but those plans are now on hold. This government shutdown threatens to cut its beer sales and hurt its ability to grow its business and support the economy. Other breweries across Wisconsin are impacted as well.

Mosinee Brewing Company opened its doors just last November, but it can't get approval to start making and selling its new beer until the government reopens. New "Made in Wisconsin" beer is also on hold until we reopen the government.

President Trump and Majority Leader MCCONNELL can and should end this shutdown today and ensure that Federal workers like Mallory can finally get paid and so that small business owners like Russ can keep growing their businesses.

We should vote in the Senate today on House-passed legislation, and the President should sign it so we can finally end this useless shutdown that is preventing our country from moving forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I join my colleagues this morning to share the stories of the people in New Hampshire who are currently enduring hardships because of this Trump shutdown—a shutdown that has been termed by a number of my colleagues as the longest government shutdown in U.S. history.

I have here a picture of Andre and his wife Maria and their three beautiful children, from Derry, NH. Andre is an air traffic controller who works at the Boston Terminal Radar Approach Control facility in Merrimack, NH. It is sounds like it would be in Boston, but it is not. It is in New Hampshire, where we have hundreds of air traffic controllers and FAA personnel.

Andre works at the center to keep the airways safe for passengers who are flying over the Granite State. He also represents and talks to a number of other air traffic controllers in the New England region to hear what they have to say.

With what he is hearing right now regarding the shutdown, Andre writes:

Air traffic controllers have remained on the job, dedicated to the safety of every flight, but we don't know when we will receive our next paycheck. My colleagues and

I have suffered the sudden loss of our income due to the government shutdown. It's going to be hard for me to meet all of my financial obligations.

What I am most impressed by with regard to the Federal workers with whom I have met is their dedication to their jobs. All of those air traffic controllers understand that the safety of the skies in the United States depends on them, and they are there. They are not getting paid. They are experiencing hardships like Andre is talking about, but they are there and are doing everything they can to make sure that the American public can fly safely.

In addition to Andre's story, I have heard from nearly 100 other air traffic controllers in New Hampshire who are all calling for an end to the shutdown—air traffic controllers who are protecting our safety and who are working without pay.

I want to read an excerpt from a letter that I received from Jamie in Auburn, NH, because I think it so exemplifies where we are and how the American people are feeling about this government shutdown.

Jamie writes:

Dear Senator Shaheen, there are many stories to be told regarding the effects of the government shutdown on Federal employees—the stress of financial uncertainty, the inability to take necessary time from work to care for our families, and the continued degradation of FAA resources. . . . These are but a few examples shared amongst us, but there is something that tears at the very fabric of who we are. We take deep pride in serving our country and providing the safest and most efficient air traffic control system in the world. We do so with an unwavering sense of duty and a deep understanding of the trust bestowed on us by the American people. To be used as pawns in a political chess match not only disrespects us as dedicated Federal employees, but it serves to weaken our democracy. A government that must hold hostage the livelihood of its citizens is the very definition of a failed democracy.

Sadly, that is what President Donald Trump is doing. He is holding hostage hundreds of thousands of Federal workers, and he is being enabled in this effort by the Republican leadership in this Senate who is unwilling to bring forward the bills that would open the government today. We could pass them today.

These are just two examples that I think articulate the very real impact this shutdown is having on many hard-working Americans and their families.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD these letters that I have received from air traffic controllers.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEAR SENATOR: I'm writing to you today because of the effects of the government shutdown on my profession and family. My coworkers and I have remained on the job dedicated to the safety of every flight despite the concern of when our next paycheck will come. The government shutdown has affected me professionally and personally.

My husband and I are both air traffic controllers and we have 6-month-old twins. We

go to work normally like any other day and we pay for childcare. It is going to be hard to meet all of my family's financial obligations without knowing when our next paychecks will be. My family has no income while the government remains shutdown.

The shutdown affects us all in many ways, but the other major way it is effecting me is professionally. This government shutdown is setting back air traffic control staffing numbers.

The FAA Academy is closed during the shutdown which is where all of our new trainees train initially.

There are controllers being forced to retire because of age, but with the shutdown new replacements cannot be trained. We are at a 30-year low in staffing and every day the FAA Academy is closed the more set back staffing becomes. New trainees that are unable to train due to the Academy closure may lead to fewer new hires for 2019. Many controllers are working 6-day work weeks and these new hires will help.

This career has been all I wanted to do since I was little. Like my coworkers I perform my duties professionally and to the highest safety standards despite not knowing when my next paycheck is. We will all continue to do so, but with financial concerns until the shutdown ends. Please End the government shutdown. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kristen (Milford, NH).

DEAR SENATOR SHAHEEN: I write today to urge you to end the current partial government shutdown caused by a lapse in annual appropriations. As a federal air traffic controller and constituent, I want you to know how the shutdown is affecting me.

Since air traffic control specialists perform life and safety excepted activities as defined by the Antideficiency Act, controllers like me have remained on the job, dedicated to the safety of every flight, since the beginning of the partial shutdown on December 22nd. However, my family will be placed under significant financial stress if the shutdown lasts beyond the current pay period. We don't know when we will receive our next paycheck.

The Federal Aviation Administration has closed its training academy in Oklahoma City, where new controllers arrive to begin their careers, as I did ten years ago this week. Classes have been cancelled, which will invariably lead to fewer new hires in 2019. Stopping the hiring and training pipeline exacerbates the current controller staffing crisis. The number of fully certified air traffic controllers is now at a 30-year low.

Please do whatever you can to end the government shutdown without delay.

Sincerely,

Aaron (Milford, NH).

DEAR SENATOR SHAHEEN: There are many stories to be told regarding the effects of the government shutdown on federal employees. The stress of financial uncertainty, the inability to take necessary time from work to care for our families, and the continued degradation of FAA resources. . . . These are but a few examples shared amongst us. But, this is something that tears at the very fabric of who we are. We take deep pride in serving our country, providing the safest and most efficient air traffic control system in the world. We do so with an unwavering sense of duty and a deep understanding of the trust bestowed upon us by the American people. To be used as pawns in a political chess match not only disrespects us as dedicated federal employees but it serves to weaken our democracy. A government that must hold hostage the livelihood of its citizens is the very definition of a failed democracy.

The Congress, Senate, and The White House has once again tarnished what was once considered the beacon of democracy. . . . The image of the United States of America.

Yes, I and my family need this government open. I need to be paid for my continued dedication. . . . for my work. . . . But, the American people need the practice of government shutdowns to end. The way for political agendas to be advanced is through diplomatic compromise not party-lined standoffs.

Please free my family, my colleagues, and the American people from this governmental siege of our livelihoods and open our government. Restore the faith of the American people.

Sincerely,

Jamie (Auburn, NH).

DEAR SENATOR SHAHEEN: I am writing to you today because of the partial government shutdown that is causing 800,000 federal employees to go without the certainty of their paychecks. This uncertainty is adding undue stress to ourselves and our jobs because of financial obligations.

As an air traffic controller and constituent, I want you to know how the partial government shutdown is affecting me. For the last TWO weeks, other controllers and I have remained on the job, dedicated to the safety of every flight. Even without knowing when we will get paid, or even if we will get paid.

As my husband and I do not know when or if I will receive my paycheck, we are having to stretch every last penny to meet all our financial obligations. If this shutdown continues for much longer, we do not know how or if some of our bills will be paid.

We ask you to end this shutdown immediately!

Sincerely,

Caitlin (Amherst, NH).

DEAR SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN: As an air traffic controller and constituent, I want you to know how the partial government shutdown is affecting me. For the last two weeks, air traffic controllers have remained on the job, dedicated to the safety of every flight. Yet, we don't know when we will receive our next paycheck. My colleagues and I have suffered the sudden loss of our income due to the government shutdown. I am a college graduate and have numerous student loans to pay as well as trying to provide for my family.

Please, we as air traffic controllers beg, end the government shutdown.

Very Respectfully,

Adam (Hudson, NH).

DEAR SENATOR SHAHEEN: As an air traffic controller and constituent, I want you to know how the partial government shutdown is affecting me. For the last couple weeks, air traffic controllers have remained on the job, dedicated to the safety of every flight. Yet, we don't know when our next paycheck will come. This has placed an immense amount of stress and financial burden on me and my family. We are having to make choices on whether or not to pay certain bills or buy groceries.

Please end the government shutdown immediately!

Sincerely,

Joshua (New Boston, NH).

DEAR SENATOR SHAHEEN: I am writing to let you know that the government shutdown is negatively impacting me, my wife and family.

As the shutdown continues my wife and I are having to make some difficult financial decisions. We have two daughters, one just out of college and the other in her senior

year at UVM. Along with all of our regular monthly bills we have student loan payments and tuition due.

Not knowing when to expect our next paycheck is causing undue stress on me, my wife and family.

I would like to see you help end the shutdown as soon as possible!

Ronald (Brookline, NH).

DEAR JEANNE SHAHEEN: First, thank you for all that you do for our state and country. I am writing you today with regard to the government shutdown. As an air traffic controller trainee, my job security is something I have to worry about until I certify. Unfortunately, the shutdown has me worrying about my income and financial obligations as well. Morale is notably down at work, and the staffing only gets worse as the more senior controllers approach retirement. Anything you can do to assist in the swift cease of this shutdown would be greatly appreciated by air traffic controllers nationwide. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Andre (Nashua, NH).

DEAR JEANNE SHAHEEN: I'm writing to you in regards to the government shutdown. If this shutdown continues it will put a huge financial burden on my family. At this time I am the sole provider for my household. My husband is a small business owner in New Hampshire and is currently not collecting income to keep his business going. We have two children. A two-year-old boy and a five-month-old daughter. Since there is currently no paid maternity leave I had to live off of my savings while out with my new born, which is why I have no money saved up to cover all of our expenses during this shutdown. Going into debt because I can't pay for the childcare I use (while still working) is not an option. Please find a way to stop this shut down.

Lanna (Nashua, NH).

DEAR SENATOR SHAHEEN: Please, put an end to the government shutdown. I soon will have used my entire savings to pay my current bills. I now, don't have the down payment for a house that I was ready to buy. I've had to pass up on a vacation this month, skiing in NH, in fear that I won't get paid.

Please Senator Shaheen, put an end to this government shut down. After 30 years of service in the USAF and FAA, this is a slap in the face.

James (Manchester, NH).

THE HONORABLE JEANNE SHAHEEN: Please—end the shutdown!

I am a 30-year controller, and I don't think I will be employed at the end of January.

The financial impact of the shutdown is a burden that I should not have to deal with at this stage in my career.

Staffing is the worst it has ever been and a continued shutdown will have negative effects on the air traffic system for years!

Please work to end the shutdown!!!

Maurice (Derry, NH).

DEAR HONORABLE SHAHEEN: I am writing to you today to inform you of the impact the partial government shutdown is having on me, as an air traffic controller, and my family. For the last two weeks, I have worked air traffic, not knowing when I'd be paid next. I am dedicated to the safety of every flight. This sudden loss of income as well as paid leave is impacting my life multiple ways. First, I missed paid time off that was prescheduled, around the holiday with my family. With one child, a patient at Mass General, and another at Boston Children's

Hospital, I have had to miss out on paid/earned sick leave for both their appointments. Lastly, as a support for the training department, I am seeing a direct impact on future controllers.

Please end the government shutdown immediately!

Sincerely,

Kristine (Nashua, NH).

DEAR SENATOR SHAHEEN As an air traffic controller and constituent, I want you to know how the partial government shutdown has affected me. As an air traffic controller I work a job that is 24/7, 365 days a year.

We plan and bid our vacations 15 months in advance. However, because I am an excepted employee engaged in life-saving activities, my vacation time during Christmas and New Year's was canceled. I had to work over the holidays and missed this time spent with family. This combined with uncertainty of when my next paycheck will come is adding stress that is not needed.

PLEASE END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IMMEDIATELY!

Sincerely,

Seth (Hollis, NH).

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I know every Member of the Senate has heard from constituents who are facing significant hardships as a result of the shutdown. I know every Member wants this shutdown to end. Unfortunately, President Trump doesn't seem to want this shutdown to end.

The House has already passed appropriations bills that would reopen the government. This appropriations legislation is not partisan. In fact, they are bills that have already had bipartisan support in the Senate. So I urge President Trump, Majority Leader McCONNELL, and our Republican colleagues to take up these bills to reopen the government. I believe we should reopen the government. Let's do our jobs so the rest of America can do theirs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Democrats control the time until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 3 minutes each, and the Republicans control the time from 12 noon to 12:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise to give voice to the more than 5,000 Federal employees across New Jersey who aren't getting paid due to President Trump's pointless government shutdown. Make no mistake. This shutdown is the result of a Presidential temper tantrum.

Democrats have voted for border security funding, for new technology to scan vehicles for drugs, for more port-of-entry infrastructure personnel, and for new drones to detect unauthorized crossings. Yet President Trump is holding 800,000 Federal workers hostage all because he wants \$5.7 billion for a border wall that he promised Mexico would pay for.

We have long known that something is broken inside this President that makes him incapable of caring about anyone other than himself. Clearly, he does not see Federal workers as real people with real bills to pay—people like Emily Nering of Basking Ridge, NJ.

Emily has worked at the EPA's Edison field office for 8 years. She coordinates water quality research and is in the midst of a major survey of the New Jersey-New York Harbor, and she assisted in emergency efforts to deliver clean drinking water to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands after Hurricane Maria. She said:

I took an oath of office too. I want to get back to doing the important work that the EPA conducts and to continue to serve this great nation. I saved up to contribute to an IRA this year and to start saving for a down payment on a home, but those funds will now be used to help me pay rent and other bills, pushing my financial and life goals further out of reach. . . . I urge the President and Congress to put us back to work so we can continue to serve the American people!

In recent days, I have heard from Coast Guard members, TSA agents, IRS workers—patriots who have built their careers on serving their fellow Americans. Their work is important, and they deserve to be paid. If President Trump wants to discuss issues like border security and comprehensive immigration reform, then he should end the shutdown, reopen all of those elements of the government that have nothing to do with his desired border wall, release his hostages, and reopen the government, but if he continues to bury his head in the sand, then it is time for the Senate to act.

We could likely pass legislation to reopen the government with a veto-proof majority if only the majority leader would hold a vote. Let's do the right thing for Federal employees like Emily. Let's vote and end this shutdown now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, on Friday, the day that thousands of Federal workers in Nevada and across the country missed their first paycheck of the Trump shutdown, I was in Reno meeting with two dozen affected workers and families who work for our Federal Government. These hard-working Nevadans who serve the American people in the U.S. Coast Guard, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Forest Service, and government contractors told me about the struggles they are having, their fears, and the very human consequences of the President's decision to hold our government hostage.

These Nevadans shared how their finances and their whole lives have been thrown into chaos by this reckless shutdown. Person after person told me that without the promise of a paycheck, they are struggling to pay their

mortgage or rent, keep up with their other bills, and even put food on the table for their families. Some are even cashing out their savings while others consider taking out high-interest payday loans, risking their good credit just to stay afloat.

It is not just Federal workers who were suffering. Entire families have had the rug pulled out from under them because of this reckless shutdown.

While I was in Reno, I had the opportunity to meet Brianna. She talked to me about her family. She is a stay-at-home mom. She has two beautiful daughters—as you can see—and her husband works in the Coast Guard. He is a coastguardsman. Right now, he is reporting to work without pay for the duration of this shutdown.

Brianna told me that without their sole source of income, her family would struggle to make ends meet. She told me they are weighing the decision to pull her oldest daughter out of school and to move in with her parents until the shutdown is over. That is outrageous.

I can't tell you how many letters and emails I have also received in the office. This is one from a veteran in Reno. He said:

I applaud you for standing up to Trump and not wasting taxpayer money on a stupid wall that he promised Mexico would pay for. However, as a Federal employee who is also a disabled vet, I am asking that you support legislation to assure that we do not lose pay and benefits because of this shutdown. We are currently scheduled to receive our normal pay on December 31, but after that, we have no more checks coming until the shutdown is over. Despite what others on the Hill have said, many Federal employees depend on those checks and face real economic impacts when the government shuts down. We are tired of being demonized by the right as parasites and bureaucrats, and it is ridiculous that the President wants to freeze our pay and stop all of our pay raises. The Federal Government is the largest employer of veterans, and we continue supporting our country throughout our Federal service.

No family or individual in the United States of America should have their life upended like this. So we ask that the Federal Government reopen and that the majority leader bring the bill to the floor so we can open this government on behalf of Federal workers not only in Nevada but across the country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Thank you, Madam President.

I join my colleagues today in calling for a simple, commonsense solution to one of the most vexing, unnecessary, and avoidable crises in recent history.

The present paralysis of Agencies' essential governmental functions is intolerable and unacceptable. It is shameful and embarrassing to every Member of this body, but it should be most shameful and embarrassing to the Chief Executive of the United States, who is singularly responsible for it by insisting on a wall and agreement to it

as a condition for reopening the government.

President Trump is singlehandedly blocking progress toward providing the American people with the services and the essential public functions they need and deserve.

The impact is on the consumers of those functions. We are all consumers. We all fly and depend on the air traffic controllers and the TSA. We all eat food and depend on inspections by the FDA. We all consume drugs, and the approvals of essential pharmaceutical medicines are vital to all of us. We all need and deserve the protection provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, whose brave men and women are receiving no pay—none.

Many of those 800,000 workers going without pay are also working without pay. I have sponsored a measure that will enable them to avoid foreclosures and repossessions of their cars and other financial crises through measures similar to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. I have sponsored and supported calls for providing them with unemployment compensation. The ones who work need the compensation and the benefits to put food on the table and make sure they stay in their homes.

These 800,000 workers are experiencing real pain. They are real people with real lives going through financial hardships.

On Monday, I met with many of them at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks. I heard them share their personal stories about how the shutdown is causing them real harm. I also heard about their dedication to doing their job and how the air controllers and—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time is expired.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. The TSA are overtired and need that help.

I ask unanimous consent for 1 more minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I respect the rights of the Senator. We have a number of Senators and a limited amount of time. So if he could finish quickly, we would all appreciate it. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Let me just finish by citing Adrian Pellot, one of those workers whom I met on Monday. Adrian is a behavior detection officer. He has done it for more than a decade. He is one of those workers going without pay. I will just leave you with this thought. He told me:

We have no income right now. We're bleeding money. Just day-to-day things. Food. I still have to pay the bills.

So do all of those 800,000 workers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, let me tell you about the impact the

Trump shutdown is having on one couple from my home State of Vermont.

Kelly and Ricky Klein own Groennfell Meadery in Colchester, VT. In fact, this is Kelly with her very pretty little daughter, Nora.

Groennfell Meadery is part of a growing industry in Vermont. We are a small State. We have the most craft breweries per capita in the Nation, and they create jobs. They support small businesses. They bring people to Vermont from all over the country. Business has been good. Kelly and Ricky have been planning an expansion. Recently, they were approved for a \$1.3 million Small Business Administration loan. They were going to buy three new stainless steel fermenter tanks. They were going to move to a bigger facility, double their production, hire additional people, and bought additional supplies in anticipation of it. What happened? Their loan from the SBA is now on hold because of the Trump shutdown. It is not clear if it will ever come through. So instead of expanding, they have to use their own money. They have to use their stockpiles of mead. They have to take out a loan to make payroll. They are really hurting, but they told me one thing, even in this difficult time.

Even in this difficult time, they said they were more concerned for people who have lost paychecks and lifesaving benefits and with others in their industry who have been harder hit. It is a sense of community and empathy. I wish President Trump had that same sense of empathy and caring that they do.

We have to end this shutdown. I call on the majority leader—the Republican leader—to bring up the bills, which we have already passed by an overwhelming majority, that would reopen this government. Democrats and Republicans have voted for them. All we need is for the Republican leader to bring them up.

Stop the shutdown. Let people go back to their businesses.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, I rise today to talk about a New Mexico family who is severely impacted by the shutdown, and I think there are probably hundreds of thousands of families like this across the country.

This is Leah Teresa Ornelas, her husband Ervie, and their sons Ian and Zachary. They are all from Carlsbad, NM. Zachary, their youngest—in the middle—had a brain tumor and has undergone two surgeries. Zachary is now disabled and requires constant care. Ervie, his stepfather, reduced his work as a daycare teacher by 75 percent to take care of Zachary. Leah is a public nurse, and her paycheck goes to their high insurance costs and medical bills. The family moved back in together to save on expenses. Their older son, Ian, is now the main provider for the family. Ian works for the Department of

the Interior, has been furloughed for 26 days, and has now missed a paycheck.

The Ornelas family is scared to death that Ian will miss another check and another check. They simply cannot make it without Ian being paid. The Ornelas family has made tremendous sacrifices as a family. They can make no more adjustments, as the President callously advised.

This Trump shutdown must end now. The President and Senate majority must do the right thing for the Ornelas family—and for hundreds of thousands of families across the Nation—and open our government now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, as my colleagues have said, it has now been 26 days since President Trump shut down the government and began holding Federal workers and their families hostage to force funding for an expensive, ineffective, and unpopular border wall.

That is 26 days of working without pay for hundreds of TSA and Customs and Border Patrol officers in my State of Michigan and across the country. That is 26 days of our Federal workers wondering how they will pay their mortgage and keep their lights on. That is 26 days of grocery stores, restaurants, and other local businesses watching their sales dry up.

This shutdown is also hard on Michigan farmers, including Jessica Youngblood, whom I want to take a moment to talk about.

She and her husband David, who is a veteran, are raising their three young children on their farm in Macomb County. Like many farmers, Jessica is also a small business owner; the Youngbloods are launching a winery. For 3 years, they have poured all of their time and they have poured all their money into their 25 acres of wine grapes. I have had the opportunity to walk with Jessica and her children through the rows of grapevines, and I have seen how hard they are working as a family every single day.

This year, they finally had grapes to harvest so that they could launch their small business. They planned to open their winery on their farm and start selling their wine on Memorial Day weekend. Unfortunately, the government shutdown threw a huge roadblock in front of this homegrown Michigan business.

The Tax and Trade Bureau at the Department of the Treasury approves their labels—when they are open. Jessica needs to bottle her wine in March, but that can't happen without labels being approved and printed. As Jessica said:

We are 100% dependent on the grapes we grow on our family vineyard. . . . We are farmers! We need the government to open so we can run our business.

It is time to end this shutdown. Let Jessica and her family benefit from all of their hard work. So I say: Leader

MCCONNELL, open the government so that the Youngblood family can open their small business.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, approximately 635,000 veterans work for the Federal Government, and the hardships of the shutdown on these men and women are multifold.

First, furloughed veterans who are Federal workers are missing paychecks. They are having a hard time paying their mortgages and paying their bills overall. Veterans with VA-guaranteed home loans are at risk of being evicted by mortgage companies because they can't make their payments.

Second, veterans are not getting the benefits they have earned from several Federal Departments, other than the VA. For instance, Native American veterans, who already face unique challenges with healthcare, are unable to rely on the Indian Health Service to provide their healthcare because it is closed down. Homeless veterans rely on the Department of Housing and Urban Development's housing vouchers, which are not going out because of the shutdown.

That is not all. Other benefits and protections are at risk. The VA is currently implementing major reform bills like the Appeals and Modernization Act and the VA MISSION Act. To roll out these new initiatives, the Federal Register must publish new rules and regulations. Guess what. The Federal Register isn't operational because of the shutdown, so the implementation of these wide-sweeping, bipartisan VA reforms is shut down.

On top of this, we know that those stationed at the borders and at airports—many of whom are veterans—are among those hurting the most because of this President's shutdown.

There are many more veterans suffering. Colin, from Billings, wrote me and said: "I am a federal employee and a veteran, and this standoff is placing a great deal of stress on me and my family."

His wife is pregnant, he has a 2-year-old son, and he has no paycheck. He spent his career in public service. After he got out of the service, he could have made a lot more money in the private sector.

Unfortunately, because of the fact that the President and Leader MCCONNELL will not bring the bills to the floor, we are in a shutdown. This is the human cost of the President's shutdown. These are men and women who have volunteered to serve our Nation and put themselves in harm's way and continue serving our Nation as civilians, and this is how the President says thank you—putting them out of a job, out of a paycheck, and out of the benefits that they have earned. He belittles the financial hardship that his actions are causing, and he turns their service in the military and as civilians into a political football.

The President has turned his back on the veterans of this Nation. It is time to put these men and women back to work. I call, and continue to call, on the majority to put an end to this real crisis—because they can—and reopen the government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINÉ. Madam President, I stand to tell the story of a great Virginian named Vidisha. This is a picture of Vidisha and her son Ayan, who came to a Federal employee roundtable that I did last Friday morning.

I have told stories on the floor about Virginians who are affected personally—worrying about missing mortgage payments, having to reschedule medical appointments, having to draw money out of an IRA and pay a tax penalty because of the shutdown. But I thought it was interesting that Vidisha came in and talked just a little bit about her own anxiety and the anxiety of everybody she works with. But what she really wanted to talk about was how the shutdown hurts the American public.

She works for probably the smallest Agency in the Federal Government, the Chemical Safety Board, with 40 employees and a budget of \$11 million or \$12 million. This is a small Agency, and they have one job: Investigate chemical spills—not to find fault, not to help a lawyer, but investigate chemical spills so that they can determine what went wrong, to prevent future chemical spills that are going to hurt Americans. Because of the shutdown, she and her colleagues—those 40—are not doing that job.

President Trump tweeted last weekend that the reason he is forcing the shutdown is he promised to protect the safety and security of the American public. He is hurting the safety and security of the American public.

Vidisha said that during the shutdown there has been a major chemical spill in Houston, TX. Normally, the investigators would be on it immediately to do the investigation, to give recommendations, and to reduce the risk of a spill at that facility or any other. But because of the shutdown, Vidisha and her staff are not investigating. How does this protect the safety and security of the American public—by leaving a major chemical spill with potentially life-threatening consequences uninvestigated and unresponded to?

This President's claim that he is helping the safety and security of the American people is a flat-out lie. You are hurting the security of the American people when you disable people like Vidisha and her colleagues from investigating chemical spills, from interdicting drugs if you are a Coast Guard, ATF, or DEA agent, or from doing law enforcement investigations if you are an FBI agent.

The President is hurting the security of this country. It is time to reopen government and put the security of Americans first.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I have a simple request for my Republican colleagues, and that is this: Open the government. Open the government. There have been too many people suffering for too long for this to go on any further.

One of those people is named Scott Pekalib. He lives in Hilo, HI, and works for the U.S. Geological Survey. He has had a rough few months.

In October, his husband Jay went into the hospital for a routine surgery that went horribly wrong. He went into cardiac arrest and was in an induced coma for several days. He had to be flown to another island to receive the care that was necessary. Scott and Jay spent all of their savings to get through this ordeal. After paying for medicine, hotels, and airfare, they were living paycheck to paycheck.

Now, because of this government shutdown, Scott's paycheck reads zero. He doesn't know how he is going to buy gas to take his husband to the doctor or how they are going to pay the bills that are due. Scott is making impossible choices between buying the prescription drugs he needs and the ones that his husband needs. All of this pain and suffering is because the Senate will not vote to reopen the government.

So I ask my Republican friends to call for a vote, and if the President vetoes the bill, let's act like a separate, coequal branch of government and override that veto. That is our prerogative in the United States, and that is our obligation in the U.S. Senate—to do what is best for the Nation, for the health, safety, and economic security of all of our constituents.

Let's reopen the government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, we have heard from a number of our colleagues today about personal stories that are happening to real live people in their home States—people who have not received a paycheck and are facing fear about what they are going to do in the coming days.

We have a responsibility—and I think I speak on behalf of Republicans and Democrats both here. We need to open government. We have disagreements all the time in Congress over different issues. Certainly, we cannot put these people's lives at risk and leave them as pawns in our States. Open up government, and then have a discussion about the issues we disagree on.

I know the Senator from Minnesota expected to be here, but I also see on the floor the Senator from Georgia, who would like to speak. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Georgia be allowed to speak and the Senator from Minnesota, when she returns.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Washington very much for her courtesy. I will be brief, and I will be very succinct. In fact, I will be responding to some of the things that Senator SCHATZ from Hawaii and others have said on the floor.

I am going to respond to myself. I made a speech here only yesterday, about 2:30, in which I talked about the frustration that I have and that most Georgians have with the fact that the government is shut down, and I talked about who is losing.

We are losing. The government loses more money when it shuts down than it makes any other time. Shutting down is a losing proposition all the way around, and we are exemplifying the best way to lose because we are not doing anything to solve the problem.

I have a solution I am going to propose, specifically, right now. I am not going to put my name on it to be the lead name. I don't care who gets the credit. I am ready for some solutions. I am going to talk about some very serious things right now and some very difficult things, but we are in a serious, difficult problem. We have serious problems, and we need serious people to solve them.

In the United States today, at our ports, our airports, and our highways—every way you can cross the border to come into the United States of America—we charge fees for all kinds of things, and we have for years. We have trust funds, like Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and things like that. People come across our borders all the time. In Smuggler's Gulch in San Diego, they come in on an eight-lane highway, flooding into America in the morning to go to work and flooding out of America in the afternoon to go home to bed, and we charge for that.

A constituent of mine called me last night, a gentleman I know very well, who is a very successful businessperson. He said: JOHNNY, you all are fighting over this border wall or how you fund it or who gets credit for it. I saw your speech. Have you ever thought of this?

I listened. I listened, I thought, and I said: You know, I haven't.

I got my staff to get me the information, and it all works. It makes sense, and I think it would make sense to the American people. I think it would make sense to the President of the United States, the Democratic Party, and the Republican Party as well. If we all start tonight, even, and decide whether we want to sign it or not, we can do it together. Who gets the credit for it stops, and we fight over something that makes more sense fighting over than having a border that leaks and an immigration program that doesn't work.

Here is the idea. We establish a fee in the United States of America through our ports, through our airports, through all the different ways you come here. You create a trust fund for

that money to go into, and it is designated for the security of our borders—our Canadian border and our Mexican border.

That is it. They charge. Someone entering the country pays. If it is a bus that comes in 10 times a day, you know they don't pay 10 times the amount that somebody comes in once a day. We will figure that out, but create a mechanism.

If you use the current mechanisms that are being used to collect moneys today in our Departments, we would raise \$2.5 billion a year doing that. Did you hear me? \$2.5 billion. If we had \$2.5 billion, we wouldn't have a problem anymore.

You could argue over what you build. That doesn't matter when we have security. Security is what we want. This Senate and House can get together at the White House, we get in a room, and we say: What do we want to charge? To whom do we want to give the responsibility? What is the goal?

The goal is to secure the border—a mechanism to fund securing the border—and to get off this argument of who is right, whether it is Democrats or Republicans. We are just arguing about something that doesn't matter. What matters is the American people. What matters is how their Representatives are handling their problems. What matters is what you and I are doing to get this whole argument that is going on and put it aside.

I am here to tell you, I am throwing an idea out that I think is a good idea. A very smart man gave it to me. I didn't think of it. I thought about it all last night. I couldn't think of anything wrong with it. I am sure somebody will be able to come up with something that is wrong with it.

It pays for it. We decide where the money goes, and it goes for security. We don't argue over what type of security because that is not the issue. The issue is we want it secure.

What we have had is that we have had a couple of leaders who argued about how you secure it, not whether or not you can secure it. You can always argue about how. I like pink better than purple, but I don't let that stop me from buying a black shirt if it is the only shirt I can get.

It is time we decide what it is we want. We want security. We want to put the government back to work. We want the American people to get the benefits they deserve, and we want a mechanism to do it—that is, a simple mechanism to do it. We already do it everywhere. We do the passenger facility charge.

The distinguished speaker sitting in the Chair today knows that. He flies here every week and pays \$7.50, I think, per ticket here and per ticket out. It pays for the security of airports. We do this all over the place. Let's do it here.

When you ask anybody what is probably the biggest problem in America, they say the biggest problem is that the American Senate and the American

House will not sit down and get the work done.

After that, we haven't even opened the door to see if we can find a solution. This opens the door to a solution. I am telling you, as a representative from the State of Georgia, representing 10.5 million people in this Senate, we can solve our problem today—not tomorrow, but today—with the action of our Finance Committee and our leadership and the President of the United States, by not deciding who gets credit or who gets blame but deciding it is time enough for funding games to be over with. It is time for us to get down to business.

We all took an oath a few months ago when we were sworn in, saying that is what we wanted to do, and now we are avoiding it every single day.

I will not take any more time. I know the Senator from Texas is here, and the lovely Senator from Minnesota is here, and they are two very good representatives in the Senate of the United States of America.

Don't forget about this idea. I am going to talk about it a lot. I don't want it to be the Isakson amendment or the Isakson idea. I want it to be our idea, America's idea. I want to fund it with Americans' money, to solve America's borders and get our immigration system solved and get us off of dead center and talking about nothing and mainly down center lane.

I want to end with what Zell Miller told me. Zell was a Senator at one time. He beat me for Governor of Georgia in 1990. In our last debate in that Senate race—it was a pretty good race. I had gotten pretty close. In fact, if my grandchildren had been old enough, it would have almost been won by me, if I could embellish the stories a little more.

At the end of the story, we had a minute each to close our speech. I closed my remarks with a 1-minute statement. I thought it was pretty good. Zell leaned back, with that twang of Zell's and said: You know, ladies and gentlemen, if you see a turtle sitting on a fence post on a country road, there is one thing you know for sure: He did not get there by himself.

I know for sure right now we are going nowhere because we are not talking about the problem. I know for sure that it is time for us to do the simple thing; that is, to solve it. It is not the hard thing, and that is to think of other reasons why we can't solve it. I, for one, will do everything I can do to let the people I am representing here know I am doing everything I can to get it open. I don't care what we have done. I am not going to call anybody a name. I am not going to do anything like that. I am not going to claim it for my idea. I hope nobody will steal it and claim it for theirs and cause us problems.

Let's just get to work. There is no problem we can't solve that we don't want to, and there is no problem we can solve if we don't want to solve it.

God bless you, Mr. President, for presiding today, and God bless the United States of America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I appreciate the sentiment of the Senator from Georgia, and I remember earlier last year when we were both part of discussions to try to resolve an earlier shutdown issue and an earlier issue related to immigration reform. We put together a bipartisan bill involving the Dreamers, and we got some broad support on our side. Unfortunately, the White House, in the end, was not supportive of that agreement, even though the Senator from Georgia had worked so hard.

I think we can't rule out, as much as we have tried and will continue to try, to come up with bipartisan solutions like the majority and the minority leader did in December that we all supported and would have prevented this shutdown. We can't take out the element of the fact that a number of times we have been gut-punched, basically, when we have tried to do that. That doesn't mean that the discussion shouldn't continue, and I appreciate his good work on that.

I want to discuss one Minnesotan, Kathleen DeMaster, who has been affected by this and her family. She works for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Minneapolis. She is currently furloughed. This is Kathleen and her daughter. She says:

My situation is becoming desperate. . . . I accepted my position with the federal government only a few months ago because it is a fantastic way for me to better myself and my career. I am passionate about public service and have enjoyed my job very much since I started. While accepting this position improved my situation, I have lived paycheck to paycheck. . . . This has not changed unfortunately. I am a single mother and a homeowner. And while I am college educated . . . I have struggled to get where I am now. It has never been easy, and unfortunately, this has only made life more difficult. My funds are exhausted. At this point in time, I don't have the money to pay for my mortgage or for childcare for my daughter. The money I will receive for unemployment insurance will not cover everything I need [it to].

Unfortunately this has put me in an untenable situation. Do I risk losing my home or do I risk having my daughter lose her daycare and being unable to work when I am recalled?

In other words, she can maybe lose the daycare because she is at home now, but she is not going to be able to have the daycare when she goes back to work, when she can.

These are the choices I (and many others, I am sure) are facing right now.

This may be a story you have heard before, but I felt it needs to be shared until it is heard by the right ears.

These are this woman's words—"the right ears."

I am at a loss for what else to do, and I'm terrified for what it means for my daughter and myself.

Kathleen is doing everything she can do to provide for her daughter. She re-

cently started picking up shifts with Instacart, the grocery delivery service, just to make ends meet. If this shutdown drags on—in her words—she is simply at a loss about how she and her daughter will get by.

In my State there are 6,100 other Federal workers with these stories. They are not being paid, and each of these workers has a face and a name. It is time to end the shutdown and reopen the government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOYCE SIBLEY

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to give tribute to a great American, a great Texan, and a 32-year veteran of this institution who has dedicated her career to serving the needs of her fellow citizens. Her name is Joyce Sibley.

She has led my team of caseworkers in Texas for the last 6 years, and she is now retiring. Joyce started working in the U.S. Senate in 1971, working for John Tower of Texas, answering the phones at his Austin office.

Since then, Joyce has become a living legend among Texas caseworkers because she simply doesn't take no for an answer, and she always goes the extra mile and more to help someone in need. Indeed, her work has extended so many extra miles beyond our State boundaries that it is difficult to comprehend.

"To move mountains" is a figurative expression, but when I say Joyce has moved battleships, I mean it literally. During the Albanian civil war of 1997, Joyce got the 6th Fleet to come ashore and help rescue nearly 100 Americans on a beach, including several Texans.

The office of my predecessor, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, was in communication with the Texans throughout that scary night in which the American evacuees were huddled at the Port of Durres in Albania, having been sent there by the U.S. embassy. The Albanian Task Force at the State Department reported that everyone had been evacuated, but the Americans still trapped there disagreed and started calling offices in Houston and Austin.

Joyce and her team had to give up on the State Department's part and, instead, they transferred a cell phone call from that beach in Albania directly to a Pentagon duty officer who contacted the Texans and connected them with the 6th Fleet. Together, they coordinated a Zodiac evacuation in the early morning hours.

Joyce was instrumental in organizing their escape.

There was another occasion, when a soldier was wrongfully convicted of counterfeiting in South Korea, after copying and printing Korean currency in order to test the quality of his new printer. There was no intent and no evidence of any attempt to distribute fake Korean currency.

After being convicted and imprisoned for months, largely abandoned by his command, the Texas office asked the

Korean Government to take another look at the case, and the conviction was reversed. The airman returned to serve with distinction in San Antonio, thanks in part to the amazing case-work skills of Joyce Sibley.

Likewise, when the earthquake hit Haiti, there were several Texans buried in the rubble at one of the local hotels. Joyce and others stayed in touch with the family members, set up regular briefings with the State Department, and kept the family closely informed until all were found and accounted for.

The Haitian Government even arrested a group of Texas missionaries and charged them with kidnapping for providing relief and housing to orphaned Haitian children. A few tense weeks followed, but they were all freed once Joyce helped to turn up the heat.

There are too many stories to list about Joyce's helping families with heartbreaking international adoption situations in Romania, Russia, Haiti, China, Korea, Guatemala, and Ethiopia.

Here is one of my favorite stories. Last fall, a heart surgeon contacted our office on a Thursday evening. He had been traveling out of the country. When he was coming back to Houston, he realized he had lost his passport. He was supposed to travel to Houston overnight and go straight to the hospital to perform several surgeries. Joyce, working with other members of our staff, was able to get a government official to meet his plane to confirm his identity and to get him through customs at 6 a.m. on Friday morning.

He called me when he was on the way to the hospital and said that thanks to our office, thanks to Joyce, he was able to make it there on time to perform lifesaving surgeries.

There are quite literally thousands of Texans whose lives have been made better by Joyce's decision to stay in Texas and to devote her professional time to helping families who needed help, often in times of great stress. Dealing with the Federal Government, the often maddening leviathan of Federal bureaucracy, Joyce was an expert at getting that leviathan to move and helping Texans who were frustrated and needed relief.

Whether it has been handling an international crisis or ensuring that a veteran gets his or her paycheck, Joyce has been tireless on behalf of Texans in need of help and guidance. The hallmark of a great caseworker is knowing the system, having great contacts at the multitude of Federal Agencies, and pushing back whenever she heard the word "no." Instead, she would ask, isn't there something else we could do to help this soldier, to help this veteran, to help this Texan? So many times, thinking of the "something else we can do" was exactly what was needed.

Joyce has been an irreplaceable asset to the U.S. Senate and to the people of Texas. The good news is that everyone who has worked with her has her spirit

in their blood now, has been trained directly, hands-on, by Joyce. It is in their DNA now to go that extra mile and to try to get to yes, no matter the obstacles, when they are looking out for and fighting for Texans. That is her legacy—a team inspired by her leadership. And I know that legacy will endure.

Joyce starts a new adventure at the end of this month as she begins her well-earned retirement. My team will be a little bit poorer for having lost her, but the Senate, the people of Texas, and thousands of families she has assisted over the course of nearly five decades are much richer for having had her on their team.

Thank you, Joyce, for your work, your passion, your patriotism, and most of all, your shining heart. It has been a pleasure, an honor, and a privilege to serve the people of Texas alongside you. God bless.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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 S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution disapproving the President's proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Tom Cotton, Todd Young, John Cornyn, Jerry Moran, John Boozman, Deb Fischer, John Hoeven, Susan M. Collins, Cory Gardner, Dan Sullivan, Marco Rubio, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, Pat Roberts, Roger F. Wicker, Thom Tillis, Shelley Moore Capito, Mitch McConnell.

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 S.J. Res 2, a joint resolution disapproving the President's proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber wishing to vote or to change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 6 Leg.]

YEAS—57

|              |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Gillibrand | Murray     |
| Bennet       | Harris     | Peters     |
| Blumenthal   | Hassan     | Reed       |
| Booker       | Hawley     | Rosen      |
| Boozman      | Heinrich   | Rubio      |
| Brown        | Hirono     | Sasse      |
| Cantwell     | Jones      | Schatz     |
| Cardin       | Kaine      | Schumer    |
| Carper       | Kennedy    | Shaheen    |
| Casey        | King       | Sinema     |
| Collins      | Klobuchar  | Smith      |
| Coons        | Leahy      | Stabenow   |
| Cortez Masto | Manchin    | Tester     |
| Cotton       | Markey     | Udall      |
| Daines       | McSally    | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth    | Menendez   | Warner     |
| Durbin       | Merkley    | Warren     |
| Feinstein    | Moran      | Whitehouse |
| Gardner      | Murphy     | Wyden      |

NAYS—42

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Fischer    | Portman    |
| Barrasso  | Graham     | Risch      |
| Blackburn | Grassley   | Roberts    |
| Blunt     | Hoeven     | Romney     |
| Braun     | Hyde-Smith | Rounds     |
| Burr      | Inhofe     | Scott (FL) |
| Capito    | Isakson    | Scott (SC) |
| Cassidy   | Johnson    | Shelby     |
| Cornyn    | Lankford   | Sullivan   |
| Cramer    | Lee        | Thune      |
| Crapo     | McConnell  | Tillis     |
| Cruz      | Murkowski  | Toomey     |
| Enzi      | Paul       | Wicker     |
| Ernst     | Perdue     | Young      |

NOT VOTING—1

Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 42.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Under the previous order, cloture not having been invoked, S.J. Res. 2 is returned to the calendar.

The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION AND ABORTION INSURANCE FULL DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2019—Motion to Proceed

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 11, S. 109.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 109, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 11, S. 109, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, James M. Inhofe, John Barasso, David Perdue, John Kennedy, John Thune, Thom Tillis, James E. Risch, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pat Roberts, John Boozman, James Lankford, Michael B. Enzi, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wyoming.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, following the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, the National Institutes of Health, which is the Nation's medical research Agency in Bethesda, MD, needed to secure its campus. The NIH's grounds were always open to the public before that. Anybody could walk or drive through the 300-acre campus and could do it freely, but in its facing heightened threats, officials planned to restrict public access and to build a wall. It was completed in 2005. The wall, with the black metal perimeter fence with guarded checkpoints, became the centerpiece of NIH's new perimeter security system. Signs were posted that said "No Trespassing."

On its website, NIH states that the purpose of this border barrier is "to ensure the safety of our patients, employees, guests and facilities."

NIH wasn't alone in building a barrier after the attacks in 2001. Across the street, the National Naval Medical Center, now known as Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, also walled off its 243-acre campus. These walls have worked. Both NIH and Walter Reed remain safe and secure.

Now we need to deal with a security crisis at our southern border. President Trump has requested \$5.7 billion—it is about one one-thousandth of the Federal spending. The President wants to build more physical barriers—a proven border security solution. Thirty percent of the border already has a secure barrier.

Congressional leaders from both parties have supported a border wall in the past. In 2006, Senate Democrats, including then-Senator Barack Obama, Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator Joe Biden, and Senator CHUCK SCHUMER voted to construct a physical barrier on our southern border. But Democrat leaders now refuse to back the President's border security effort, prolonging the partial government shutdown that is going on today.

Meanwhile, the Democrats and media fact-checkers are out in force to attack President Trump. They insist there is no border crisis. The facts are that this January 10 Investor's Business Daily editorial says: "Yes, There Is A Crisis At The Border—The Numbers Show It."

First, in terms of how the numbers show it is that illegal crossings are climbing, last year, Border Patrol stopped more than one-half million people trying to enter the country illegally—more than 100,000 in October and November alone this past year. That is a huge increase from the same 2 months in 2017.

Second, apprehensions don't account for all illegal crossers. The Homeland Security Department estimates that about 20 percent of our crossers enter, which means about 104,000 illegal immigrants entered in 2018 alone.

Third, the U.S. illegal immigrant population right now is massive. Currently, over 12 million illegal immigrants reside here, comparable to the entire population of countries like Chile, the Netherlands, and Syria.

Fourth, illegal crime levels are higher than expected. The Center for Immigration Studies has found that noncitizens accounted for more than 20 percent of Federal convictions, although they represent only 8.4 percent of the population.

Fifth, Presidents Reagan through Obama have acknowledged the crisis. In 2005, then-Senator Barack Obama said: "We simply cannot allow people to pour into the United States undetected, undocumented, unchecked." In 2014, President Obama described the border situation as a crisis, but he failed to fix it.

Even President Obama's last Border Patrol Chief, Mark Morgan, supports President Trump. He was actually on television just today. Trump didn't keep him in the job, but Morgan says that building the wall is key to solving the security crisis, and the President should, as he says, "stay the course."

Still, Democrats refuse to negotiate with this President, so we can't reopen those Federal Agencies that have been closed for more than 3 weeks.

Here is the Homeland Security Department's latest assessment of the southern border situation. They say that each month, 60,000 illegal immigrants reach the border. Drug smuggling spiked in 2018, with a 38-percent increase in methamphetamine, a 22-percent increase in heroin, and a 73-percent increase in fentanyl. We also saw a huge surge in arrests of dangerous criminals, including 17,000 adults with criminal records and 6,000 MS-13 and other gang members.

In 2018, 60,000 unaccompanied children and 161,000 families reached the border—a dramatic increase from 2017. Many were victimized on their journey.

Border Patrol areas that have enhanced or expanded physical barriers have actually seen a dramatic decrease in illegal traffic. That is why the President has requested additional funds to construct more barriers.

The facts are the facts. We have a national security and humanitarian crisis at the southern border. The problem is the rise in illegal entries. We need to solve it. Walls work.

The question is this: Do U.S. citizens living in at-risk border communities

deserve the same protection as NIH patients and the staff in Bethesda, MD?

All Americans want a healthy immigration system that enforces the law and keeps families together. Democrats shouldn't be playing politics with border security. It is time to work together to secure the border, reopen the government, and protect the American people.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, today is the 26th day of the longest government shutdown in American history.

Weeks ago, the Senate voted unanimously to keep the government open. The House has now passed multiple bipartisan bills to end the shutdown, but President Trump refuses to come to the negotiating table, and Leader MCCONNELL refuses to let the Senate vote on these bipartisan bills. As a result, over 800,000 people across this country have been sent home or are working without pay.

Senate Democrats are here to share the stories of people whose lives are being upended. I want to thank Senator MURRAY for organizing these speeches and Leader SCHUMER for leading our efforts to reopen the government.

I am speaking today on behalf of 8,200 Federal workers in Massachusetts who have been affected, including TSA workers at Logan airport, servicemembers, air traffic controllers, healthcare providers, and staff at our national parks.

Janelle, one of my constituents, works at Native American Lifelines of Boston, an urban Indian health program. This program does crucial work helping to meet the health, dental, and behavioral health needs for Native people in the Boston metropolitan area. It is a contract site with the Indian Health Service, an Agency whose funding has been cut off by the shutdown.

Janelle loves her job, and she cares deeply about the people she serves. She doesn't want them to go hungry. She doesn't want them to miss their appointments. She doesn't want them to be unable to fill their prescriptions, but she worries about what will happen if the government doesn't open up soon. A prolonged shutdown would be a major hardship for Janelle, but it could mean a health emergency, even life or death, for her clients.

Don, another constituent, is helping Coast Guard families in Massachusetts make ends meet. His organization, the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation, has distributed over 5,200 pounds of food since the start of the shutdown. He knows that if the shutdown continues, he will have to start draining his organization's budget, and that could mean he will not be able to help military families afford food supplies come September.

Janelle's and Don's stories are just two examples of how President Trump

is holding Massachusetts families hostage while he demands a border wall.

Let's be perfectly clear about what the President is doing. The shutdown is not about border security. It is not about protecting anyone. It doesn't make us any safer that President Trump has padlocked the doors at the Department of Homeland Security or that he is asking our Coast Guard, our FBI agents, our airport security, and even our Border Patrol agents to work without pay.

No, this shutdown is a manufactured crisis that the President is using to fan the flames of racism and bigotry—all so he can distract the American people from demanding a government that works for them.

This isn't a new playbook. It is one the Republicans and the President have been using for years. Over and over again, they try to pit White working people against Black and Brown people, gay people against straight people, young people against older people, people born in the United States against people who came here in search of a better life—pit them all against each other so they don't band together, so they don't demand real change.

Here is the deal: The American people are onto this twisted strategy. They know that this government works just great for the rich and the powerful but not for everyone else.

Across this country, people are insisting on a government that is not just open for business but a government that actually works for them—a government that expands healthcare coverage instead of ripping it away from grandparents and newborns, a government that tackles the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs instead of selling out to giant drug companies that put profits ahead of patients, a government that ends the stranglehold that money has on Washington instead of stacking the government with public officials who are more interested in lining their own pockets than serving the public. I could go on and on with this list.

I came to the U.S. Senate 6 years ago to fight for working families and to tackle these problems head-on, to end a rigged system that created two sets of rules—one that applies to the rich and the powerful and one for everybody else.

Republicans are trying to divide Americans in order to stop us from getting to work ending this rigged system, but we are onto their game. The President and Republicans must end this shutdown now so that hundreds of thousands of Federal workers can get their paychecks and get back to work. If they don't, hard-working people like Janelle, Don, and thousands more across Massachusetts will continue paying the price.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TAXES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, tax filing season is just around the corner. This has never been anyone's favorite time of the year, paying taxes, but the uncertainty created by the current partial government shutdown has understandably created a bit more angst than in a usual tax filing season.

The Treasury Department and IRS have been proactive in taking steps to minimize the burden of the shutdown on taxpayers. They recently announced that tax season will start as planned, on January 28. The IRS has confirmed that taxpayers can expect refunds to be sent out as usual should this shutdown drag on. Of course, this is the right conclusion, legally, and the right call for the taxpayers, as I had an opportunity to tell IRS Commissioner Rettig when we spoke recently.

Congress has explicitly provided for a permanent appropriation for the IRS to pay tax refunds. This makes common sense. A tax refund represents the taxpayer's money—not Congress's, not the government's but the taxpayers'—despite what some people in Congress seem to think; that this money belongs to the government. It should be returned then in a timely fashion and, thank God for their decision, that is going to be the case.

With around 75 percent of individuals receiving a tax refund on an annual basis, many have come to look to their refund to make important purchases, whether that is to replace an old water heater, make a downpayment on a reliable vehicle to get them to work, or just to make ends meet generally. It would be wrong for the government to impose undue financial strains on families across the country because Congress and the President can't get their act together.

As we continue to work through our differences, the least we can do is return to taxpayers their own money.

This tax season, of course, is a little different, not only because of the shutdown but also because it is the first tax filing season under the tax reforms and tax cuts enacted in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. A lot of work has gone on to get us here. Treasury and the IRS have been working diligently and swiftly to ensure taxpayers have the information they need. In a little over a year, they have put out 16 proposed regulations, 2 final regulations, 45 notices, 21 revenue procedures, and updated countless forms, publications, and other guidance—all of this geared toward implementing the law and addressing taxpayer questions.

Right out of the gate, Treasury and IRS went to work updating the annual withholding tables so taxpayers could immediately begin seeing the benefits

of lower taxes in their paychecks. Of course, whether a taxpayer had less or more withheld from their paycheck is not the final word on whether one received a tax cut.

Also, due to changes in withholding, a smaller or larger refund than usual may not tell the whole story. I encourage taxpayers to compare their 2019 tax return with that of the previous year to see the difference. At the end of the day, the vast majority of taxpayers will see that less of their hard-earned money is going to the government.

A chief priority for the new withholding tables was, of course, accuracy. Extensive analysis was done to help taxpayers get the right amount withheld from their paycheck—not too much, not too little. However, as we all know, no withholding table will ever be perfect. Every taxpayer may be affected a little differently under the new law based on their personal circumstances. The IRS continues to consider whether future improvements to the withholding structure may be necessary, which I support and will be monitoring as chairman of the Finance Committee.

The IRS has also embarked on an extensive campaign to alert taxpayers to check and update their withholding. This included establishing an online withholding calculator to help taxpayers determine what, if any, adjustments to their withholding may be necessary.

That said, there are still going to be some taxpayers who may discover that they were underwithheld due to changes in the law and owe taxes at the end of the year. A subset of these taxpayers could be subject to a penalty for underpayment.

The ranking member of the Finance Committee, Senator WYDEN, raised this concern in a letter to Commissioner Rettig on January 3, requesting that penalty relief be granted. I generally agree with the ranking member and have encouraged the IRS to be lenient on penalties, especially with this first time through a filing season under the new tax law. If a taxpayer has underwithheld as a result of the changes in the law, and not through the fault of their own, the IRS should consider what actions the Agency can take to provide penalty relief, but the issue of underwithholding due to the passage of tax reform should not be exaggerated. Yes, as the ranking member claims in his letter to the Commissioner, it is estimated that as many as 30 million taxpayers may have had taxes underwithheld from their paychecks, but what hasn't been said is that 30 million is actually only about a 3-percentage point increase from how many taxpayers would be underwithheld under the old law.

Moreover, just because a taxpayer was underwithheld during the year does not automatically mean they will be subject to a penalty tax. Safe harbors have long been in place to protect taxpayers whose withholding is slightly off from being penalized.

It is quite possible that some issues will arise this filing season that we did not anticipate and will need to be fixed as we go forward. We already identified a number of those issues, which I am hoping my Democratic colleagues will allow us to fix to further help as many more constituents as possible.

That doesn't detract from the fact that we have delivered real tax relief to middle-income families, small business owners, and the family farmer, nor does it undermine the fact that we modernized our outdated international tax system and improved America's business competitiveness in the global economy. Of course, that is going to benefit the American worker.

These efforts have contributed to a strong and growing economy. The unemployment rate is at a half century low. Wages are rising at the fastest rate in nearly a decade. Workers, employers, and small business owners are all more optimistic than ever.

Unfortunately, I hear increasing calls from the new House majority pledging to erase the progress made with the tax cuts and reforms that we enacted 13 months ago. At least one new Democratic Member has suggested bringing back top tax rates as high as 70 percent to pay for a wish list of far-left, Big Government programs. Such a confiscatory tax rate targeted at a relatively small number of wealthy taxpayers would barely make a dent in the cost of programs they wish to implement.

Policymakers across the globe abandoned such punitive tax rates over the past several decades for their negative effect on economic growth, investment, and incentives to work. While tax rates at 70 percent or higher may have been fairly common in the 1960s, today, not a single OECD country boasts such high rates. How soon people forget about the prolonged economic stagnation and high unemployment of the 1970s when we last had tax rates as high as 70 percent.

I am going to detract here to show a chart. How soon we forget that just raising tax rates doesn't automatically bring in more money. For the benefit of my colleagues and for the benefit of the public watching on C-SPAN, I should have had this blown up. I doubt it is going to do much good for me to just hold up a small sheet of paper.

This goes back to the year 1955, ending in 2017. The blue line shows the marginal tax rates over a period of about 60 years. You can see high tax rates in the 1960s, going down, up, generally down, generally down, staying pretty low in recent years. You can see that the red line is the amount of money that comes in from taxes, whether you have high tax rates or low tax rates, which kind of tells me that the taxpayers are a lot smarter than the Congress of the United States because when you talk about high marginal tax rates, they want you to believe more money is going to come in. They are probably going to take the position that if you lower tax rates,

less money is going to come in. But you see, in the 1950s top rate was 90 percent. Can you imagine Americans being dumb enough to work hard to only keep 10 percent of their income? No. What you do is you change people's behavior. They decide, I am going to work only so much. Why should I work harder and give more money to the Federal Government? You see, higher tax rates don't do what a lot of people want you to believe they are going to do.

I would like to give a little history on this, because you kind of think that if we have lower marginal tax rates, and Republicans are the ones who want lower tax rates, that you would give Republicans a lot of credit for reducing these marginal tax rates. I can remember the work of Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey—probably at least a moderate Democrat. He was probably as responsible as anybody in the 1980s for reducing these marginal tax rates, because Republicans didn't have guts enough to do it, and we might not be where we are right now. So it is not just Republican thinking that got these marginal tax rates down. It is not just Republican thinking that has kept this red line where it has been for 60 years, at approximately 16 to 20 percent of gross national product—the amount of the economy that is coming into the Federal Government.

I hope the talk of such confiscatory taxation truly is a talk of a few rogue Members and not representative of things to come. I wish to think there will be opportunities for us to work together in a bipartisan way.

I am firmly in the camp that the tax reform and tax cuts enacted by the last Congress represent important revisions to our tax laws, but I also understand that no major piece of legislation is entirely perfect. To the extent there is legitimate interest in improving tax laws, as chairman of the Finance Committee, I am going to be all ears.

When it comes to making modifications to tax reform, our first order of business should be focused on examining how the law affects individuals, families, and the businesses in our States that provide the jobs and benefits they rely on. When necessary, we should work together to take action and ensure that the law is fulfilling its potential. A key part of this discussion should be enacting technical corrections to the tax law—revisions to ensure that the bill does what Members thought it did when they voted on it. Some of these are related to just poor drafting, honest mistakes that were made.

I also hope that there will be plenty of opportunity to work on a bipartisan basis on tax issues involving everything from education, to renewable and alternative energy, to consumer-directed healthcare options.

However, I fear opportunities to work together could be put at risk should my colleagues become fixated on tearing apart tax reform, hiking taxes, and,

of course, going after the President's tax returns.

I want to put my Democratic colleagues on notice that I have no intention of undoing structural changes implemented as part of the tax reform. This would include the lower tax rates and family benefits, such as the increased child tax credit and standard deductions.

I am also not interested in eliminating the cap on the deductibility of State and local taxes, backtracking on our move toward a more territorial tax system, or raising tax rates on pass-through business owners and farmers or corporations, all of which provide critical jobs and contribute to economic growth across the Nation.

For the first time in probably about 30 years, our businesses are competitive with the rest of the world. When we have a 35-percent tax rate—as we did for decades—on corporations, and the world average is about 23 percent, how can we expect American corporations to compete? We are now at 21 percent. It wasn't long after we went to 21 that we read about China maybe feeling they were uncompetitive and were going to have to lower their tax rates. Other countries are thinking about doing it as well. Just like with the Reagan tax cuts of the 1980s, the United States is plowing ahead, setting a standard for the rest of the world.

Lower tax rates, with businesses and individuals making decisions on where they earn their money, how much they are going to spend, and how much they are going to save, is a heck of a lot better than 535 Members of Congress making that decision. When we make decisions about stuff like this, they are political decisions. When most of the individual taxpayers and the corporations of America make decisions, it is strictly economic and does much more economic good.

Another one that I don't want to mess with is efforts to weaponize the authority of tax-writing committees to access tax returns for political purposes. Such an action would be unprecedented.

I am optimistic that we can continue to make progress helping Americans improve their lives by keeping more of their hard-earned wages, taking the chance of starting a new business or continuing to expand an existing one—in short, building an opportunity economy. I invite my colleagues to join me.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to join my colleagues who were speaking earlier today about the many U.S. citizens who are Federal employees who are impacted by the shutdown. Coast Guard PO2 Amy-Erin Hamilton, stationed in Seattle, WA, is one of those individuals. She is the mother of three children: Sienna, age 10; Tucker, age 9; and Annabella, age 5. Amy-Erin is married to Dan Hamilton, who is also an Active-Duty member.

Amy-Erin is a shining example of the service and leadership we see in our Coast Guard today. In December, she was given a meritorious advancement, which is rare and an incredible honor. Despite this, though, she is working without pay and has had to seek outside income to support that family I just mentioned.

This is the 26th day of a Federal Government shutdown. Yesterday, 55,000 Coast Guard personnel did not receive their midmonth paychecks. The Coast Guard Commandant issued a letter to the workforce explaining what was happening, explaining that this is the first time that a branch of our military has not been paid during a government shutdown.

There are 41,000 Active-Duty members, 6,200 Reservist members, 8,500 civilians, and 50,500 Coast Guard retirees. That is the U.S. Coast Guard family. Thirty-one percent of the Coast Guard families do not have enough emergency savings to make it through the shutdown. A junior enlisted Coast Guard member with less than 2 years of service makes only \$23,200 a year in base pay. That is below the poverty level. Coast Guard members are currently being deployed overseas—they could be in a combat zone—and these members are not receiving pay.

I hope our colleagues will take into consideration this issue with our Coast Guard families. They are working hard to provide great care for us throughout our country and overseas. When I think about the fact that a Coast Guard member could be deployed overseas in an area that has seen combat, an unstable region of the world, and that they are not even receiving the childcare subsidy and support to make sure their families are taken care of while they are gone taking care of us, that is just wrong.

So I come here to join my colleagues who were here earlier today on the floor giving examples of Americans throughout the United States who are working hard for us. It is time we go to get them their paycheck and continue to support them so they can support us.

I know my colleague from Connecticut is here and would like to speak as well, and I thank him for allowing me to fit in this time to talk on behalf of the Coast Guard families.

I hope the Commandant's letter can now be seen as an example of why we need to act. We need to act to give these Coast Guard families their pay and to make sure we are addressing the shutdown and reopening government.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to follow the Senator, our neighbor from across the country. We share a common interest and commitment to one of the great military services in this country, the U.S. Coast Guard.

Connecticut is proud to be the home of the Coast Guard Academy and nu-

merous Active-Duty-serving Coast Guard men and women. Not only are we proud of them, but we are deeply mindful of the debt we owe them. It is a debt that is immeasurable in dollars and cents. It is a debt we owe them for the safety and security they provide this country and the blood they have shed in defense of the country.

Failing to pay them is a moral failure, and that is why I am proud to be joining the Senator from Washington as well as Senator THUNE in a measure to provide payment for the Coast Guard, and I hope we will meet this obligation as soon as possible.

We also have an obligation to other Federal workers because they are suffering and sacrificing during this shutdown, now 26 days long.

One of them, among the workers I met just last Monday, is Adrian Pellet. He served in the Air Force. He has worked as a behavior detection officer for more than a decade. He is also one of the TSA workers at Bradley not receiving pay.

He said to me:

We have no income right now. We are bleeding money. Just day-to-day things. Food. I still have to pay the bills. The electric company, the cell phone company—they don't care. They are brutal. To feel like we are poker chips or leverage is very, very infuriating. We are people—we have lives—not just a number to throw around. I want the government to reopen.

Nothing I say here expresses more eloquently and powerfully the obligation we are failing to meet.

I will be proposing legislation to provide workers like Adrian unemployment benefit compensation. States like Connecticut now must seek approval from the Department of Labor of the United States to provide unemployment compensation for workers who are on the job but unpaid.

The workers who are furloughed and unpaid can receive that compensation. The folks showing up to work, keeping us safe in the skies, assuring that our security is met at the TSA lines, are unpaid, and they are uncompensated out of the State workers' compensation system, and they should be.

That is why I will propose legislation for fundamental fairness and necessary benefits for workers like Adrian and his partner, Sarah Small, who has been a TSA officer for over 11 years. She currently works part time at Bradley as a TSA officer, and she is in nursing school.

She said to me: "It's more nerve-racking because of the fact that if this shutdown lasts any longer, one of us is going to have to find something."

They are just two examples of thousands across the country. My colleagues, every one of you has an Adrian Pellet or a Sarah Small or a Coast Guard service man and woman or someone like them who are working without unemployment compensation, having to pay bills, mortgages, put food on the table. They are unable to do it because the government is shut down.

Let us reopen the government. Let us meet our obligation. Let us do our job, and the man down the street on Pennsylvania Avenue in the White House ought to be doing his job too.

In the meantime, let's help them meet their bills and save them from debts much as we do servicemembers with their relief fund; another legislative measure I will be advocating and advancing. We owe it to them. We owe it to the country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### MARCH FOR LIFE

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined on the floor by Senator BLUNT, Senator WICKER, and Senator FISCHER to speak about the importance of protecting and celebrating life.

This Friday, Americans from every State in our Nation, from our tiny rural towns to our bustling urban cities, will gather in our Nation's Capital to participate in the 46th annual March for Life.

Each year, I am amazed and inspired by the immeasurable strength, compassion, and support demonstrated by the pro-life community, as hundreds of thousands of its members come to Washington, DC, and tirelessly work to protect the most vulnerable in our society—the unborn.

As members of the Senate Values Action Team, throughout the year, we are blessed with the opportunity to work with and hear from so many who are committed to protecting human life at all stages.

I thank my colleagues for sharing this message of life today, and at this time I would like to yield to the Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator ERNST for yielding and for her leadership in these issues.

All of us here today are here at a time when thousands of people from around the country, including hundreds from Missouri, will be here to participate in the annual March for Life. They see it, as we do, that an unborn child is not a potential person, but it is a person with potential, a whole living, distinct human being.

Polling reflects that the American people understand that in a significant way. It is not a celebration but a powerful reminder that we value life as people come here this time of year. More Americans are coming all the time to support life. We just had a meeting with someone who was going through the recent Knights of Columbus and Marist poll. Three in four Americans say abortion should be limited to, at most, the first 3 months of pregnancy. These numbers continue to move in the direction of understanding that life begins at conception, and more and more people believe that life deserves to be protected just like any life would.

A majority of Americans oppose using taxpayer dollars to pay for any

abortion at any time. Seventy-five percent of Americans oppose using taxpayer dollars to fund abortion overseas. This includes 64 percent of self-identified, pro-choice Democrats who say they are not for spending taxpayer dollars to fund abortions overseas. Fifty-six percent of Democrats and 80 percent of Independents comprise that as well as, as I said before, 64 percent of pro-choice individuals collectively say they are not for that.

Preventing taxpayer funding for abortion has been longstanding law and has had a bipartisan consensus until just recently. Now, this is an important issue that the country disagrees on, but the one thing we reached agreement on is, those people who think there is nothing wrong with abortion shouldn't force the tax dollars of people who believe it is the most fundamentally wrong thing you can do to be used for abortion.

So the Hyde amendment prevents taxpayer funding of abortions or abortion coverage in various Federal healthcare programs, including Medicaid and Medicare and the Children's Health Insurance Program. All of those programs are, in effect, walled off from Federal support if abortion is involved.

A bill I initially passed as chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee, renewed again this year the Hyde amendment, as it has been renewed every year since 1976 and signed into law in every year since 1976 by Republicans and Democrats in the White House.

Recent calls to appeal the amendment, however, in the Democratic Party platform and from a number of my friends on the other side of the aisle, are just simply out of touch with where a majority of Americans are and where 100 percent of the people coming here for the March for Life are.

Instead, far from being repealed, the Hyde amendment, in my view, needs to be made permanent, and it needs to be applied across the entire Federal spending spectrum, as it was initially anticipated. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, which would do just exactly that.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the efforts of what has become one of the most pro-life administrations in our Nation's history.

One of the first Executive orders President Trump signed was to reinstate and expand the Mexico City policy. In fact, he wanted to expand it to the point that he even wanted to retitling it to the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy. The policy prevents Federal tax dollars from funding foreign NGOs—foreign nongovernmental organizations—that perform or promote abortion.

I also want to call attention to the efforts the administration has taken proposing regulations that would first of all prevent title X family planning grantees from colocating with abortion clinics or from promoting or referring

clients for abortions. None of that money was ever to be used for those purposes, but it is pretty hard when you are in the same facility, funded by the same overall group, not to suggest there is some connection.

President Trump and his administration have said that would not be allowed. They have passed regulations to further protect the right of conscience. In a famous letter written in the last year of his Presidency, President Jefferson said that the right of conscience—the right to fervently believe what you believe is the right thing—should be the right we hold the most dear, and the President is trying to be sure that applies in every possible case to Federal law as well.

They also voted to separate payment requirements from abortion coverage in ObamaCare and have really continued to do exactly what the President said he would do in these areas.

I know we all also want to encourage those who are participating in the March for Life on Friday. Every human life matters. The advocacy of people who come here year after year or perhaps are coming for the very first time makes a difference.

So for the efforts of the thousands who defy the weather—and the anniversary of the decision just happens to be in what almost always turns out to be the worst weather we have in Washington during the year, but that doesn't seem to deter those who are marching here or those who are speaking to those who come here to defy the weather and to March for Life.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. On the Senator from Iowa's time, let me join her and the Senator from Missouri, and I associate myself with their remarks and their support, not only for the March for Life, which will occur on Friday, but also for the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, which I am proud to be the principal cosponsor of and which will, we hope, have a vote on the Senate floor by tomorrow afternoon.

I was a pretty young staffer for then-Congressman Trent Lott in 1981 when I first became aware that there was such a thing as the March for Life. I can assure you that it will be much more massive this year than it was back in those early days when Americans were struggling with what *Roe v. Wade* meant and when they weren't quite so sure about what the science was about this practice of abortion.

As each year passes, as more and more parents see that sonogram, as more and more grandparents—and I am a grandparent to six now; I am buddy to six beautiful grandchildren—see the sonograms early on and we see the feet and we see the heartbeat and we see the faces of these children, we realize as Americans—and more and more Americans are coming to the realization—that this is a living human that deserves protection.

Senator BLUNT was accurate in saying we have good polling. Polling is

coming around to our way. Even if some people consider themselves to be pro-choice, when you delve down into the figures and ask them the questions, it turns out they are not quite so pro-abortion as we might think.

When we ask the question that the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion bill goes to centrally—Do you support taxpayer funding for abortion?—the polls show that 24 percent oppose and 30 percent strongly oppose. A majority, or 54 percent of Americans—some of whom would actually check the box and say they are pro-choice—say no, we shouldn't go so far as to provide taxpayer funding for abortions. That is what this legislation, which tomorrow afternoon will be considered on the floor of the Senate, would do.

When asked another question: Should abortions be banned after 20 weeks, with the exception of risking the life of the mother? And 59 percent of Americans say yes, they strongly support that or support banning abortions after the 20th week.

So I would say that the March for Life is working, year after year, step after step, and I hope we get a good vote on the floor of the Senate tomorrow.

Do I think this is going to sail through the House of Representatives and be sent by NANCY PELOSI's House to the President for signature? Probably not, but we make the case. We warmly welcome these marchers for life each and every year, and we appreciate what they have done to move the needle of public opinion and to protect those innocent people who have no way of protecting themselves.

I see that we are joined by my distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from Nebraska, and perhaps she might have some remarks to say.

I will yield the floor at this point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the thousands of people who will travel to our Nation's Capital this week to join us in the March for Life. Marching proudly among them will be many, many Nebraskans—families, neighbors, student organizations, and church groups. They are going to brave the snow and freezing temperatures to march along the National Mall as part of a peaceful rally that draws attention to pro-life and pro-women policies.

Since I first started my career in public service, I have supported commonsense pro-life measures that protect women and unborn children. All too often, women are faced with unplanned pregnancies, and they experience condemnation instead of compassion. These women shoulder despair, pain, and judgment when they should receive comfort, assistance, and reassurance. These mothers should always know that they have support as they face challenging years ahead.

In the Senate, I am proud to pledge my support for several pro-life bills.

This afternoon, I would like to highlight a few of them.

Once again, I am cosponsoring the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. This legislation would prohibit abortions after 20 weeks unless it is necessary to save the life of the mother or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. Twenty weeks, as advances in science and medical technology tell us, is the point at which an unborn child is capable of feeling pain.

When I served in the Nebraska Legislature, we passed the first ban on abortions after 20 weeks. Republicans and Democrats, pro-choice and pro-life Senators, voted in its favor because it is sound policy. We should enact this commonsense legislation at the Federal level as well.

I am also a cosponsor of the Protect Funding for Women's Health Care Act. This bill would prevent the Federal funding of Planned Parenthood or any of its affiliates. In 2016, Planned Parenthood received nearly \$544 million from the Federal Government. I believe that Congress must redirect this funding to where it belongs, and that is to our community health centers.

In Nebraska we have seven community health centers, with 44 clinic sites all across our State. I have had the opportunity to visit these sites, and I have seen firsthand the high-quality, compassionate care they provide to women in need. Our patients in Nebraska would be better served if this Federal funding were directed toward these centers and also these clinics, which serve all Nebraskans—all Nebraskans everywhere in our State—not Planned Parenthood.

The Protect Funding for Women's Health Care Act is another commonsense solution that will protect life and help provide comprehensive healthcare for women. Finally, I will once again support the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act, introduced by the senior Senator from Mississippi. Since the 1970s, the Hyde amendment has prohibited Federal funds for abortions, but it requires a yearly passage through Congress. This measure would permanently establish in statute the protections of the Hyde amendment. These are a few of the important pro-life policies that I am working on in the Senate.

Again, I want to welcome all of the Nebraskans who are traveling over 1,000 miles to take part in the March for Life. It is great to see the pro-life movement building such momentum. More and more young people are joining the cause and standing tall for this timeless value, and I want to thank each and every one of them for their courage and for taking a stand for what they believe in and for what science tells us.

They march not with anger or condemnation, but with love and hope. They will be living out the direction of Mother Teresa, when at the 1994 National Prayer Breakfast she said:

A sign of care for the weakest of the weak—the unborn child—must go out to the

world. . . . then really you will be true to what the founders of this country stood for.

So to all of the Nebraskans and to all Americans who will gather here in Washington for the March for Life, please know that I support your every step.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

(The remarks of Ms. ERNST pertaining to the submission of S. 141 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Ms. ERNST. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SASSE. 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. SASSE. Mr. President, I am going to speak again shortly from the floor, but, very briefly, I want to associate myself with the comments of my senior Senator, DEB FISCHER from Nebraska, who just spoke and welcomed Nebraska's pro-life students to the Capitol over the next 3 days. It is wonderful to be associated with a movement that is fundamentally about love and is about the dignity of every baby. So I join my senior Senator in welcoming Nebraska's pro-life students to the Capitol and to Washington, DC, for the March for Life on Friday.

I thank the President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I was just over in the Russell Senate Office Building, and a group of freshmen from the House intercepted me and handed me this piece of paper, this document, and asked that it be made part of the RECORD of the Senate, and I have come to do that.

Let me explain that these freshmen House Members want to see the Senate engaged in debate on how to end this shutdown of our government. They see in their home districts across this country tremendous damage occurring in all kinds of fashions—damage to security; damage to the economy; damage to families trying to get a home mortgage, and they can't get their FHA approval; damage to farmers who are seeking that loan that is necessary to prepare for the next farming season; damage in the preparation for next summer's forest fires.

I have been hearing about this from my home State. In Oregon, we just had

a training for fighting fires canceled. We have prescribed burns that need to be done during the winter that are being canceled. We have thinning, which makes the forest more fire-resilient, that is being canceled. We have the reduction of fuels on the forest floor that add to the intensity of fires—the removal of those—being canceled. These just add more to the list of so many ways that folks are being affected across the country.

I am going to share this letter with the Presiding Officer and our colleagues. It says:

Dear Senator McConnell:

We write as Members of the Freshman Class of the 116th Congress, an historic group that has the distinction of being the first Congress to be seated in the midst of a partial government shutdown.

We as a legislative branch have the power to end this shutdown now. In December, the Senate unanimously passed legislation that would have kept the government open. In January, the House then passed those same bipartisan bills and sent them to the Senate. If the Senate were to pass these bills, we would be able to reopen the government and then proceed to debate about immigration reform and border security.

However, it is impossible to have a meaningful policy discussion while the executive holds public servants hostage. We respectfully request that you allow the Congress to work its will and allow a vote on this bipartisan legislation to end this shutdown so that we can end this manufactured crisis and allow our devoted federal workers to get back to work for the American people.

Sincerely Susie Lee, Member of Congress; Abby Finkenauer, Member of Congress; Mikie Sherrill, Member of Congress; Mike Levin; Jahana Hayes; Lori Trahan; Katie Hill; Ayanna Pressley; David Trone; Ed Case; Gill Cisneros; Rashida Tlaib; Kendra Horn; Angie Craig; Joe Cunningham; Chris Pappas; Andy Levin; Susan Wild; Sylvia Garcia; Katie Porter; Debbie Mucarsel-Powell; Ilhan Omar; Madeline Dean; Haley Stevens; Greg Stanton; Josh Harder; Lucy McBath; Abigail Spanberger; Chrissy Houlahan; Donna Shalala; Lauren Underwood; Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez; Veronica Escobar; TJ Cox; Dean Phillips; Jahana Hayes; and then a few more people who have added their names in script that I may not be able to read accurately.

In total, there are an estimated 46 signatures on this letter addressed to Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, January 16, 2019.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL: We write as Members of the Freshman Class of the 116th Congress, an historic group that has the distinction of being the first Congress to be seated in the midst of a partial government shutdown.

We as the legislative branch have the power to end this shutdown now. In December, the Senate unanimously passed legislation that would have kept the government open. In January, the House then passed

those same bipartisan bills and sent them to the Senate. If the Senate were to pass these bills, we would be able to re-open the government and then proceed to a debate about immigration reform and border security.

However, it is impossible to have a meaningful policy discussion while the executive holds public servants hostage. We respectfully request that you allow the Congress to work its will and allow a vote on this bipartisan legislation to end the shutdown so that we can end this manufactured crisis and allow our devoted federal workers to get back to work for the American people.

Sincerely,

Susie Lee, Abby Finkenauer, Mikie Sherrill, Mike Levin, Jahana Hayes, Lori Trahan, Katie Hill, Ed Case, Gil Cisneros, Rashida Tlaib, Kendra Horn, Angie Craig, Chris Pappas, Andy Levin, Susan Wild, Sylvia Garcia, Katie Porter, Ilhan Omar, Madeleine Dean, Josh Harder, Debra A. Haaland, Lucy McBath, Abigail Spanberger, Chrissy Houlahan, Donna Shalala, Lauren Underwood, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Veronica Escobar, TJ Cox, Dean Phillips, Elaine G. Luria, Tom Malinowski, Steven Horsford, Sharice Davids, Joe Neguse, Cynthia Axne.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, the freshmen of the House are speaking a lot of common sense in this letter. They are saying: Here we are, looking at bills that the Senate passed under Republican leadership and that the House has passed under Democratic leadership. That is the foundation for going forward. Let not the Senate leadership be the obstruction to common sense. Let not this Chamber sit empty, sit quiet, and sit without votes on these bills to put our government back to work.

They want to see the Senate have the courage to take positions, to be here and argue, to say yes or no, but we don't say yes or no if there is no bill before us, and that must confound these 46 freshmen, who kind of expected that after more than 200 years of organizing, we would have a Senate that could actually operate as a legislative body, not sit here vacant and quiet in the midst of a national catastrophe—a catastrophe of the Trump shutdown affecting so many families.

There are 800,000 families of Federal workers, hundreds of thousands more families of contractors, millions of Americans who simply want a core government service so that they can proceed with their lives—a business permit, a home mortgage, an agricultural loan, work being done to prevent forest fires, and a compromise to our national security in terms of our Coast Guard and our TSA agents. It makes no common sense for us to sit here without action.

I praise the House freshmen for bringing a fresh, intense, commonsense view to the conversation on Capitol Hill. Let their words be heard in this Chamber.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM BARR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss the nomi-

nation of William Barr to be Attorney General.

Today, I want to make clear that I will be opposed to this nomination for several reasons. I am just going to outline some of my key concerns that really haven't been addressed much over the last few weeks.

I am specifically concerned about his view that the President of the United States is effectively royalty, in his book, and he seems to believe that the President is unaccountable to the laws of our Nation or to the normal constraints imposed by the Congress. Today, I am going to focus on what I consider to be Mr. Barr's dangerous views on surveillance and his contempt for surveillance laws and the Fourth Amendment.

It is my view this is not a partisan issue. There has been, for some years, a bipartisan coalition in the Senate that has battled to protect the privacy and constitutional rights of Americans, but Mr. Barr's views, after I have laid them out today, ought to frighten every Member of this Senate. What Mr. Barr has said is that whether the Congress supports broader or narrower surveillance authorities and regardless of whether Congress votes for more checks and balances and oversight, it really doesn't matter. He has made the judgment, based on the proposition which he has stated very clearly, that the President can essentially do what he wants.

This nominee, in my view, poses a unique threat to the rule of law and the Fourth Amendment. His long-held views, which presumably he would put in practice if confirmed, threaten the very notion that Congress or the courts have any say in who in America gets spied on. If he is confirmed as Attorney General, he could take us back—and not just 12 years to an era of warrantless wiretapping. As Mr. Barr himself has made clear, he would be taking us back 40 years, to an era before the Church Committee, when neither Congress nor the courts had any role at all in checking or overseeing an abusive, out-of-control government.

Before the reforms of the 1970s, as has now been well documented, the government committed one horrific abuse after another. It spied on hundreds of thousands of innocent Americans. It spied on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It spied on activists. It spied on Congress. When these abuses finally came to light, Congress acted by passing the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which established a secret court to issue warrants against spies and terrorists.

Unfortunately, as we now know, the government violated the law when it implemented its warrantless wiretapping program in 2001. The program included warrantless collection of the content of private communications, including through warrantless targeting of phone numbers and email addresses of people in our country. The program also included the bulk collection of

phone and email records of enormous numbers of innocent, law-abiding Americans. All of this occurred in secret, without warrants or any judicial oversight at all, and almost no one—no one in the Congress, nor even most members of the Intelligence Committee—knew anything about it.

The secrecy didn't even end when the bulk phone and email record programs were moved under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The Obama administration, just like the Bush administration, kept this abusive program and the secret legal interpretations behind it from the American people, even lying about it in public testimony.

How did these abusive and illegal programs get their start? With secret determinations made at the Department of Justice that the law didn't matter and that the President can do what he wants.

That brings us to Mr. Barr. His dangerous views on Executive power have long been consistent—consistent—throughout his career, from his writings at the Department of Justice in the late 1980s to the present, but in October of 2003, he laid out in public testimony his position that, in Mr. Barr's view, the President is not accountable to surveillance laws and that the President enjoys huge loopholes in the Fourth Amendment.

October of 2003 was shortly after Congress had passed the PATRIOT Act, legislation that many in Congress have come to view as granting too much authority with too little oversight, but from Mr. Barr's perspective, the PATRIOT Act was too limiting and too constraining, and that wasn't even the most troubling part of his testimony. Right up front, he asked himself the question of whether the law was adequate to fight terrorism. Here is what he said. He said he wasn't worried about the law, and this is a direct quote: "The critical legal powers are granted directly by the Constitution itself, not by Congressional enactments." In other words, Mr. Barr's view of surveillance is that the laws passed by Congress do not matter. If the President wants to violate them, it is Mr. Barr's position that he can just go out and say he has constitutional authority and do it.

Here is a direct quote from Mr. Barr's testimony. Talking about laws going back to the 1970s, he said: "Numerous statutes were passed, such as [the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act], that purported to supplant Presidential discretion with Congressionally crafted schemes whereby judges become the arbiter of national security decisions."

I am going to unpack that sentence for a minute. From Mr. Barr's perspective, decades of laws passed by the U.S. Congress are nothing but schemes—schemes. He is talking about the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, a fundamental framework of checks and balances that Congress has relied on

for four decades to ensure congressional and judicial oversight of surveillance. He is talking about every modification of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, from the PATRIOT Act to what is called section 702, reauthorized last year, to the USA Freedom Act, which was intended to stop the collection of millions of innocent Americans' phone records. Whatever you think of these statutes, they are how Congress determines the extent of the government's surveillance powers and exercises its responsibility to protect the rights of Americans. Mr. Barr notwithstanding, these duly enacted laws of Congress are not mere schemes.

Worse still, it is Mr. Barr's contention that all of these laws only purport to have any effect. The President, says Mr. Barr, has the discretion to ignore them. By definition, if you are saying that the President can just ignore the laws, in effect, that is a position that is in favor of tyranny. This is as dangerous a position as I have heard in congressional testimony. It is very similar to the language that was concocted in the Department of Justice to justify warrantless wiretapping—and these are the views coming from the man who might be Attorney General of the United States.

Mr. Barr is correct that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act gives judges some say in when the government can spy on Americans. It is a secret system, one that greatly advantages the government and almost always precludes challenges from those who are spied on. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act has been abused through secret interpretations of law, but the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act does involve judges considering the Fourth Amendment rights of Americans, and that is what Mr. Barr objects to.

Based on his own testimony, it is clear to me that Mr. Barr has fundamental problems with the Fourth Amendment or at least its application to anything the President might unilaterally decide involves national security. He believes that if the government determines there is a threat, there is no need to ask a judge for a warrant.

The Fourth Amendment protects the rights of the people to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures unless there is a probable cause warrant. That is what the Constitution says. Mr. Barr, however, has found two very big loopholes in the Fourth Amendment.

First, he insists that if the government decides a foreigner in the United States is "apparently acting as a terrorist," then he or she is not one of the "people," and the government can just throw out the Fourth Amendment.

Second, Mr. Barr argues that so long as the government says there is a threat, a warrantless search is not unreasonable, and the warrant requirement under the Fourth Amendment simply doesn't apply.

At the core of Mr. Barr's philosophy is that no one—not Congress and certainly not judges—has any business assessing the government's assertion about threats.

Here is another quote from Mr. Barr: These are "assessments judges are not competent to make or responsible for making under the Constitution."

For 40 years, judges of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Court have been making these determinations, but, from Mr. Barr's perspective, the courts are not competent to decide who gets spied on; only the President gets that power.

Some might ask whether Mr. Barr has had a change of heart, particularly since Congress has passed additional surveillance authority in the year since his testimony. I hope we see in the days ahead where he stands, whether he now believes that spying on Americans and people in the United States has to be consistent with the laws passed by Congress, but his 2003 testimony suggests that even new, sweeping, bipartisan laws that have passed wouldn't satisfy him.

A little over a decade ago, Congress created section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. That allows for warrantless spying on foreigners overseas. I have said our country faces real threats from foreigners overseas, so I stipulate that is something that is important to the safety of the law-abiding people whom we all represent. I have had serious concerns about the number of innocent Americans whose communications are being swept up under section 702 collection, but at least the targets of the surveillance are overseas.

Mr. Barr would go further in his testimony, calling for the warrantless targeting of people inside the United States. According to Mr. Barr, there are individuals right here in the United States who have no Fourth Amendment rights. This is an important issue today, and it will become more important in the days ahead.

I have already stipulated that I think there are serious threats to our country overseas. What troubles me is, as telecommunication systems around the world become more globally interconnected, more and more innocent Americans are going to get swept up in these searches. To me, when you are talking—as Mr. Barr seems to be doing—that there are individuals in our country who have no Fourth Amendment rights, that is why I think all Senators should be troubled about these positions he has long espoused.

There is also the matter of collecting business records, sensitive information about Americans that are in possession of a third party. Here, we are talking about your purchases, who you are communicating with, where you are located at any time of the day.

Mr. Barr believes that the Fourth Amendment doesn't apply to any records held by a company or other third party, no matter how sensitive

that information is. This view has actually been rejected recently by the U.S. Supreme Court. What Mr. Barr has been saying is actually out of sync even with the current thinking of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court most recently held that the Fourth Amendment does apply to the government's collection of location data from wireless carriers.

Apparently, yesterday Mr. Barr said he had not read that Supreme Court decision. Colleagues. I think that ought to be really troubling to the Members of this body. We are talking about location data. Location data can be a personal safety and national security nightmare.

We saw what happened just last week. In 2018, the wireless companies all made promises to me that they wouldn't make available precise location data to hedge funds, bail bondsmen—all kinds of bottom feeders just looking to make a buck. What happened was, in 2018, those wireless companies said they wouldn't make that data available any longer to these location trackers and bail bondsmen and the like, and then last week, a bounty hunter got 300 bucks and found out those 2018 promises to me meant nothing. So last week, the wireless companies promised again that they wouldn't make location data available to all of these financially interested parties. I appreciate their saying it, but I will tell you, I will believe it when I see it, because we got a promise in 2018 that they would be serious about protecting location data, and we saw last week that they weren't.

We have the Supreme Court now making it clear that the Fourth Amendment applies to the government's collection of location data from wireless carriers, but the person who is up for nomination, Mr. Barr, has not been willing to or doesn't find it important enough to even read the Supreme Court decision on this case.

The government's collection of business records is authorized by section 215 of FISA, which was part of the PATRIOT Act. There are serious concerns about 215. It was abused for years to carry out a secret program that swept up the phone records of millions of innocent, law-abiding Americans. Even after the USA FREEDOM Act, which was intended to end bulk collection, it has been used to collect hundreds of millions of phone records. All the government needs to collect these records is to show the FISA Court that the records are relevant to an investigation. There is no requirement for a probable cause warrant.

This important law sunsets this year, so the Congress will have a debate about whether these authorities are too broad, whether there is a need for more checks and balances. I see my colleague from Texas, who also serves on the Intelligence Committee. We are going to have a debate on it. That is the way it ought to be.

Today, we are talking about what I consider to be dangerous views espoused by Mr. Barr. What Mr. Barr believes is that the government shouldn't have any court oversight at all when it comes to collecting the records on Americans. He thinks the government should just unilaterally issue a subpoena and collect those records and that there would be no oversight whatever. The foundation of Mr. Barr's beliefs when it comes to surveillance is that the President can do whatever he wants if he believes national security is at stake.

I am going to close by simply talking for an additional minute or two about what it will mean if Mr. Barr is confirmed as Donald Trump's Attorney General.

Right now, the President is openly considering a declaration that he, Donald Trump, has emergency powers to override the will of the Congress, and he is doing this while relying on a baseless assertion that there is a national security crisis.

Until he was fact-checked, he was making very far-fetched claims about terrorists coming over the border. He also regularly calls journalists "enemies of the people" and calls for investigations of his political enemies.

I would oppose the nomination of anyone with William Barr's views on Executive power regardless of who was President, but the kinds of threats I am talking about are too serious to ignore.

Donald Trump has openly said and said specifically how much he would enjoy unchecked surveillance power. During the 2016 campaign, when the Russians were hacking his opponents, the President of the United States, our current President, said: "honestly, I wish I had that power. I'd love to have that power."

If Donald Trump decides that national security is at stake and William Barr is the Attorney General, it would be Mr. Barr who might give him that power—power he could use with no oversight from the courts and without regard to what Mr. Barr has dismissed as "the schemes"—our laws—of Congress.

In case anyone thinks Mr. Barr would himself serve as a check on the President, he has also written that that is not the Attorney General's job. Just last year, he wrote that all Executive power rests in one and only one person—the President—and that the President doesn't have to convince his Attorney General that his orders are legal.

Let me be clear. The issues I have raised with respect to Mr. Barr's views on surveillance are not kind of conjecture or possible theories. What I have been talking about this afternoon are the views outlined in Mr. Barr's own testimony. I hope every Member of this body will take the time to read Mr. Barr's testimony and consider what is at stake.

There are Members in both political parties in this Chamber who have long

been concerned about the expansive surveillance authorities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and the possible abuse of that law. Those concerns are, in my view, small potatoes compared to what Mr. Barr has proposed, which is that the law need not constrain the President whatsoever. For example, some Members of this body have expressed concern about Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act warrants in connection with the Russia investigation and whether all relevant information has been provided to the FISA Court. Consider a world in which the government doesn't need a warrant and doesn't have to justify its surveillance to any court. Consider the possibility of abuse in that world. That is the world Mr. Barr has testified he wants.

I also would appeal to my colleagues with whom I have had some pretty vigorous debates over the years about surveillance and who may have no concerns about the current framework of our laws. We can have our disagreements about how to write the law. Here in the Senate, we do agree that the laws passed by the Congress mean something. They are binding, and they are not, as Mr. Barr has stated, "schemes" that the President can just ignore whenever he feels like it.

This nominee has been more than clear about where he stands. He believes that the President alone decides when there is a threat and that when he does, he doesn't have to worry about Congress, judges, or the laws, or the Constitution. In my view, that is a prescription for trouble, a prescription for more abuses—abuses that Congress may or may not even be told about. But we have been warned. We have been warned by Mr. Barr's testimony.

I also would like to note that I have concerns about Mr. Barr that relate to classified matters, and I am currently seeking declassification of those matters and hope that this will be resolved prior to any votes on the nominee.

I see colleagues are waiting.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate Judiciary Committee began to hear witnesses on the nomination of Bill Barr to be the next Attorney General of the United States. We heard first, of course, from Mr. Barr himself all day yesterday and today from additional witnesses.

By any standard, Mr. Barr is an exceptionally qualified individual, in part because 27 years ago, he was Attorney General, nominated and confirmed unanimously—nominated by President George Herbert Walker Bush. Under his leadership at the time, the Department of Justice focused on some of the most important law enforcement challenges facing our country at that time. They worked to fight violent crime and combat the drug epidemic, both of which continue to do great harm to communities across the country still today.

As significant as the work done under his leadership was, I was more impressed with the fact that after 27 years, he was willing to take on the task of becoming Attorney General once again. He said he was sort of semiretired. He and his wife were looking forward to spending more time with their children and grandchildren. But he answered the call to public service, and I am grateful that he did. He knows that our Nation needs a strong law-and-order Attorney General at the Department of Justice.

When he spoke at his confirmation hearing more than 2½ decades ago, he said:

The Attorney General must ensure that the administration of justice—the enforcement of the law—is above and away from politics. Nothing could be more destructive of our system of government, the rule of law, or the Department of Justice as an institution, than any toleration of political interference with the enforcement of the law.

He repeated that commitment yesterday, and I think the need for that sort of strong statement is more important today than ever.

I believe Attorney General Barr will be a good Attorney General, assuming what is one of the most challenging positions in the Cabinet because you are a political appointee but you are also the chief law enforcement officer in the country. That sometimes can be difficult to navigate.

As the nominee noted, doing the job and doing it well sometimes requires being prepared to burn your political capital in order to preserve the rule of law. I believe this is the most fundamental quality of a good Attorney General, and having a leader at the helm of the Department of Justice with the right temperament and a fundamental understanding of this responsibility is critical now and forever. In recent years, we witnessed some Attorneys General carrying out actions that repeatedly toed that political line, sometimes crossed it.

Under the Obama administration, the Department of Justice began to veer increasingly away from the impartial administration of law and toward politics. That shift undoubtedly occurred at the hands of President Obama's Attorneys General who were in the driver's seat during his administration, Eric Holder and Loretta Lynch.

Both Holder's and Lynch's conduct has come under a great deal of scrutiny—even now, after they have left—and for good reason.

For example, under then-Attorney General Holder, there was something called Operation Fast and Furious in which the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the Department of Justice purposefully allowed the illegal sale of firearms in Mexico in the hopes of being able to track them. Unfortunately, there were a number of casualties, including Border Patrolman Brian Terry, who was killed with one of those firearms in 2010. Attorney General Holder never accepted responsibility

for Brian Terry's death or ever admitted that allowing these guns to walk into Mexico, into the hands of some criminal organizations, was a terrible mistake.

Under his watch, the IRS targeting controversy occurred in which politically aligned groups applying for tax-exempt status faced official oppression based upon their political affiliation.

Then, of course, more recently, let's not forget then-Attorney General Lynch's handling of the Clinton email scandal—something even James Comey, the FBI Director, objected to—along with her famous so-called tarmac meeting with former President Bill Clinton when his wife was under an active FBI investigation. The conduct of both Holder and Lynch undermined the public's confidence in the impartial administration of justice and law at the Justice Department.

Under the leadership of my friend and our former colleague, Jeff Sessions, the Department of Justice has begun to right the ship and again separate politics from the impartial administration of the law, and I am confident that Mr. Barr will continue to do the same.

During his confirmation hearing, Mr. Barr reaffirmed that politicians should not interfere with criminal investigations, and he likewise committed not to interfere with the special counsel's investigation. He assured us that his allegiance will be to the rule of law, to the Constitution, and to the American people, and that, above all else, he will work to protect the professionalism and integrity of the Department of Justice and the thousands of dedicated public servants who work there.

Not only is Mr. Barr exceptionally qualified for the job, he is prepared on day one to step in and lead with distinction.

The Senate unanimously confirmed his nomination to three different positions at the Department of Justice, and I hope we can work expeditiously to get this fine man to the Department of Justice once again.

I thank Mr. Barr and his entire family for agreeing to bring his talents and his temperament to the Department of Justice at a time when those qualities are so desperately needed, and I look forward to voting yes on his nomination.

#### REMEMBERING HERB KELLEHER

Mr. President, on another matter, I want to share a few words about the passing of one of the airline industry's most unconventional and most successful executives. That would be Herb Kelleher, who cofounded Southwest Airlines.

Herb was born in 1931 in New Jersey, and his young life and early career kept him on the east coast. He graduated from Wesleyan University and New York University School of Law and served as a law clerk for 2 years at the New Jersey Supreme Court and then joined a law firm in Newark. But as fate intervened in this promising

young lawyer's career, he met his wife Joan, a native Texan, and they decided to move to the Lone Star State, something he later referred to as the greatest business decision he ever made.

Building America's largest domestic airline carrier was never on Herb's to-do list. In the late 1960s, he was an attorney in San Antonio, when one day his client approached him with an idea about a low-fare airline serving three Texas cities. Tired of spending so much time in the car traveling between San Antonio and Houston and Dallas, he believed they could make point-to-point intrastate travel faster and much cheaper by flying, and also cheaper than other airlines.

Getting their innovative idea off the ground wasn't easy. These men who founded Southwest Airlines slogged through years of legal battles before the airline operated its first flight. Their vision not only led to the creation of a budget airline but also drove down the cost of their competitors, as competition will do.

To maintain their edge, Southwest tried some interesting ideas along the way. After another airline ran an ad calling Southwest a cheap carrier, Herb responded by filming a commercial where he wore a brown paper bag over his head and promised that the airline would gladly provide one to any customer too embarrassed to be seen flying on Southwest Airline.

At one point, to compete with the low fares of other airlines, Southwest started a program to keep customers, and they said: You can either pay the lowest fare or pay full fare and get a full premium bottle of liquor in the process. Well, apparently it worked, and for a short time, I am told, Southwest was the largest liquor distributor in the State of Texas.

I think one of the most distinctly Herb Kelleher stories is of a battle called "The Malice in Dallas."

In 1992, Southwest Airlines and another company realized their slogans—"Plane Smart" and "Just Plane Smart"—were similar. Rather than settling the matter in court, they settled it by holding a public arm wrestling match.

The 61-year-old, with the cigarette fixed between his teeth, gave his much younger competitor a run for his money, but he couldn't pull off a win. At the end of the match, the two men made donations to each other's chosen charities. They agreed to share the slogan and called it a day.

Each of these stories has Herb Kelleher written all over it. He was known for his gregarious personality, his incredible work ethic, and his penchant for the nontraditional, not to mention his affinity for Wild Turkey.

I first met Herb when I represented him in a lawsuit early in my legal career in San Antonio. He had a larger-than-life personality, and it was a pleasure to know him.

We can all learn a lesson from Herb about the importance of working hard,

treating people with respect, and not being afraid to have a little bit of fun along the way. His entrepreneurial spirit was credited with democratizing the skies by disrupting the airline industry, and I believe he was one of the most consequential leaders in American aviation, and we have all benefited from that.

So I join Herb's wife Joan, his children, his grandchildren, his many friends, and, of course, his beloved Southwest Airlines family in mourning the loss of this larger-than-life figure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

#### MENTHOL CIGARETTES

Mr. BARR. Mr. President, I also mourn Herb's loss. It is odd that I would be here to protect his ability to have that cigarette in his mouth as he was negotiating.

I rise today to discuss the recent announcement by the Food and Drug Administration to move forward with a ban on menthol cigarettes. This announcement, to say the least, is surprising. In an administration claiming to decrease regulation on the American people, this announcement works completely counter to that goal—increasing regulation and decreasing the choices for adult consumers in America.

Making matters worse, the announcement comes from an Agency that the American people trust. They trust them to make decisions based upon the most sound and reliable science available. Unfortunately, the FDA has not provided a sound scientific argument to move forward with the ban on one type of product that Americans consume understanding fully the risk.

On November 30, 2018, I raised this concern with the Food and Drug Administration. As a part of their announcement, the FDA claimed that their regulatory actions are based on information released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC.

When I asked for the data supporting this menthol decision, I was informed that this data would be made available later this year. I also asked the FDA to explain to me whether the Agency has determined that menthol cigarettes make more children try smoking or whether these products make it more difficult for children to stop smoking.

I pause here because I am sure the Presiding Officer is remembering that it is illegal for people under 18 to purchase tobacco products.

The FDA simply informed me that the information I requested would be part of a proposed rule available for stakeholder comment.

Now, I think you would agree that it is highly unusual for a science-based Agency to refuse to provide the data informing its regulatory decisions to a seated Member of the U.S. Congress. This should set off alarm bells. Any product regulated by the FDA might

fall into this category of “no Member of Congress being able to know.”

Well, it may seem odd, but the FDA regulates 25 cents of every dollar of the U.S. economy—no wonder it takes so long and costs so much for new drugs and devices to come to market.

As a result, I did my own research. The chart behind me, with 2017 data from the CDC, shows that children’s use of traditional menthol cigarettes has decreased 3 percent since 2011. Let me say that again. Since 2011, usage by youth in America of menthol cigarettes has reduced from 5.8 percent to 2.5 percent.

This data runs counter to the need for increased regulation and decreased choices for consumers and calls into question the FDA’s own decision.

In 2009, Congress debated the regulation of tobacco products. I was here for the entire debate and was an active participant in the dialogue. I alone provided over 16 hours of remarks on the Senate floor so that my colleagues understood my concerns with this type of legislation and to ensure, quite frankly, that the voice of North Carolinians was clearly and deeply understood in the U.S. Senate.

One issue discussed during that debate was actually the banning of flavors in cigarettes, including menthol. Congress struggled to come to a consensus on this issue, offering many iterations at the time of the legislation, taking different approaches to the ban of any, all, or none of the flavors available in cigarettes at the time.

Ultimately, the decision was made for the FDA to thoroughly study the effects of menthol cigarettes.

The Agency issued its report in 2011 and commissioned a third-party entity to study the science behind menthol cigarettes, for which a report was issued in 2013.

Now, what resulted from the results of that study?

For the remainder of President Obama’s terms in office, which ended in 2016, their FDA never attempted to move a menthol ban. Why? Because the results of that information—that scientific data—did not substantiate what, in fact, that would accomplish.

In the 5 years since the publication of these studies, the science has not changed to justify the ban of an entire product category by the FDA.

Each year, the CDC issues the latest data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey. This survey asks about 20,000 children about their tobacco use, and it has been conducted since 1999. This survey covers details of middle and high schoolers’ use and exposure to a variety of tobacco products, and it includes specifics on the use of different product categories, like traditional cigarettes and e-cigarettes, as well as data on the percentage of survey participants who tried menthol.

The CDC data shows that there has been a 12-point decrease in the percentage of children trying traditional cigarettes since 2011.

Let me state that again.

The CDC’s own data shows that there has been a 12-percent reduction in the percentage of children trying traditional cigarettes since 2011.

Now, this is good news. The use of cigarettes among children is decreasing, showing that our education and our public health efforts are, in fact, working.

As I mentioned before, the survey shows that the use of menthol cigarettes by children has also declined, decreasing 3 percent since 2011.

Even the FDA’s own data shows the decline in children’s use of traditional cigarettes.

Now, this chart I have basically shows that traditional cigarettes have fallen 12 percent since 2011, compared to the latest survey data of 2017. It is probably difficult for some to see, but the red arrow pointing down certainly indicates a decrease. The red arrow pointing up shows an increase. Now, that should be alarming, and it is an area that we will talk about in a second.

But the solution here is simple. Data released by the CDC and the FDA provide a clear marker that the FDA’s focus should be on areas where children’s use is increasing rather than in areas where we are already making significant progress.

I might pause and say that if a product is illegal for somebody under 18, I don’t know how you ban a product and believe that it wasn’t already banned if it was illegal.

The FDA’s decision does not pass the commonsense test. It is time for the FDA to focus on the things where there is an increase for children. I give them examples: marijuana, opioids, fentanyl, meth. We have debated it on the floor of the Senate. While we are looking at one thing and the FDA has got us focused on it, look at how many children’s lives are devastated in this country—again, with illegal products.

One can only conclude by what we are doing, which is banning menthol, that we are emulating Canada. Several years ago they banned menthol, and last year they legalized marijuana. That may be the route we are on. I am not sure. Nothing surprises me anymore in Washington.

June of this year will mark the 10th anniversary of the Tobacco Control Act, which provided the FDA regulatory authority over tobacco products. The law gave the FDA broad authority to regulate these products and was intended to provide a path forward for innovative products—tobacco products, as well—placing hope in advancements in research and development to provide new options for American consumers that are down the continuum of risk for those individuals who choose, potentially replacing their use of combustible cigarettes with electronic ones.

The FDA does not have a single governing regulation for the review and the approval of the products Congress

put under its regulatory watch. Almost a decade after enactment and more than \$5 billion later, the FDA has failed to issue one foundational regulation governing the viable review of any tobacco product.

Let me state that again. Almost a decade after enactment and \$5 billion later, the FDA has failed to issue a foundational regulation governing the viable review of any tobacco product. This failure would be unacceptable from any other regulated industry. The Center for Tobacco Products receives hundreds of millions of user-fee dollars each year and is still falling behind the other product review centers at the FDA. The FDA has a responsibility to develop clear rules of the road for innovation and potentially less harmful tobacco products—some of the very products that are under scrutiny today because they are in regulatory limbo 10 years later. The Agency has had ample time to act and, instead, focused its efforts and resources on banning a legally marketed product without the data to support their own actions.

I urge my colleagues to take a serious look at the FDA’s decision to ban menthol cigarettes. The FDA chose to decrease choices for the American consumer while their counterpart, the CDC, continues to show a decline in children’s use of menthol cigarettes. These two Agencies should, in fact, be in alignment, using the CDC’s highly regarded public health data to fully inform the FDA’s approach to regulate these products. The information it released on November 18, 2018, shows a steep increase in the use of all tobacco products. However, the FDA has not provided the data to show that traditional cigarettes have contributed to this increase from 2017 to 2018 in any way or that menthol played a part in this increase. If it had—I will take you back to the original chart—we would see a significant change in the trend line of menthol usage of youth.

I would bet my colleagues today that when you get to 2018, you will continue to see a decline in menthol. It begs the question of whether the leadership at FDA is making decisions with any regard for years of public health data, coming at the cost of choices for the American people.

This argument comes down to whether you believe Americans have a right to choose. As long as I am an elected official, I will advocate for adult consumers to have these choices.

I realize this is the floor of great debate, and I am not scared to have a debate on whether tobacco is a legal product. As long as it is a legal product, why would we encumber the consumer with choice when, in fact, we see a trend line like this as it relates to youth?

So I say to the FDA and I say to my colleagues: Don’t hide behind our children and tell us that is the reason, because the data doesn’t support it. The data says that what we are doing in education, what we are doing as parents is convincing the next generation

that this is not a product they want to use. But when you ban menthol cigarettes, you take many adults who choose to purchase and to use a legal product with full understanding of the risk and tell them: No, we are going to eliminate the choice of this product.

That is wrong. It is wrong for Congress to do; it is wrong for a regulatory Agency to do; and it is a blemish on this administration to announce that they are reducing regulation when, in fact, they are going out and instituting some of the most onerous regulations on America's consumers, the American people who choose.

I urge my colleagues to become educated on this. I will give them an opportunity on multiple occasions for the balance of this year to hear more about this industry.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The assistant Democratic leader.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last Saturday was a historic day in Springfield, IL, my hometown. It was the biggest snowfall in one day in our city's history. I spent that Saturday not shaking hands with my constituents but shaking hands with my shovel, trying to shovel snow away. It was a historic day in Springfield but, sadly, it was a historic day for America too.

Saturday marked the longest shutdown of the U.S. Government in the history of the United States. As of today, the shutdown has continued for 26 days. Day by day, the harmful effects of this government shutdown are getting worse. Alarming, the President seems not to really understand or appreciate the real-life impact this shutdown is having on many Americans.

In all, more than 8,000 Federal workers in my home State of Illinois are going without a paycheck during this shutdown—8,000 people who are concerned about paying their bills, as most working families are. These are hard-working Americans.

I want to show you a photo of one of them. He happens to be a friend of mine. His name is Toby Hauck. This is Toby here. Toby is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. His job in Aurora, IL, is to make sure that my plane, when it arrives at O'Hare, lands safely. Toby Hauck is an air traffic controller. Air traffic controllers have some of the most important and most stressful Federal jobs in America, and this shutdown is a kick in the gut to Toby Hauck and all of these air traffic controllers.

Many air traffic controllers, like Toby, are already working 6 days a week. I am not happy to report that. Pushing them to the limits of physical exhaustion isn't in the best interest of safety when it comes to our aircraft, but because of staffing shortages, that is what they are faced with, working 6 days a week. The shutdown is making staff shortages in the air traffic control

facilities across the United States even worse.

The shutdown has closed down the FAA academy where new air traffic controllers are trained and has stopped training in each facility to implement new procedures and new equipment.

Toby's father and grandfather, incidentally, served in the U.S. military, as he did. This picture depicts his great son and Toby's granddaughter. I wanted to bring another point home. Toby's son is deploying overseas this month. Toby and his wife will be looking after their 2½-year-old granddaughter during the 10-month deployment. Toby's lack of a paycheck since December 31 of last year adds stress to an already hectic life.

Toby says:

Veterans are very proud of our heritage and what we have done for the country. And those of us who continue to serve the Federal Government as Federal employees continue that pride throughout their careers.

Toby says:

We are hardworking, proud American employees doing a job for the American public that is essential as an air traffic controller. It's not acceptable as a veteran, as a federal employee, as an air traffic controller to use my profession and my livelihood as a political football.

Toby doesn't stand alone as a veteran working for the Federal Government. Veterans are some of the hardest hit Federal employees of the Trump shutdown. Today as many as 250,000 Federal workers and Federal contractors are going without pay during the shutdown. According to the Office of Personnel Management, as of the end of fiscal year 2016, veterans represented 31 percent of the Federal workforce. This is more than a 5-percent increase since 2009, when President Obama encouraged veterans to apply for employment with the Federal Government to boost the hiring of men and women who served our country in uniform.

In Illinois, we have 50,000 Federal workers, and almost 28 percent of them are veterans. More than one-quarter of all veterans working in the Federal Government also have a Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating.

For example, if SNAP, the food stamp program, runs out, 38 million Americans could lose their food stamp benefits. That includes veterans living in households that participate in SNAP. You don't think about that very often, do you? Do you mean there are veterans on food stamps? The figure has averaged about 1.4 million veterans a year between 2015 and 2017, according to the Census Bureau. Illinois is home to nearly 50,000 veterans who are beneficiaries of food stamps and HUD rental assistance programs on an annual basis as well. So the very programs that are going to be hampered, slowed down, and stopped because of the Trump shutdown affect veterans across my State of Illinois and across the Nation. About 1,150 contracts under the project-based rental assistance program have lapsed, with hundreds more

scheduled to expire because of this shutdown. People are suffering around the country.

Federal workers are suffering. Their workers are suffering and veterans are suffering because of this Trump shutdown. More than 380,000 Federal workers have been furloughed; 450,000 or more are being forced to work without pay. These are hard-working Americans like the TSA officers I met last week at O'Hare and met just a few days ago when I flew to St. Louis Lambert Airport. They go to work every single day, and their job is to make sure that dangerous people don't get on the airplanes with you, your children, and your family. They can't afford to have their paychecks held hostage by a manufactured crisis.

These families of Federal workers have bills to pay. A worker at the Environmental Protection Agency, Cynthia Colquitt, is going without a paycheck after serving 26 years as a Federal employee. How hard is it? She is a single mom, and she says, quite honestly: I get by paycheck to paycheck. She has never missed a mortgage payment; she is very serious about those things. But now she is worried the shutdown will impact her credit rating if she doesn't have a paycheck to pay her bills on time.

Shutdowns not only hurt our Federal workers, but the impact is also felt by small businesses around the country that rely on the business of Federal workers and the government. This shutdown is hurting our economy and only adding to economic uncertainty. Remember what happened in December? If you happen to have a retirement account with investments in stocks, you noticed that December was a pretty horrible month. There was an 8.7-percent drop in the stock market in December—the worst December for the stock market since 1931, during the Great Depression.

The CEO of JPMorgan Chase is now warning that if this shutdown lasts another several weeks, it could reduce our Nation's quarterly growth to zero. The victims of the shutdown will not be the Federal employees; it will affect the entire economy because the input into the economy—the things they buy and pay for—will be diminished.

Just why are we in this mess? Well, as the President said several weeks ago on camera in the Oval Office, it is his shutdown and he is very proud of it. He said that he was going to hold the hard-earned paychecks of Americans hostage in an attempt to fulfill his campaign promise to build a wall on the southern border of the United States, a concrete wall, as he described it, "from sea to shining sea," which, incidentally, he promised would be paid for by the Mexicans.

Let me say that again. All of the pain of this shutdown is caused because the President made a campaign promise to build this almighty wall. Well, we know something about walls. They don't work very well. We know it

might have been a great response several hundred years ago to build a wall—not so much today. There are better ways to make America safe, other than building a wall. Yet the President said: It is my wall or a shutdown.

If we have a debate about border security, I want to be a part of it, but we shouldn't do it while holding the Government of the United States hostage. Every day of the government shutdown is another day that President Trump is harming innocent Americans, preventing hundreds of thousands of Americans from getting their paychecks and millions more from getting access to vital Federal services.

We should reopen this government and we ought to do it this afternoon and we can. One phone call from the President to Senator MITCH MCCONNELL, Republican leader of the Senate, is all it takes. NANCY PELOSI, the new Speaker of the House, has already passed the spending bills to open the government. She did it last week. She sent them over here. They are sitting at the desk up here. We are not touching them because Senator MCCONNELL said: I am not going to solve this problem until the President gives me permission. A little reminder to my colleague Senator MCCONNELL, under the Constitution, we are a separate branch of government. We don't wait for a permission slip from the President of the United States to do the job we were elected to do.

Today we had a vote earlier, and I looked at the other side of the aisle and talked to a number of my Republican colleagues. I wasn't a bit surprised to find so many of them fed up with this government shutdown. They want it to end today, and so do I. Then we can sit down and negotiate border security and do it the right way, not with a gun at our head—I should say, a gun to the head of 800,000 Federal employees. Let's reopen the government and then continue to negotiate. House Democrats have given us the bills we need to do that. Now it is up to Senator MCCONNELL. Will he come forward through that door onto the floor, call these bills, and end this shutdown before 5 p.m. today?

He could. He has the power to do it. He can pass the spending bills. He warns us that President Trump may not sign these bills. Well, Senator MCCONNELL has been around the Senate for decades. He has been around so long that I am sure he is familiar with our Constitution. Do you know what? If the President vetoed these spending bills, we have the constitutional authority and opportunity to override his veto—to come up with 67 votes in the Senate, two-thirds in the House to override any Presidential veto. I think the votes are there, and I think that is the reason Senator MCCONNELL is afraid to call the bills.

It is time for the Senate to act. Let's not wait for a permission slip from President Trump. Let's do what we

were elected to do. Let's spare Toby Hauck and 800,000 Federal employees, including many veterans, the hardships their families are facing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I rise to discuss the state of our national defense. First, I want to recognize the brave Americans who were killed in a suicide attack in Syria today. Our deepest sympathies are with the families of those killed and the injured. We are so grateful to these Americans for their service and for their sacrifice.

As I enter my seventh year on the Senate Armed Services Committee, I can't help but reflect on our past successes. I am proud of what we have accomplished by working together to fulfill the first responsibility of our Federal Government to provide for the common defense. Together, we have continued the committee's long-standing bipartisan tradition of working to strengthen our military, and we have been effective on a variety of fronts.

We have provided our brave men and women in uniform with the resources they need to carry out the missions we give them every year through the National Defense Authorization Act.

Importantly, for the last 2 years, Congress and the administration have worked together to rebuild the Department of Defense and reorient it to today's threats. As the administration's National Defense Strategy correctly identifies, the primary challenge to U.S. interests today comes not from terrorist groups but from Russia and China.

In recognition of this fact, Congress increased funding to restore readiness and expand force structure from near-historic lows. While progress has been made, significant challenges remain.

The bipartisan support for increased defense spending must continue, and Congress must ensure our service men and women have the necessary training and equipment for the great power competition that defines the current geopolitical landscape. As part of this effort to ensure our military is prepared for the new threat environment, we must continue modernizing our nuclear forces.

Once again, this Congress I will chair the Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, and this issue will be my top priority. Since the end of World War II, our nuclear deterrent has formed the bedrock of our Nation's security. With Russia and China increasingly seeking to challenge U.S. interests and to reshape the geopolitical landscape in their favor, the unique role our nuclear forces play in deterring conflict and preventing war is becoming increasingly important.

Meanwhile, our warheads and delivery systems age toward obsolescence, as does the infrastructure that main-

tains our deterrent. Many of these systems have aged far beyond their designed lifetimes. They cannot be sustained indefinitely. Put simply, as our nuclear deterrent becomes more important to our Nation's defense, the need for nuclear modernization only grows.

This conclusion is echoed in the administration's National Defense Strategy, its Nuclear Posture Review, and the bipartisan National Defense Strategy Commission, which described nuclear modernization as a "critical imperative."

The previous administration, under President Obama, also recognized the need for modernization and began an effort to recapitalize our nuclear forces. Right now, major programs are underway to replace our legacy systems. This includes the B-21 bomber, which will replace the B-52 and B-2 bombers, and the long-range standoff weapon, which will replace the existing nuclear-armed, air-launched cruise missile. The ground-based strategic deterrent is replacing the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile. Finally, the Columbia-class submarine will replace the Ohio-class submarines that are currently in service.

The command and control networks on which our nuclear forces rely are also in need of replacement, as is the scientific infrastructure that maintains our stockpile of aging warheads.

In some cases, such as with the production of plutonium pits—essentially the cores of our nuclear weapons—we must reconstitute lost capabilities. Adding to the challenge, as a result of decisions to delay and defer funding, there is no margin for error in the schedule.

This is the position we find ourselves in. Our existing platforms are simultaneously aging out just as their replacements are scheduled to be ready. Something General Selva, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, refers to as just-in-time modernization. That means any delay, any error, could put at risk our ability to field an effective nuclear deterrent in the future. We cannot allow that to happen. In the face of growing threats, our deterrent must remain strong.

As chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I understand I carry the solemn responsibility to make sure the nuclear forces that have deterred conflict, safeguarded our livelihoods, and preserved our Nation's power for decades continues to protect the next generation of Americans. While U.S. Strategic Command is located in Sarpy County, NE, it is a national asset with a global mission—over 180,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and civilians are working every day around the world in support of the command's mission.

During this Congress, I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this key priority and continuing our work in providing for a strong national defense.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, we are 26 days into President Trump's completely unnecessary government shutdown—26 days of pain and uncertainty; 26 days of missed paychecks and missed bills—26 days, the longest in our country's history.

I have heard from so many constituents in my home State of Washington who have been impacted by this shutdown. These are heart-wrenching stories of workers who do not know how much longer they can make it without a paycheck. Members of our U.S. Coast Guard—the very men and women who stand ready 24/7 to make harrowing rescues and keep our country safe—didn't get paid yesterday. They did not get paid yesterday, marking the first time ever that servicemembers have not been paid because of a shutdown.

There are small business owners who don't know when their SBA loans will come through; people who are dedicated to our national parks—our national treasures—who are in despair as they hear about trash piling up and irreparable damage being done; people waiting in lines at airports; people worried about food inspections; worried about losing their homes or their cars or their jobs. Entire families, entire communities are impacted, uncertain, and scared.

In my home State of Washington and in every State in this country, I have come to the floor time and again to share these stories, along with many of my Democratic colleagues. We have called on Republican leaders to stand with us, stand with their constituents, and schedule a vote to end the shutdown. All it would take is a vote. We know it would pass, and we can move it through the House and send it to the President.

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What have Republican leaders done, instead of scheduling a vote to help workers and families and small business owners and our economy; what have they done, instead of standing with their constituents to reopen this government and end this madness? Well, they have done what they have always done when they don't know what else to do. They scheduled a vote to attack women and their healthcare.

I almost couldn't believe it when I heard it. This government is shut down. People are hurting. They want solutions. They want the government to open, and Republicans are going to vote to effectively ban abortion coverage. That is the business on the floor.

Instead of voting to pay Federal workers, they are trying to tell women what kind of health insurance they can or can't have. Instead of working to make sure our airports are secure, they want to undermine women's access to the healthcare they choose. Instead of ending the chaos and dysfunction and getting our country back on track,

they want to chip away again at every woman's constitutionally protected right to make her own healthcare decisions. Instead of working with us to end the shutdown and then having a debate on border security or anything else they want to talk about, they are planning a vote that will not do anything but tell women across the country what they already know: Republicans in Washington, DC, think they know better than you about your healthcare.

Let me be clear. They don't.

This is disgusting. Women and men across the country are not going to stand for it. We can vote right now to open the government. We can vote right now to help our workers and our families. We can vote right now to end governing by Presidential tantrum. If Republicans don't do this—if they choose, as they have, to attack women and to throw their healthcare under the bus instead of doing their basic jobs—then the people across this country are going to see exactly where they stand—not with them, not with their families, not with their constituents, and certainly not with women.

I urge the Republicans to end this madness—to pull this anti-women health vote—and to, instead, schedule a vote to reopen the government. That is what we should be focused on. That is what Americans want us to do. We need to end this. Let's reopen the government, not attack women one more time.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, more than 100,000 people and families will join together in the March for Life in Washington that is going to take place tomorrow. They will brave the cold—there is supposed to be sleet and bad weather—for one simple reason, to give voice to the voiceless, the unborn, our most vulnerable among us but are still deserving of the right to life.

Jeremiah 1:5 says:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,

Before you were born I sanctified you.

To everyone who comes to the March for Life, know that we hear you, and we are standing with you, just as we have in the past.

This is not a new topic, not for me to speak on either. Twenty-five years ago, I came down to tell a story. At that time, I was in the House. This has been going on for a long period of time. I came down here to tell the story of Hannah Rosa Rodriguez. This is a quote from 1992:

Mr. Chairman, there is a big misconception regarding abortion and the issue of women and their right to protect their bodies. It is not that right that I object to but the right that is given them to kill an unborn fetus—an unborn child.

I want to share with you a story that my colleague CHRIS SMITH told me some time ago on this floor. That was 1992.

Ana Rosa Rodriguez is an abortion survivor. This is another group of people we haven't talked about very much on the floor. At birth, she was a healthy 3-pound baby girl, except for her injury; she was missing an arm. Ana survived a botched abortion.

Her mother attempted to get an abortion in her 32nd week of pregnancy when she was perfectly healthy—8 weeks past what New York State law legally allows. In the unsuccessful abortion attempt, the baby's right arm was ripped off. However, they failed to kill Ana Rosa. She lived. Pro-life supporters agree that nightmare situations like the Rodriguez case are probably not common, but abortion-related deaths and serious injuries occur more frequently than most people are aware.

It is amazing that we can pay so much attention to issues such as human rights abroad and can allow the violent destruction of over 26 million children here at home. We are fortunate that Ana was not one of those children. She survived.

That was 1992, but today we still don't have Federal protections for the babies who survive the brutal abortion process. I am working with Senator SASSE, who is leading the effort this year to reintroduce the Born Alive Abortion Survivor Act, which would ensure that a baby who survives an abortion will receive the same treatment as any child naturally born premature at the same age, without prescribing any particular form of treatment. That is just morally right, and I don't see how anyone could vote against something like that. We will find out.

Just a few years later, in 1997, I was on the floor of this body, the U.S. Senate, with my good friend former Senator Rick Santorum, to try to pass the partial birth abortion ban and end the horrific practice of late-term abortions. I remember how active Senator Rick Santorum was at that time, a real leader in the pro-life cause. I spoke then, 1997, on the floor:

I thank the Senator from Pennsylvania for yielding time. I think he made one of the best presentations I have heard on the floor of this body. I want to say that, when he deals with the facts, he is dealing with the facts but, you know, we are also dealing today with perceptions.

I tried to make a list of those things I have heard over and over. There is a lot of redundancy on this floor, but there are some things that have not been stated. I would like to share a couple of those with you.

I am going to do something that is a little unusual because I am going to read some Scriptures to you. It is not totally unprecedented in this body. In fact, I have done it many, many times. The distinguished Senator from West Virginia does it quite often.

I was talking about Bob Byrd. We remember Bob Byrd. He is deceased now, but this was 1997, and he read Scriptures every day on the floor of this Senate.

So I would like to read a couple of Scriptures, just for those who care. Anyone who does not, just don't listen.

First of all, I have used this a number of times. Jeremiah 1:35 says: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you." The 139th Psalm, no matter which interpretation you use, makes it very clear when life begins. Life begins at conception.

Then I was, not too long ago, at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. I had been to the museum in Jerusalem, and I found the same thing was printed on the last brick as you are going through. This is Deuteronomy 30:19. It said: "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."

Last, I am also concerned that something that is as dramatic and as significant as this issue is going to go unnoticed; that maybe there are Senators out there who are not really into this issue, and they might want to vote the party line or they might want to say, well, maybe there aren't as many of these procedures out there, so they just really are not knowledgeable on the subject. So I will read Proverbs 24:11-12:

Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to death; don't stand back and let them die. Don't try to disclaim responsibility by saying you didn't know about it. For God, who knows all hearts, knows yours, and He knows you knew.

That is pretty specific.

Mr. President, I was listening to the Senator from Massachusetts who said it does not do any good if we pass this because the President is going to veto it anyway.

That was actually in 1997. The President, if you remember, at that time, I advised the chairman, was Bill Clinton.

But I suggest to you that the President may not veto it, and if he does veto it, maybe some people will come over who were not here a year ago on this side of the aisle.

See, this was 1997. It was pretty close back then. It could have gone either way.

One individual at the time was Ron Fitzsimmons, who just last year insisted that the number of partial birth abortions were a relative handful now admits: "I lied through my teeth." He was lying. So if the President is predicating his decision to veto this ban on the basis of what was told to him by

Ron Fitzsimmons, there is every reason to believe he could turn around on the issue. I suggest also that we are talking now not just about a procedure but a culture.

I have a very good friend by the name of Charles Colson. We all remember Chuck Colson. He is the guy who started the Campus Crusade for Christ. He gave these remarks upon winning the prestigious Templeton Prize for a contribution to religion. Listen very carefully. He puts it all together, not isolating one procedure or one issue. He said:

Courts [like to] strike down even perfunctory prayers, and we are surprised that schools, bristling with barbed wire, look more like prisons than prisons do. Universities reject the very idea of truth, and we are shocked when their best and their brightest loot and betray.

Celebrities mock the traditional family, even revile it as a form of slavery, and we are appalled at the tragedy of broken homes and millions of unwed mothers. The media celebrate sex without responsibility, and we are horrified by plagues. Our lawmakers justify the taking of innocent lives in sterile clinics, and we are terrorized by the disregard for life in blood-soaked streets.

I think that puts into context what we are now approaching—that it is not just a normal type of abortion.

I have a great deal of respect for one of the most intellectual Members of this body. Keep in mind that this is 1997. His name is Patrick Moynihan—a very good man. He is from New York. Not many people know that he actually lived in his early years as my neighbor in Tulsa, OK. Again, at that time, nobody knew it until I mentioned it.

He was a self-proclaimed pro-choice Senator. He said: "And now we have testimony that it is not just too close to infanticide; it is infanticide, and one would be too many."

That is Patrick Moynihan. He is thought of and respected as one of the great liberal scholars of this body.

This is where we get the numbers game. I heard it said on the floor many times that we are talking about maybe 1 percent or that maybe talking about those who are in the ninth month may be an infinitesimal number, but in fact, one is too many. It was said on the floor that we may be only talking about 200 lives being taken during the normal delivery process. That is when a baby is given a natural birth and, yet, they take the life by using this barbaric procedure. We have all kinds of documentation that it is being done in the ninth month and during the normal birth process. They say only 200—only 200 lives are taken.

I agree with Patrick Moynihan. I am totally in a different philosophy than he is, but one is too many.

I am from Oklahoma, and some of you remember that we lost 168 lives in the Murrah Federal Office Building bombing. This was the largest domestic terrorist attack in American history. Did anybody say that is only 168 lives that were lost in Oklahoma City? No,

the entire Nation came with compassion and mourned with us.

One life—I agree with Senator Moynihan—is too many.

One other issue that has not been discussed in this debate this year—keep in mind that is 1997—is that of pain. Rather than go into it—I do not think anyone refutes the fact that a small baby, if that baby is certainly past the second trimester, feels pain every bit as much as anybody who is in here, as any Member of the U.S. Senate would feel pain.

There was a study conducted in London, and I have the results here, but I think everyone understands that this is something that is very real—that these babies do feel pain.

My junior Senator gave an excellent speech on the floor, and he talked about all of these issues in a different way, but he is doing it currently, and we are talking about now quite a number of years ago.

I have a picture of a good friend of mine with me. His name is Jase—James Edward Rapert.

Back when people our age were having babies—I am talking about myself now. Kay and I have been married 59 years. We have 20 kids and grandkids. We know a little bit about this. Back at that time when they were having babies, they wouldn't even let you in the hospital, let alone the delivery room.

When my daughter Molly called up and said, "Daddy, the time is here; could you come over," I went over to the hospital, and she said: Would you like to come into the delivery room?

I said: Yes, I would.

I saw for the first time what many of you in this room have seen and many of the women have experienced firsthand. I was there when this little guy was born. It is hard to describe to some of the men here who have not been through that experience of seeing this wonderful life begin, and I can remember when, in that room where the delivery took place, it occurred to me that when baby Jase, my grandson, was born, that is the moment when they could have used this procedure inflicting all of the pain you have heard described so many times: going into the cranium with the scissors, opening the scissors, sucking the brains out, and the skull collapses.

That is pain, and there are individuals who want to keep a procedure like this legal. If you did that to a dog, they would picket in front of your office. Somehow, we have developed a culture that puts a greater value on the lives of critters than human life. I watched baby Jase being born. I suggest to those of you who are concerned about choice that this is really the choice. It is either that choice or this choice, and these choices we are facing today.

This is something on which I agree with the Senator from Pennsylvania. I was talking at that time about Rick Santorum.

We should not be having to talk about it. To think that 100 years from

now they may look back and talk about that barbaric society that killed their own young, and here we are just trying to save a few lives from a very painful death. Nonetheless, that is the issue we are faced with today.

I gave that speech in 1997 and again in 1998 and year after year until we won the battle and finally ended the practice of partial-birth abortion in 2003—a ban that was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2007. There is still much more that needs to be done to end abortion on demand culture.

President Trump gets this. He was the first sitting President to speak at March for Life, and his administration has made real progress to advance the pro-life agenda. He has reinstated the Mexico City policy. We remember what that was. It was the one that bans taxpayer money from funding abortions abroad and directed the Justice Department to formally investigate Planned Parenthood.

President Trump also directed the Department of Health and Human Services to expand religious and conscience exemptions to protect individuals' religious liberty.

I am working in Congress to end the practice of abortion on demand that strips opportunity away from unborn babies and deprives them of the right to life.

This week I have joined my colleagues in introducing five common-sense bills—this is taking place right now, as we speak—in addition to the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Act, by Senator SASSE, which I mentioned earlier in this presentation. The No Taxpayer Funding of Abortion Act, working with Senator WICKER, would establish a governmentwide statutory prohibition on taxpayer subsidies for abortion and abortion coverage—simple enough. I am pleased that Majority Leader MCCONNELL has set up a procedural vote for this bill today.

There is the Life at Conception Act, which Senator PAUL has, which would recognize that life begins at conception.

The Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, led by Senator BLACKBURN—one of our brand-new freshman Senators—would prohibit title X family planning funds. Those are taxpayer funds now being used to subsidize abortions.

You might be wondering how that is different from the one just talked about. Here is how. Every year, Planned Parenthood receives nearly \$60 million from the American taxpayer through title X family planning program. The program is intended to assist low-income women with family planning services. Unfortunately, this money is being used to subsidize massive organizations that engage in abortion activities, such as Planned Parenthood, and we need to stop that.

The Protect Funding for Women's Health Care Act, led by Senator ERNST, would prohibit all Federal funding of Planned Parenthood.

I also cosponsored the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, led by Senator RUBIO, which would prohibit individuals from taking minors across State lines where they have lax laws just to have an abortion, stopping their States from having the jurisdiction.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I am cosponsoring Senator GRAHAM's Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would prohibit abortions from being performed on unborn babies after 20 weeks, when we know they can feel pain. Only five countries allow abortions after 20 weeks, including the United States and North Korea, and that is unacceptable.

I wish to acknowledge a very important day. Religious Freedom Day is today. It is clear that our Founding Fathers recognized and enshrined the importance of religious liberty—one of our most precious and foundational religious freedoms, which allowed them to live their lives according to the teachings of the Bible.

I have long been a strong advocate of the basic human right to freely worship, and I am glad we can take a moment today to recognize that.

Anyway, all from speeches from 1992 and 1997—it is as true today as it was then. We are ready to start saving lives instead of taking the most vulnerable little lives, and we are ready now.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, a few minutes ago, I got off the phone with Jasmine Tool, who is an Oregonian living with an inoperable brain tumor. As the shutdown lingers on, I want to share her story because she has been bearing the unthinkable consequences of her illness.

I am going to start today by asking: How can a country as rich and good and strong as the United States of America let Jasmine Tool suffer this way?

She is a 34-year-old mother of two young children. She lives in Lake County, a rural community in south central Oregon. She is a public servant, an employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She has been living with an inoperable brain tumor. The cancer has caused related debilitating conditions. She is in and out of hospital emergency rooms. Her digestive system is impaired. With the invaluable care provided by a home health worker, she takes in liquids and nutritional infusions through tubing that is plugged into her abdomen.

Because she lives in a rural area, her treatment can require long-distance travel. That is hard to deal with when you are suffering from the flu. Just imagine how hard it is with a brain tumor, a broken digestive tract, and feeding tubes attached to your body that prevent you from eating or drinking normally.

She is confronting this health challenge with remarkable bravery, and I

don't believe there is a single Member of the U.S. Senate who would wish Jasmine's struggle on their very worst enemy.

Then comes the government shutdown.

Jasmine was due to travel to Nevada this month for treatment related to her tumor, but last week, as she was prepared to go, she was informed that her health insurance had lapsed. Initially, she thought it might be—we all know with insurance—kind of a recent hiccup or recent problem, something that could be corrected quickly.

This week, she learned that it lapsed in October—October, months ago—and her insurance company told her that only her employer could fix it.

Jasmine's employer is shut down. Nobody is answering the phones. Right now, Jasmine Tool is suffering—this mother of two—and is unable to determine what caused the lapse in her coverage or what can be done to get it fixed.

The most immediate threat is this: Jasmine was told that her home health assistant cannot continue to help her if she doesn't have insurance. That means that within days this 30-year-old mom will not be able to get the infusions she needs to stay alive.

Now, if that isn't enough, Jasmine has been failed by the government on multiple occasions. Shortly after she went on medical leave in early 2017, she began the process of applying for disability—disability retirement. She worked with the appropriate human resources official to prepare the paperwork to send to the Office of Personnel Management. She thought, as anybody would, that the process was underway and she would hear back soon about the results of her application.

She just learned recently that the official who prepared the documents retired without sending them in. For a year and a half, while Jasmine fought cancer and was just hoping to get some positive news, her disability paperwork sat in an unused office—just sat there collecting dust.

She had to travel to that office against her doctor's orders to finalize the paperwork once more and prevent a loss of benefits. But the Office of Personnel Management—that is shut down too. Jasmine hasn't been able to learn where her benefits stand.

It is too cruel already that thousands and thousands of American workers are going without paychecks. This shutdown is making victims of those who do public service. But consider what it is doing to this young mother of two, a woman who is currently fighting for her life right now.

Because of this shutdown, she can't figure out how to restore her health insurance. She can't get the status of her disability application. She could be cut off—I just talked to her—from her nutritional supplements in a matter of days. That means Jasmine could starve. That is what she just told me.

So I have been talking to people who have suffered from health challenges

for a long time—director of the Grey Panthers about 7 years at home. I listened to Jasmine and I just said: How can it be that there is no outbreak of conscience here—no outbreak of conscience here in this Senate? How can a country as rich and powerful as ours fail Jasmine in such a shameful way?

Our country is going to spend \$3.5 trillion on healthcare—\$3.5 trillion on healthcare—this year. It is not a lack of money that is causing this nightmare for Jasmine Tool in rural Oregon.

With the government reopened, things would be different. Things would be very different for Jasmine. There would be somebody on the other end of the phone line to tell Jasmine what happened to her insurance, and because of the professionalism of those in these positions, I think they could tell her how to renew that insurance. There would be somebody to tell her what is happening with her disability application. Jasmine could bring back her home health aide and get the infusions she needs to survive.

So I am asking the Senate, how can this be allowed to continue? How can this be allowed to continue? The Senate passed a bipartisan government funding bill by voice vote just 2 weeks ago in the previous Congress.

I see Senator COLLINS. She has a longstanding interest in these healthcare issues. Senator SASSE also, I know from our conversations, has a heart and cares about people.

The House passed this legislation. The pathway out of this shutdown is right in front of us if the majority leader would decide when to bring up the legislation again, and we could do it tonight. Jasmine Tool could get the lifesaving healthcare that she needs, based on our conversation, by week's end, so she will not starve.

Otherwise, unless the majority leader calls it up, it seems to me the White House has no plan to end this shutdown. So I just think it has to end right here—right here in the U.S. Senate, where all of us say: This cannot go on any longer.

I just spoke to a young mom in rural Oregon who is in a fight for her life, a fight for her survival.

Colleagues who are here, I am sure Jasmine is not the only such case in America. Jasmine Tool—my guess is, there are plenty of others in communities across the country. Jasmine Tool does not have the luxury of time.

I am going to go back to my office. My staff here, my staff folks in Oregon—we are just going to be pulling out all the stops now because it really is a matter of hours to get Jasmine the help she needs. We do it recognizing that there is only one immediate solution: The shutdown must end, and it must end now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, government shutdowns are never the answer. No matter how difficult the problem,

we should never resort to shutting down government. It harms too many innocent Federal employees—in this case, 800,000 Federal employees and their families—and it hampers the ability of American citizens to deal with their government.

At the same time, we do have a problem at our southern border. We do need to strengthen our border security and fix our broken immigration system. We need to address the issue of the Dreamers population, those young children brought to this country through no decision of their own who are now, often, young adults and who are going to school or working or otherwise serving in the military or contributing to our country.

The outlines of a compromise are evident, but in order to get there, I believe we need to assure the President that we will seriously consider his supplemental request for border security, a request that includes not just funding for additional physical barriers to supplement the more than 600 miles of physical barriers—walls, fences—that were built during two previous administrations but also includes \$800 million to meet the humanitarian needs of those who are crossing the border. It also includes additional funding for Border Patrol agents and for Immigration and Customs and Border Enforcement.

This simply cannot continue. We need to come together in good faith, reopen government for a limited period of time at least, and negotiate a package that will strengthen security on our borders, and that is what I would urge the President, his administration, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do.

In the meantime, we also need to get back to the work of the Senate. That, too, is important, and today I rise to introduce a bill that would help Americans who are struggling with high healthcare expenses. The tax deduction for certain unreimbursed, out-of-pocket medical expenses affects many taxpayers significantly.

Regrettably, the threshold to claim this important tax deduction rose from 7.5 percent to 10 percent of income at the end of 2018, ending its value for many American taxpayers who simply will no longer qualify.

Today, I reintroduce legislation, which I have sponsored with my colleague Senator CANTWELL, that would reinstate and make permanent the lower income threshold for the medical expense deduction. Our bill, the Medical Expense Savings Act, would once again allow taxpayers to deduct unreimbursed healthcare costs that exceed 7.5 percent of their income.

For those who suffer from preexisting medical conditions, have chronic illnesses, experience unexpected sickness or injuries, or require long term care, out-of-pocket healthcare expenses can quickly become an unbearable burden. Too many Americans are forced to choose between medical services and

other equally necessary expenditures or they find themselves going deeply in debt.

The Affordable Care Act increased the income threshold for taxpayers to deduct their medical expenses from 7.5 percent to 10 percent. I very much opposed that provision of the ACA. For individuals under 65, the increase went into effect in 2013, but for those over 65, individuals would have been exposed to this higher threshold for the first time in 2017. Fortunately, we were able to remedy that for those over age 65.

When the ACA increase was phased in, many individuals struggling with serious health conditions saw their financial health worsen. For example, a 2016 study estimates that parents, including many with limited means, already provide nearly \$36 billion annually in uncompensated medical care at home to children with special healthcare needs, such as muscular dystrophy and cystic fibrosis.

A 2016 survey of cancer survivors showed that one-third go into debt, and of those, more than half incurred more than \$10,000 in unreimbursed expenses.

For seniors with significant long-term care needs, the deduction helps with the cost of home health or personal care services or, when needed, the cost of a long-term care facility, such as a nursing home. The deduction can also be used for other expenses that Medicare generally does not cover, including dental treatment, vision care, and certain transportation costs. Seniors can also use the medical expense deduction for expenses like wheelchair ramps, installing railings and support bars in bathrooms, and lowering or modifying kitchen cabinets and equipment and other home modifications made for medical reasons. These improvements can allow seniors with medical conditions or disabilities to live at home in the safety, comfort, and familiarity of their own home.

Some seniors find that their savings become rapidly depleted. They may spend down their financial resources in order to receive the services and support they require through the Medicaid Program. According to Genworth's 2018 Cost of Care Survey, home health aide services can cost \$50,000 annually, while a private room at a nursing home can cost nearly \$100,000. By retaining a lower threshold for the medical expense tax deduction, some families would be able to continue to pay these essential costs themselves.

Some erroneously believe that this deduction only benefits the wealthy, when, in fact, it is mainly lower and middle-income Americans who have been hurt. According to AARP, nearly 70 percent of taxpayers taking the deduction in 2014 reported income of \$75,000 or less, and nearly half reported incomes of \$50,000 or less. In Maine, according to AARP, almost 36,000 of our residents claimed this deduction in 2014, and nearly 19,000 of these individuals reported an income of \$50,000 or less.

That is why, during the tax reform debate in 2017, I introduced a successful amendment that rolled back the income threshold to 7.5 percent for taxpayers to deduct their medical expenses in 2017 and 2018. My amendment expanded upon the efforts of Senators ROB PORTMAN and SHERROD BROWN, who had worked to prevent this increase from going into effect for individuals over 65. As I said, my amendment was incorporated into the new tax law, and thus, for 2017 and for 2018, the threshold for deducting these out-of-pocket medical costs was 7.5 percent of income. But at the end of last year, that expired.

The AARP and 44 other consumer groups have strongly endorsed the effort undertaken by Senator CANTWELL and me, stating that “it provides important tax relief which helps offset the costs of acute and chronic medical conditions for older Americans, children, pregnant women, disabled individuals, and other adults as well as the costs associated with long-term care and assisted living.”

This is a step we can take to reinstate an expired tax deduction that will make a real difference to people who are struggling with high out-of-pocket medical costs.

I urge my colleagues to support our legislation that will help our families cope with high medical costs by making sure that this important deduction remains available for future tax years.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from AARP dated January 15, 2019, endorsing the Collins-Cantwell legislation.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AARP,

*Washington, January 15, 2019.*

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*  
Hon. MARIA CANTWELL,  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS COLLINS AND CANTWELL: On behalf of our members and all Americans age 50 and older, AARP is writing to thank you for introducing the Medical Expense Savings Act (S. 110), legislation to permanently extend the 7.5 percent income threshold for the medical expense deduction AARP, with its more than 38 million members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories, represents individuals seeking financial stability while managing their health care and every effort should be made to keep the threshold for the deduction as low as possible to help protect those with high medical costs.

The medical expense deduction provides important tax relief that helps offset the cost of acute and chronic medical conditions for older Americans, children, and individuals with disabilities. For many, the medical expense deduction can help offset high out-of-pocket expenses—expenses that qualify include money paid for diagnosis, treatment, equipment, long-term care services, and long-term care insurance premiums.

The tax filers who claim the medical expense deduction have historically been age 50 or older and living with a chronic condition or illness. The average Medicare beneficiary spends about \$5,680 out of pocket on medical

care. The medical expense deduction makes health care more affordable for people with significant out-of-pocket expenses.

Furthermore, older Americans often face high costs for long-term services and supports—which are generally not covered by Medicare—as well as hospitalizations and prescription drugs. The median cost for a private room in a nursing home is over \$97,000 annually, while the median cost for even more cost-effective home-based care is still over \$30,000 per year (for 20 hours of care a week). In 2013, roughly 25.8 million beneficiaries in traditional Medicare spent at least 10 percent of their income on out-of-pocket health care expenses. Tax relief in this area can provide needed resources, especially important to middle income seniors with high long-term care and medical costs.

The medical expense deduction is a critical tool in managing health care cost for Americans with high out-of-pocket expenses. For these reasons, we are pleased to endorse this legislation and look forward to working on a bipartisan basis with you to enact this legislation into law. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or Jasmine Vasquez.

Sincerely,

JOYCE A. ROGERS,  
*Senior Vice President,  
Government Affairs.*

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT DISQUALIFYING A NOMINEE TO FEDERAL OFFICE ON THE BASIS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS VIOLATES THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a very basic resolution. I want Senators to unanimously reaffirm our oath of office to a Constitution that explicitly rejects religious bigotry.

It is useful to regularly remind ourselves that Americans are First Amendment people. Each of the five freedoms in the First Amendment—speech, press, religion, assembly, and protest—defines who we are. In America, we talk, we read, we argue, and we march and worship without fear. Because of this fundamental celebration of human dignity and human freedom, America is big enough to welcome a whole bunch of meaty and messy fights on everything from whom you vote for to whom you call God.

Just as the First Amendment prohibits the government from dictating anyone’s religious beliefs, so, too, the Constitution explicitly rejects religious tests for Federal office. Our Constitution explicitly rejects religious tests for Federal office. This isn’t a Republican belief; this isn’t a Democratic belief; this is an American belief. But, tragically, over the last couple of years, some strange things have been happening in this body, and we seem to be forgetting some of those basic 101 American civics truths.

I want to tell you a story. Brian Buescher from my State was recently

nominated by the President to be a Federal judge for the District of Nebraska. This is an honor for him and his family, a celebration of his brain, work ethic, and his integrity. By the way, Brian is also Catholic and an active member of the Knights of Columbus.

The Knights of Columbus, for those of you who don’t know, is the largest Catholic fraternal service organization in the world. The Knights’ 1.6 million members of the organization raise millions of dollars for charity every year, and they contribute millions of hours of volunteer service.

Like a lot of guys back in Nebraska, Brian joined the Knights of Columbus to give back and to also be involved in a bunch of fish fries. This is not the stuff of headlines, but it is the stuff of basic neighborliness.

This is where the story gets weird because at Brian’s confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee a few weeks ago, one of my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee called the Knights of Columbus “an extremist organization.” Huh? It got worse. Brian then got a letter from a Member of this body asking him if he would resign his membership in the Knights of Columbus if he were confirmed to the Federal bench to “avoid the appearance of bias.”

This is nuts. We are talking about the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world being called an extremist organization and a nominee for the Federal bench being asked to resign from this organization so that he can serve without the appearance of bias. The clear implication here was that Brian’s religious beliefs and his religious affiliations—in this case, an affiliation with a Catholic organization that invests countless hours and millions of dollars annually serving special needs kids—Brian was supposedly therefore potentially unfit for Federal service. This is the same kind of garbage that was thrown at a Member of this body, John F. Kennedy, 60 years ago when he was campaigning for the Presidency.

So today I have introduced a resolution—a 101-level, basic resolution—that simply reaffirms the belief of this body in American religious liberty. The resolution simply says that it is the sense of the Senate that disqualifying a nominee for the Federal bench or any Federal office on the basis of his Catholic beliefs or membership in the Knights of Columbus violates the no religious test clause of the Constitution. It seems obvious on its face.

In this resolution, we are simply reaffirming with President Kennedy and with countless other Americans across 230 years—Protestant, Catholic, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Agnostic, Atheist and others—we are simply reaffirming the idea that America is big enough for disagreements. Stated differently, we are saying that we believe the U.S. Government is not in the business of trying to resolve debates about

Heaven and Hell; rather, the business of the U.S. Government is to preserve peace and order so that you and your neighbors can precisely wrestle about things such as Heaven and Hell or sports loyalties or dietary preferences. America can handle principled pluralism and honest, serious debate.

This resolution ought to have the support of every single Member of this body. After all, each of us took an oath to defend this very idea when we first came here. This is what America is actually about.

The text of the resolution before us states:

Expressing the sense of the Senate that disqualifying a nominee to Federal office on the basis of membership in the Knights of Columbus violates the Constitution of the United States.

Whereas, throughout the history of the United States, the religious liberty protected by both the First Amendment and the No Religious Test Clause of the Constitution of the United States has been at the heart of the American experiment;

Whereas, in 1960, the presidential candidacy of John F. Kennedy was met with significant anti-Catholic bigotry;

Whereas, then-Senator Kennedy responded to the bigotry with these timeless words: "For while this year it may be a Catholic against whom the finger of suspicion is pointed, in other years it has been, and may someday be again, a Jew or a Quaker or a Unitarian or a Baptist. . . . Today I may be the victim, but tomorrow it may be you, until the whole fabric of our harmonious society is ripped at a time of great national peril.";

Whereas the Knights of Columbus (in this preamble referred to as the "Knights") constitute the largest Catholic fraternal service organization in the world;

Whereas the Knights have a proud tradition of standing against the forces of prejudice and oppression, such as the Ku Klux Klan and Nazi Germany;

Whereas the Knights are founded on the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism; and

Whereas, in 2017, the Knights made more than \$185,000,000 in charitable contributions and volunteered more than 75,600,000 service hours: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that disqualifying a nominee to Federal office on the basis of membership in the Knights of Columbus violates clause 3 of article VI of the Constitution of the United States, which establishes that Senators "shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support th[e] Constitution" and "no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States."

Period. Full stop.

If a Senator has a problem with this resolution, they are probably in the wrong line of work because this is what America is. This is a super basic point. No religious tests. If someone has a problem with this resolution, what other parts of the Constitution are they against? Freedom of the press? Women's right to vote? Freedom of speech?

This isn't hard. There are no religious tests for serving on the Federal bench. We in this body should rebuke these anti-Catholic attacks.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the

consideration of S. Res. 19, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 19) expressing the sense of the Senate that disqualifying a nominee to Federal office on the basis of membership in the Knights of Columbus violates the Constitution of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 19) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. SASSE. I thank the Members of this body for reaffirming basic constitutional 101 stuff today. I will report back to Brian Buescher, the nominee for the Federal Bench for the District of Nebraska, that he can ignore those questions he received about whether he would resign his membership in the Knights of Columbus before this body proceeds to vote on his confirmation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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.

#### REMEMBERING TOM WEISNER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Aurora, IL, is blessed with a long history of visionary leadership. The first public school district in my State was founded in Aurora in 1851. Aurora was a center of abolitionist activism before the Civil War.

In 1881, Aurora, of Chicago's northwest suburbs, became one of the first cities in America to line its streets with electric lights, and people began to call it a City of Lights—Paris on the Plains.

Sadly, last month, 2 days after Christmas, one of Aurora's brightest lights was extinguished. Former Aurora mayor Tom Weisner died after a long, brave, and public struggle with cancer. He was 69 years old.

Tom Weisner spent his earliest years in nearby Batavia, IL. He came to Aurora in the 1960s to attend Marmion Military Academy. It was during his time at Marmion that Tom met his future wife, Marilyn Hogan, who was then a student at Marmion's "sister school," Aurora Madonna High School.

What a great pair. As a young couple in the 1980s, Tom and Marilyn served together in the Peace Corps, helping rainforest dwellers in the highlands of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. They were married for 46 years.

After finishing their Peace Corps service in 1986, Tom and Marilyn returned to Aurora, and Tom was hired by the city's then-mayor, David Pierce, to be Aurora's director of emergency services. Over the next 18 years, he headed a number of city agencies, including the departments of motor vehicles, public property, and community services and organizational development.

"It was in his three terms as Aurora's mayor, from 2005 to 2016, that Tom Weisner left his greatest mark. His keen understanding of organizational efficiency, his commitment to public service, and his passion for children, for a vibrant, sustainable economy, for the arts and environment, and many other concerns helped to make Aurora a better place to live, own a business, and raise a family.

There is one statistic that says a lot about the kind of leader Tom Weisner was: In his 11 years as mayor, Aurora rehabilitated 11 bridges. At a time when government at all levels is struggling and often failing to maintain basic public infrastructure, Aurora repaired 11 bridges in 11 years. The strengthened bridges helped spur a rebirth of Aurora's downtown.

The Fox River is one of Aurora's greatest economic and cultural assets. Mayor Weisner authorized the city's first long-term plan for the river. He oversaw the removal of a dam on the Fox River, which opened up space for bike paths and new commercial ventures, and he helped organize a regional coalition of communities to improve the southern portion of the Fox River.

Tom Weisner championed new conservation and sustainability policies that made Aurora a greener city. At the same time, he supported changes that made it easier and faster to obtain city building and other permits.

He oversaw the construction of a new police headquarters, with new tools and more resources, and crime in Aurora decreased.

Children were a special concern of Mayor Weisner. Under his leadership, Aurora created a new program called SPARK to help children from birth to age 5 to prepare for kindergarten. SPARK stands for "Strong, Prepared, and Ready for Kindergarten." It is a collaboration involving Aurora's public schools and public library, the local United Way, and other groups. Nearly 5,500 children and their families have benefited from its services.

Next year, a new Paramount School of Performing Arts will open and offer young people a chance to study under some of the best teaching artists and professionals in the country. Tom helped raise money to make this happen.

The DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference honored Tom in 2015 as its Governmental Leader of the Year. The American Public Works Association awarded him its Exemplary Service Award in 2017, the year after Tom retired.

Tom Weisner's public achievements are even more remarkable, given the private pain that he and Marilyn endured during his years as mayor. In 2006, they lost the younger of their two sons, Thaddeus, to complications of cerebral palsy. The following year, Tom was first diagnosed with colon cancer. He continued to serve the people of Aurora through two surgeries and long bouts of treatment. When his cancer became public, he used his own health challenges as a public service reminder, urging people to get colonoscopies and early treatment.

In 2013, Aurora welcomed RiverEdge Park, a tremendous new waterfront open space and concert venue. Years earlier, when the Great Recession threatened to derail the project, Mayor Weisner helped ensure that it continued. In 2016, the Aurora city council voted unanimously to rename the park in Tom Weisner's honor. It is a fitting tribute to a leader who loved few things more than enjoying music in his city's parks, dressed in a brightly printed Tommy Bahama shirt and sandals.

Loretta and I offer our condolences to Tom's wife Marilyn, their son Anthony, their two granddaughters, and to Tom's many friends.

He ran the race, he fought the good fight. Now he is gone, but the light that Mayor Tom Weisner helped to bring to Aurora will continue to shine for a long while.

#### TRIBUTE TO RON POWELL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to thank a leader who has worked for nearly 60 years to create a strong economy built on pride, progressive values, and shared prosperity for all Americans.

Ronald Powell is the legendary president of Local 881 of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union. He is also a vice president on the UFCW International Union and a vice president of the Illinois State AFL-CIO. He is retiring this month after an astonishing 58 years as a proud union member and leader.

You may not be familiar with the initials UFCW, but you almost surely benefit from the good work of its members. The men and women of the UFCW include grocery store workers and bakery clerks, hospital and nursing home employees—even barbers and beauty shop employees.

When Ron Powell joined the United Retail Workers union, a forerunner to Local 881, in 1961, the union had fewer than 5,000 members. Fifty-eight years later, UFCW Local 881 represents more than 34,000 working men and women in Illinois, northwest Indiana, and parts

of Missouri and Kentucky. The growth of Local 881 in an age when the labor movement is under relentless attack and many unions are losing members is a testament to Ron Powell's leadership and his commitment to dignity and fairness for working people.

Ron Powell became president of UFCW Local 881 in 1983, just 2 years after the local was chartered. Strength, vision, and compassion are the hallmarks of his service. Illinois' working families and our State's economy have both benefited from his progressive and innovative leadership.

In addition, under Ron Powell's leadership, Local 881 Ron has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, with the hope to find a cure. It has also raised funds for the Jackson Park Hospital in Chicago and for the Little City Foundation, which helps Chicago-area children with developmental disabilities.

My old friend, Senator Paul Wellstone, liked to sum up his definition of good economic policy by saying, "We all do better when we all do better."

Ron Powell believes in that same, proven plan for economic growth and justice. Working families in my, State of Illinois and far beyond are better off because of his decades of service on their behalf. I am honored to join those families in honoring Ron Powell on his distinguished career, and as a former member of UFCW's early unions, I wish him the very best as he begins the next chapter in his remarkable life.

#### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, in accordance with rule XXVI.2 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I submit for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the rules of procedure for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, as unanimously adopted by the committee on January 16, 2019.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the Rules of Procedure be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

##### LAMAR ALEXANDER, CHAIRMAN

#### RULES OF PROCEDURE (AS AGREED TO JANUARY 16, 2019)

Rule 1.—Subject to the provisions of rule XXVI, paragraph 5, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, regular meetings of the committee shall be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, at 10:00 a.m., in room SD-430, Dirksen Senate Office Building. The chairman may, upon proper notice, call such additional meetings as he may deem necessary.

Rule 2.—The chairman of the committee or of a subcommittee, or if the chairman is not present, the ranking majority member present, shall preside at all meetings. The

chairman may designate the ranking minority member to preside at hearings of the committee or subcommittee.

Rule 3.—Meetings of the committee or a subcommittee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public except as otherwise specifically provided in subsections (b) and (d) of rule 26.5 of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Rule 4.—(a) Subject to paragraph (b), one-third of the membership of the committee, actually present, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business. Any quorum of the committee which is composed of less than a majority of the members of the committee shall include at least one member of the majority and one member of the minority.

(b) A majority of the members of a subcommittee, actually present, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business: provided, no measure or matter shall be ordered reported unless such majority shall include at least one member of the minority who is a member of the subcommittee. If, at any subcommittee meeting, a measure or matter cannot be ordered reported because of the absence of such a minority member, the measure or matter shall lay over for a day. If the presence of a member of the minority is not then obtained, a majority of the members of the subcommittee, actually present, may order such measure or matter reported.

(c) No measure or matter shall be ordered reported from the committee or a subcommittee unless a majority of the committee or subcommittee is physically present.

Rule 5.—With the approval of the chairman of the committee or subcommittee, one member thereof may conduct public hearings other than taking sworn testimony.

Rule 6.—Proxy voting shall be allowed on all measures and matters before the committee or a subcommittee if the absent member has been informed of the matter on which he is being recorded and has affirmatively requested that he be so recorded. While proxies may be voted on a motion to report a measure or matter from the committee, such a motion shall also require the concurrence of a majority of the members who are actually present at the time such action is taken.

The committee may poll any matters of committee business as a matter of unanimous consent; provided that every member is polled and every poll consists of the following two questions:

(1) Do you agree or disagree to poll the proposal; and

(2) Do you favor or oppose the proposal.

Rule 7.—There shall be prepared and kept a complete transcript or electronic recording adequate to fully record the proceedings of each committee or subcommittee meeting or conference whether or not such meetings or any part thereof is closed pursuant to the specific provisions of subsections (b) and (d) of rule 26.5 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, unless a majority of said members vote to forgo such a record. Such records shall contain the vote cast by each member of the committee or subcommittee on any question on which a "yea and nay" vote is demanded, and shall be available for inspection by any committee member. The clerk of the committee, or the clerk's designee, shall have the responsibility to make appropriate arrangements to implement this rule.

Rule 8.—The committee and each subcommittee shall undertake, consistent with the provisions of rule XXVI, paragraph 4, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, to issue public announcement of any hearing or executive session it intends to hold at least one week prior to the commencement of such

hearing or executive session. In the case of an executive session, the text of any bill or joint resolution to be considered must be provided to the chairman for prompt electronic distribution to the members of the committee.

Rule 9.—The committee or a subcommittee shall require all witnesses heard before it to file written statements of their proposed testimony at least 24 hours before a hearing, unless the chairman and the ranking minority member determine that there is good cause for failure to so file, and to limit their oral presentation to brief summaries of their arguments. Testimony may be filed electronically. The presiding officer at any hearing is authorized to limit the time of each witness appearing before the committee or a subcommittee. The committee or a subcommittee shall, as far as practicable, utilize testimony previously taken on bills and measures similar to those before it for consideration.

Rule 10.—Should a subcommittee fail to report back to the full committee on any measure within a reasonable time, the chairman may withdraw the measure from such subcommittee and report that fact to the full committee for further disposition.

Rule 11.—No subcommittee may schedule a meeting or hearing at a time designated for a hearing or meeting of the full committee. No more than one subcommittee executive meeting may be held at the same time.

Rule 12.—It shall be the duty of the chairman in accordance with section 133(c) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, to report or cause to be reported to the Senate, any measure or recommendation approved by the committee and to take or cause to be taken, necessary steps to bring the matter to a vote in the Senate.

Rule 13.—Whenever a meeting of the committee or subcommittee is closed pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) or (d) of rule 26.5 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no person other than members of the committee, members of the staff of the committee, and designated assistants to members of the committee shall be permitted to attend such closed session, except by special dispensation of the committee or subcommittee or the chairman thereof.

Rule 14.—The chairman of the committee or a subcommittee shall be empowered to adjourn any meeting of the committee or a subcommittee if a quorum is not present within fifteen minutes of the time schedule for such meeting.

Rule 15.—Whenever a bill or joint resolution shall be before the committee or a subcommittee for final consideration, the clerk shall distribute to each member of the committee or subcommittee a document, prepared by the sponsor of the bill or joint resolution. If the bill or joint resolution has no underlying statutory language, the document shall consist of a detailed summary of the purpose and impact of each section. If the bill or joint resolution repeals or amends any statute or part thereof, the document shall consist of a detailed summary of the underlying statute and the proposed changes in each section of the underlying law and either a print of the statute or the part or section thereof to be amended or replaced showing by stricken-through type, the part or parts to be omitted and, in italics, the matter proposed to be added, along with a summary of the proposed changes; or a side-by-side document showing a comparison of current law, the proposed legislative changes, and a detailed description of the proposed changes.

Rule 16.—An appropriate opportunity shall be given the minority to examine the proposed text of committee reports prior to their filing or publication. In the event there

are supplemental, minority, or additional views, an appropriate opportunity shall be given the majority to examine the proposed text prior to filing or publication. Unless the chairman and ranking minority member agree on a shorter period of time, the minority shall have no fewer than three business days to prepare supplemental, minority or additional views for inclusion in a committee report from the time the majority makes the proposed text of the committee report available to the minority.

Rule 17.—(a) The committee, or any subcommittee, may issue subpoenas, or hold hearings to take sworn testimony or hear subpoenaed witnesses, only if such investigative activity has been authorized by majority vote of the committee.

(b) For the purpose of holding a hearing to take sworn testimony or hear subpoenaed witnesses, three members of the committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum: provided, with the concurrence of the chairman and ranking minority member of the committee or subcommittee, a single member may hear subpoenaed witnesses or take sworn testimony.

(c) The committee may, by a majority vote, delegate the authority to issue subpoenas to the chairman of the committee or a subcommittee, or to any member designated by such chairman. Prior to the issuance of each subpoena, the ranking minority member of the committee or subcommittee, and any other member so requesting, shall be notified regarding the identity of the person to whom it will be issued and the nature of the information sought and its relationship to the authorized investigative activity, except where the chairman of the committee or subcommittee, in consultation with the ranking minority member, determines that such notice would unduly impede the investigation. All information obtained pursuant to such investigative activity shall be made available as promptly as possible to each member of the committee requesting same, or to any assistant to a member of the committee designated by such member in writing, but the use of any such information is subject to restrictions imposed by the rules of the Senate. Such information, to the extent that it is relevant to the investigation shall, if requested by a member, be summarized in writing as soon as practicable. Upon the request of any member, the chairman of the committee or subcommittee shall call an executive session to discuss such investigative activity or the issuance of any subpoena in connection therewith.

(d) Any witness summoned to testify at a hearing, or any witness giving sworn testimony, may be accompanied by counsel of his own choosing who shall be permitted, while the witness is testifying, to advise him of his legal rights.

(e) No confidential testimony taken or confidential material presented in an executive hearing, or any report of the proceedings of such an executive hearing, shall be made public, either in whole or in part or by way of summary, unless authorized by a majority of the members of the committee or subcommittee.

Rule 18.—Presidential nominees shall submit a statement of their background and financial interests, including the financial interests of their spouse and children living in their household, on a form approved by the committee which shall be sworn to as to its completeness and accuracy. The committee form shall be in two parts—

(I) information relating to employment, education and background of the nominee relating to the position to which the individual is nominated, and which is to be made public; and,

(II) information relating to financial and other background of the nominee, to be made public when the committee determines that such information bears directly on the nominee's qualifications to hold the position to which the individual is nominated.

Information relating to background and financial interests (parts I and II) shall not be required of nominees for less than full-time appointments to councils, commissions or boards when the committee determines that some or all of the information is not relevant to the nature of the position. Information relating to other background and financial interests (part II) shall not be required of any nominee when the committee determines that it is not relevant to the nature of the position.

Committee action on a nomination, including hearings or meetings to consider a motion to recommend confirmation, shall not be initiated until at least five days after the nominee submits the form required by this rule unless the chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, waives this waiting period.

Rule 19.—Subject to statutory requirements imposed on the committee with respect to procedure, the rules of the committee may be changed, modified, amended or suspended at any time; provided, not less than a majority of the entire membership so determine at a regular meeting with due notice, or at a meeting specifically called for that purpose.

Rule 20.—When the ratio of members on the committee is even, the term "majority" as used in the committee's rules and guidelines shall refer to the party of the chairman for purposes of party identification. Numerical requirements for quorums, votes and the like shall be unaffected.

Rule 21.—First degree amendments must be filed with the chairman at least 24 hours before an executive session. The chairman shall promptly distribute all filed amendments electronically to the members of the committee. The chairman may modify the filing requirements to meet special circumstances with the concurrence of the ranking minority member.

Rule 22.—In addition to the foregoing, the proceedings of the committee shall be governed by the Standing Rules of the Senate and the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended.

GUIDELINES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS WITH RESPECT TO HEARINGS, MARKUP SESSIONS, AND RELATED MATTERS

#### HEARINGS

Section 133A(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act requires each committee of the Senate to publicly announce the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing at least one week prior to the commencement of such hearing.

The spirit of this requirement is to assure adequate notice to the public and other Members of the Senate as to the time and subject matter of proposed hearings. In the spirit of section 133A(a) and in order to assure that members of the committee are themselves fully informed and involved in the development of hearings:

1. Public notice of the date, place, and subject matter of each committee or subcommittee hearing should be inserted in the Congressional Record seven days prior to the commencement of such hearing.

2. At least seven days prior to public notice of each committee or subcommittee hearing, the majority should provide notice to the minority of the time, place and specific subject matter of such hearing.

3. At least three days prior to the date of such hearing, the committee or subcommittee should provide to each member a

list of witnesses who have been or are proposed to be invited to appear.

4. The committee and its subcommittee should, to the maximum feasible extent, enforce the provisions of rule 9 of the committee rules as it relates to the submission of written statements of witnesses twenty-four hours in advance of a hearing.

Witnesses will be urged to submit testimony even earlier whenever possible. When statements are received in advance of a hearing, the committee or subcommittee (as appropriate) should distribute copies of such statements to each of its members. Witness testimony may be submitted and distributed electronically.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MARKING UP BILLS

In order to expedite the process of marking up bills and to assist each member of the committee so that there may be full and fair consideration of each bill which the committee or a subcommittee is marking up the following procedures should be followed:

1. Seven days prior to the proposed date for an executive session for the purpose of marking up bills the committee or subcommittee (as appropriate) should provide written notice to each of its members as to the time, place, and specific subject matter of such session, including an agenda listing each bill or other matters to be considered and including:

(a) a copy of each bill, joint resolution, or other legislative matter (or committee print thereof) to be considered at such executive session; and

(b) a copy of a summary of the provisions of each bill, joint resolution, or other legislative matter to be considered at such executive session including, whenever possible, an explanation of changes to existing law proposed to be made.

2. Insofar as practical, prior to the scheduled date for an executive session for the purpose of marking up bills, the committee or a subcommittee (as appropriate) should provide each member with a copy of the printed record or a summary of any hearings conducted by the committee or a subcommittee with respect to each bill, joint resolution, or other legislative matter to be considered at such executive session.

### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has adopted rules governing its procedures for the 116th Congress. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying rules for the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION 116TH CONGRESS

##### RULE I—MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. IN GENERAL.—The regular meeting dates of the Committee shall be the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman as the Chairman may deem necessary, or pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2. OPEN MEETINGS.—Meetings of the Committee, or any subcommittee, including

meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the Committee, or any subcommittee, on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (A) through (F) would require the meeting to be closed, followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the members of the Committee, or any subcommittee, when it is determined that the matter to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(A) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(B) will relate solely to matters of Committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(C) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(D) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interest of effective law enforcement;

(E) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets of, or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to, a given person if—

(1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(2) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(F) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations.

3. STATEMENTS.—Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or any subcommittee shall file with the Committee, at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing, a written statement of the witness's testimony in as many copies as the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee prescribes. In the event a witness fails to file a timely written statement in accordance with this rule, the Chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, as applicable, may permit the witness to testify, or deny the witness the privilege of testifying before the Committee, or permit the witness to testify in response to questions from members without the benefit of giving an opening statement.

4. FIELD HEARINGS.—Field hearings of the full Committee, and any subcommittee thereof, shall be scheduled only when authorized by the Chairman and ranking minority member of the full Committee.

##### RULE II—QUORUMS

1. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND NOMINATIONS.—A majority of the members, which includes at least 1 minority member, shall constitute a quorum for official action of the Committee when reporting a bill, resolution, or nomination. Proxies may not be counted in making a quorum for purposes of this paragraph.

2. OTHER BUSINESS.—One-third of the entire membership of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business as may be considered by the Com-

mittee, except for the reporting of a bill, resolution, or nomination or authorizing a subpoena. Proxies may not be counted in making a quorum for purposes of this paragraph.

3. TAKING TESTIMONY.—For the purpose of taking sworn testimony a quorum of the Committee and each subcommittee thereof, now or hereafter appointed, shall consist of 1 member of the Committee.

##### RULE III—PROXIES

When a record vote is taken in the Committee on any bill, resolution, amendment, or any other question, the required quorum being present, a member who is unable to attend the meeting may submit his or her vote by proxy, in writing or through personal instructions.

##### RULE IV—CONSIDERATION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

IT SHALL NOT BE IN ORDER DURING A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE TO MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE CONSIDERATION OF ANY BILL OR RESOLUTION UNLESS THE BILL OR RESOLUTION HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE NOT LESS THAN 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING, IN AS MANY COPIES AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE PRESCRIBES. THIS RULE MAY BE WAIVED WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND THE RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF THE FULL COMMITTEE.

##### RULE V—SUBPOENAS; COUNSEL; RECORD

1. SUBPOENAS.—The Chairman, with the approval of the ranking minority member of the Committee, may subpoena the attendance of witnesses for hearings and the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials. The Chairman may subpoena such attendance of witnesses or production of materials without the approval of the ranking minority member if the Chairman or a member of the Committee staff designated by the Chairman has not received notification from the ranking minority member or a member of the Committee staff designated by the ranking minority member of disapproval of the subpoena within 72 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, of being notified of the subpoena. If a subpoena is disapproved by the ranking minority member as provided in this paragraph, the subpoena may be authorized by vote of the Members of the Committee, the quorum required by paragraph 1 of rule II being present. When the Committee or Chairman authorizes a subpoena, it shall be issued upon the signature of the Chairman or any other Member of the Committee designated by the Chairman. At the direction of the Chairman, with notification to the ranking minority member of not less than 72 hours, the staff is authorized to take depositions from witnesses. The ranking minority member, or a member of the Committee staff designated by the ranking minority member, shall be given the opportunity to attend and participate in the taking of any deposition. Witnesses at depositions shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by law to administer oaths, or administered by any member of the Committee if one is present.

2. COUNSEL.—Witnesses may be accompanied at a public or executive hearing, or the taking of a deposition, by counsel to advise them of their rights. Counsel retained by any witness and accompanying such witness shall be permitted to be present during the testimony of the witness at any public or executive hearing, or the taking of a deposition, to advise the witness, while the witness is testifying, of the witness's legal rights. In the case of any witness who is an officer or employee of the government, or of a corporation or association, the Chairman may rule that representation by counsel from the government, corporation, or association or by

counsel representing other witnesses, creates a conflict of interest, and that the witness may only be represented during testimony before the Committee by personal counsel not from the government, corporation, or association or by personal counsel not representing other witnesses. This paragraph shall not be construed to excuse a witness from testifying in the event the witness's counsel is ejected for conducting himself or herself in such manner as to prevent, impede, disrupt, obstruct, or interfere with the orderly administration of a hearing or the taking of a deposition. This paragraph may not be construed as authorizing counsel to coach the witness or to answer for the witness. The failure of any witness to secure counsel shall not excuse the witness from complying with a subpoena.

3. RECORD.—An accurate electronic or stenographic record shall be kept of the testimony of all witnesses in executive and public hearings and depositions. If testimony given by deposition is transcribed, the individual administering the oath shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn in his or her presence and the transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony. The transcript with these certifications shall be filed with the chief clerk of the Committee. The record of a witness's testimony, whether in public or executive session or in a deposition, shall be made available for inspection by the witness or the witness's counsel under Committee supervision. A copy of any testimony given in public session, or that part of the testimony given by the witness in executive session or deposition and subsequently quoted or made part of the record in a public session, shall be provided to that witness at the witness's expense if so requested. Upon inspecting the transcript, within a time limit set by the Clerk of the Committee, a witness may request changes in the transcript to correct errors of transcription and grammatical errors. The witness may also bring to the attention of the Committee errors of fact in the witness's testimony by submitting a sworn statement about those facts with a request that it be attached to the transcript. The Chairman or a member of the Committee staff designated by the Chairman shall rule on such requests.

#### RULE VI—BROADCASTING OF HEARINGS

Public hearings of the full Committee, or any subcommittee thereof, shall be televised or broadcast only when authorized by the Chairman and the ranking minority member of the full Committee.

#### RULE VII—SUBCOMMITTEES

1. HEARINGS.—Any member of the Committee may sit with any subcommittee during its hearings.

2. CHANGE OF CHAIRMANSHIP.—Subcommittees shall be considered de novo whenever there is a change in the chairmanship, and seniority on the particular subcommittee shall not necessarily apply.

#### S. RES. 19

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, S. Res. 19 is unnecessary because no religious test is being applied to nominees for Federal office. If my colleague, the junior Senator from Nebraska, wants to embrace the alt-right's position by offering this resolution, that is his business.

Rather than passing a resolution to address a problem that doesn't exist, we should focus on something real, like ending this totally unnecessary, unjustified shutdown that is harming millions of Americans.

I ask unanimous consent for, statements supporting the separation of church and state from Catholics for Choice, People for the American Way, and several Hawaii residents.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### CATHOLICS FOR CHOICE,

Washington, DC, January 4, 2019.

Hon. MAZIE HIRONO,  
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HIRONO: Catholics for Choice represents the majority of Catholics across the United States that believes that each woman should be free to follow her conscience in moral matters regarding reproductive health.

We were very disappointed to see your colleagues, Senators Hirono and Harris, attacked for duly questioning district court nominee Brian Buescher about his ability to keep judicial impartiality due to his membership in the hardline Catholic organization, Knights of Columbus. They had every reason to raise these questions due to the Knights' troubling record.

Today's Knights of Columbus have strayed far from their civic roots as a philanthropic organization. Our enclosed report, The Knights of Columbus: Crusaders for Discrimination, provides a detailed look at how they have brazenly used their 501c8 status to pour money, effort and influence into political contests and policy debates.

As our investigation showed, they have spent more than \$10 million since 2014 in direct antichoice and anti-LGBT lobbying, like their petition in Albuquerque to try to ban later abortion. The Knights' organization uses a large portion of its time and effort funding ultrasound equipment for fake health centers that actively deceive and pressure women to keep unwanted pregnancies. The insurance arm of the Knights ranks in the top one percent of the North American insurance market, yet pays no federal and nearly no state or local taxes. Make no mistake: they do not represent what the majority of Catholics believe on issues of reproductive health or the separation of church and state.

We believe this and other attacks on Senators fulfilling their obligations to question judicial nominees are just the latest tactic in shifting the conversation about religious liberty toward making special accommodations to those who wish to refuse, impede and impose rather than to protect the true religious liberty of all, no matter their beliefs. As Religious Freedom Day nears—and we usher in a historic new Congress that embodies our country's religious plurality—we must remember that our society allows for free religious exercise, but also protects against religious influence in politics.

Catholics for Choice works at the intersection of religious liberty, reproductive freedom and freedom of conscience for all. We are at your and your staff's disposal as the committee continues to protect fundamental freedoms through its work. Should you have any questions, please contact me at gnorthern@catholicsforchoice.org or 202-986-6093.

Sincerely,

GLENN NORTHERN,  
Domestic Program Director.

[From Honolulu Civil Beat, Jan. 14, 2019]

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(By Lisa H. Gibson, Ray Markey, Maya Maxym)

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono, Democrat of Hawaii, is under attack.

She stands for women, both as a champion of a woman's right to choose and as a defender of those who have been sexually assaulted; she fought Trump and the Republicans in defense of the Affordable Care Act, against the Muslim ban and the Kavanaugh Supreme Court nomination. She is being attacked because she has become one of the most eloquent and effective voices of the values Indivisible Hawaii cherishes.

The attack comes not only from rightwing ideologues, it now comes from Hawaii's own member of the House of Representatives, Tulsi Gabbard, a Democrat who on Friday announced her candidacy for the presidency. Her article in The Hill accuses Democratic Party members of the Senate Judiciary Committee of "fomenting religious bigotry" and "weaponizing religion" during their questioning of nominee Brian Buescher to the U.S. District Court in Nebraska.

This thinly veiled attack on Sen. Hirono, who sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee which is responsible for approving judicial nominees, is a ludicrous assertion and a stunning act of hypocrisy on the part of Rep. Gabbard. The assertion is that Hirono is a religious bigot because of questions designed to reveal a nominee's clear record of antichoice activism as a barrier to his appropriateness for a judicial appointment.

This attack is not only inaccurate, it exposes Gabbard's self-serving attempt to project herself as a defender of religious freedom—a position which is inconsistent with her own actions. Rather than align herself with India's overt right-wing Hindu Nationalists or Syria's Assad, we suggest Rep. Gabbard follow Sen. Hirono as a model of both authentic patriotic behavior and defense of civil rights.

Members of Indivisible Hawaii and other groups have visited Sen. Hirono's offices, as well as those of the other members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation, dozens of times since President Donald Trump's Jan. 20, 2017, inauguration. We know firsthand that she has championed our beliefs because we have talked with her and her staff many times. We have followed her votes, watched her on television, read her Facebook Page and emails, and attended her town halls.

Sen. Hirono immigrated to Hawaii as a child and understands from personal experience the challenges faced by immigrants. She is the first Buddhist to serve in the Senate. Her years of public service establish a record which, in particular, show her to be a defender of religious tolerance as well as the values of democratic government and the rule of law upon which our country depends.

We witnessed what Gabbard did at, during, and after the Democratic Party Convention in 2016 to attack not Trump or the Republicans, but former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party. Since Trump's election Gabbard's silence in response to Trump's efforts to dismantle the institutions of our democracy has been deafening and stands in stark contrast to Sen. Hirono's forthright, clear and courageous actions to fight the racist, misogynist, and authoritarian actions of Trump and the GOP. The Hill article mimics her past behavior—why does she choose to do this again?

As we fight to preserve our democracy unity is more important than ever. An attack on Sen. Mazie Hirono as a champion of progressive values in the Democratic Party is an attack on all of us who want to take our country back. We must stand with Sen. Hirono and other champions of democracy to be successful.

[Jan. 8, 2019]

PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY: CONSERVATIVES' DISHONEST USE OF 'RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY' TO DEFLECT ATTENTION FROM NOMINEE'S DISTURBING RECORDS

(By Rev. Leslie Watson Malachi)

Happy New Year! Well, for most of us it should be—unless you are fighting to protect our courts. New year, same old tactic by conservatives, who are hoping to insulate narrow-minded judicial nominees from scrutiny by smearing people who ask critical questions about their records and rhetoric.

This dishonest “religious bigotry” strategy has been around as long as the organized effort to shift the federal judiciary to conservatism and reverse decades of precedent that protect Americans' legal and constitutional rights. In the recent past, for example, these groups have charged some Catholic senators with wanting to keep Catholics off the federal bench.

The latest smear is being pushed by the notoriously right-wing editorial board of the Wall Street Journal, which has run an attack on Senators Kamala Harris and Mazie Hirono. The Journal's editorial is an over-the-top response to written questions submitted by Sens. Harris and Hirono to federal court nominee Brian Buescher about his commitment to upholding legal equality for LGBTQ Americans and American women's legal right to abortion.

In their questions, the senators noted Buescher's long-time membership in the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal organization that does much laudable charitable work, but which was also a top funder of anti-marriage-equality efforts and supports restrictions on federal family-planning funds. Before the 2016 election, the group's influential leader declared that Catholics cannot vote for candidates who support abortion rights.

Given these facts, the senators asked Buescher whether he could assure litigants that he would deal with these issues fairly and impartially as a federal judge. (Buescher's answer stated that while he had run for political office as a “pro-life candidate,” as a judge he would “faithfully apply all United States Supreme Court and Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals precedent on all issues, including *Roe v. Wade*” and *Obergefell*.)

The Journal's editorial board responded to the senators' reasonable line of questioning with outrage and horror. By seeking to protect LGBTQ equality and reproductive rights, and asking questions about the Knights' public policy positions, the editorial implied, Sens. Harris and Hirono were resurrecting the kind of anti-Catholic bigotry directed at John F. Kennedy and earlier presidential candidate Al Smith. The editorial said the questions were part of a “distressing pattern” that seeks to “banish” religious people from public life—the kind of false charge Religious Right groups have often leveled to deflect criticism of their political agendas or tactics.

This is not only absurd, but an insult to American voters.

The Journal also gave space to conservative African American pastor Eugene Rivers to repeat the charge, saying that the senators' questions were “about silencing believers of any kind whose views differ from the progressive view on social issues.” He unbelievably suggested that opponents of Buescher's confirmation would be voting to deny his chance to be a public servant based on his baptism in the Catholic Church.

These inflammatory charges are designed to create distraction. It is not only acceptable, but necessary for senators to explore whether a nominee for a powerful lifetime

job as a federal judge will uphold every Americans' rights. In the case of Buescher this is doubtful, given that as an unsuccessful candidate for attorney general of Nebraska, he said he did not believe LGBT Americans should be protected by anti-discrimination laws the way people are protected from racial or ethnic discrimination. It was also at this time that he declared that he supported the “complete reversal” of *Roe v. Wade*. Buescher has a long record as a partisan ideological warrior, an additional reason cited by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights in opposing his confirmation.

Religious freedom is a core constitutional principle, and as the Constitution makes clear, there must be no religious test for public office. We rely on the federal courts to enforce all Americans' constitutional rights. That means judges, regardless of their religious or personal beliefs, must be counted on to uphold Americans' legal protections. Subsequently, a person's political positions or legal ideology grounded in their faith does not make those legal and political stances off-limits to questioning or criticism.

With Senate Republicans rubber-stamping even President Trump's most extreme and unqualified nominees, right-wing intimidation tactics must not prevent senators from fulfilling their constitutional obligation to ensure that lifetime federal judges are committed to protecting the rights of all Americans.

Thank you, Senators Harris and Hirono! It's a new year, and it's time to retire this old dishonest tactic of silencing and attempts to shame. Let the questions be asked and let them be answered.

[From the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, Jan. 6, 2019]

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(By Gary Edwards)

With regard to Donna L. Ching's letter (“Leave religion out in vetting qualifications,” *Star-Advertiser*, Dec. 27): While I agree that a person's religious affiliation, alone, should not be a means of exclusion for public office, I do not agree that religion should be “left out of the conversation.”

One of the real concerns in vetting candidates for public office is how they will apply their personal beliefs, including their religion, to the role they seek to fill. And while freedom of religion is a vital right, so is freedom from religion.

Significant damage can be done to our society by those who would seek to impose their religious beliefs and values on others through the force of law. These beliefs and values do not always align with the principles of our Constitution, and laws based on them would deny others their freedom and fair treatment.

I'm glad U.S. Sens. Mazie Hirono and Kamala Harris are probing these issues. Kaneohe.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 15, 2019]

## SENATORS WERE RIGHT TO ASK THOSE QUESTIONS ON RELIGION

(By Michael Keegan)

Regarding your editorial “Kamala Harris's Dark Knights” (Jan. 3): Sens. Harris and Mazie Hirono's questions for Brian Buescher were focused on appropriate and important questions, namely whether the nominee could be counted on as a federal judge to recognize and protect the legal equality of LGBTQ Americans and the right of American women to have access to safe and legal abortion.

You charge that such questioning is about trying to “banish” people from public life for their religious beliefs and associations. In re-

ality, protecting the legal rights of all Americans of all faiths by ensuring that nominees for powerful lifetime seats on America's federal courts are committed to enforcing them is one of senators' most important responsibilities, one that the current Republican majority has abandoned in its rush to achieve ideological domination of the courts.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO KORI KELLER

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Kori Keller of Yellowstone County for her impact on the Billings community, through her work at the Ramsey Keller Memorial.

Mrs. Keller, a Billings native, has dedicated her time to aiding parents who have undergone the hardship of losing a child too young. Mrs. Keller and her husband lost their precious daughter Ramsey soon after she was born.

As a way of honoring their daughter, Kori and her husband founded the Ramsey Keller Memorial. The Ramsey Keller Memorial is dedicated to helping families who have lost children under the age of 1 year old. The foundation raises money through both an annual race and a pink-tie affair to pay for the funerals of Montana infants that have passed away before their first birthday. Since then, Kori has been an advocate and provided comfort for numerous parents going through the same hardships she experienced.

I congratulate Kori on her growing role in the State of Montana. She has been a constant source of hope and aid to families going through similar hardships she has endured. I look forward to seeing the success of the Ramsey Keller Memorial, as it continues to pour into Montana family's lives.●

## REMEMBERING EUCARIO BERMUDEZ

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I would like to honor the life and legacy of Colombian-American journalist and broadcaster, Eucario Bermudez. Bermudez, a beloved south Florida radio legend amongst the Hispanic community, died earlier this month after years of service to the Hispanic community in the State of Florida. Today I pay tribute to Eucario's life, with immense gratitude for his work and dedication.●

## RECOGNIZING INDIAN PASS RAW BAR

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I would like to highlight the hard work and unique entrepreneurial spirit that can be found across my home State of Florida. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies hard work and dedication toward the local

community. Today, it is my distinct privilege to honor Indian Pass Raw Bar from Port St. Joe in Gulf County, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Indian Pass Raw Bar has deep historical ties to the Florida Panhandle along the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico, tracing its roots to a commissary store founded in 1903, for workers in the then-booming turpentine industry. It is located in the same building as the original Indian Pass Trading Post that opened in 1929, where Mrs. Gypsy McNeil established her talent with her delicious seafood gumbo.

In 1986, Hurricane Kate struck the Florida Panhandle and destroyed the Indian Pass Trading Post. The McNeil family showed resilience after the storm and recovered by converting the general store into an oyster bar, setting the stage for business to skyrocket.

Twenty-three miles from Apalachicola, FL, Indian Pass Raw Bar serves the panhandle's world-famous oysters and iconic seafood dishes, such as steamed shrimp and crab legs. Drinks are served on an honor system where customers keep their tabs to turn in at checkout, treating customers like trusted friends. It has become a renowned location for Floridians and tourists alike to enjoy time with family. Southern Living magazine once described Indian Pass Raw Bar as "quite possibly the best seafood shack in existence." It has also received praise from the Garden & Gun magazine as one of Florida's "Hidden Hotspots." Indian Pass Raw Bar's success continued with the opening of a second location in June 2017, in downtown Port St. Joe, FL.

In October 2018, category 5 Hurricane Michael devastated the Florida Panhandle, including Gulf County. The storm severely damaged Indian Pass Raw Bar, as high winds blew off the front door, forcefully removed the air-conditioning system, and threw its iconic street sign hundreds of yards away. However, just as they did after the 1986 storm, the McNeil family is rebuilding and looks forward to continuing to serve their world-famous oysters again this spring. Upon reopening, they will welcome visitors to the gulf coast of Florida for their 90th year in business.

The Indian Pass Raw Bar became what it is today partly because of Hurricane Kate in 1986. The McNeil family understands how devastating these storms truly are and the impact they can have on small business and working families. To help their community, the McNeil family enthusiastically opened their facilities as emergency supply distribution centers to their neighbors in need, despite having their own difficulties. Meredith McNeil said in October 2018: "This whole area, the whole Gulf, we've done this before. We're all resilient."

This is the kind of commitment to community that is unique to American

small business. During a catastrophe, the Indian Pass Raw Bar helped bring their fellow citizens together by offering emergency supplies in order to help their customers and to give back to the community that has supported their business. Indian Pass Raw Bar is an example of Florida's exceptional entrepreneurship, continuing a 90-year history, being resilient and innovative in its approach to challenges, and giving back to the community during a time of need. I would like to congratulate the McNeil family and all the employees at Indian Pass Raw Bar for being named the Senate Small Business of the Week for the week of January 14 to 18, 2019. I wish them continued success in their future endeavors.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

#### REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12947 OF JANUARY 23, 1995, WITH RESPECT TO TERRORISTS WHO THREATEN TO DISRUPT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS—PM 1

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995, with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace

process, is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 2019.

The crisis with respect to grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that led to the declaration of a national emergency on January 23, 1995, has not been resolved. Terrorist groups continue to engage in activities that have the purpose or effect of threatening the Middle East peace process and that are hostile to United States interests in the region. Such actions continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12947 with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process and to maintain in force the sanctions against them to respond to this threat.

DONALD J. TRUMP,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 16, 2019.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:28 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 113. An act to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

H.R. 135. An act to amend the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 to strengthen Federal antidiscrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

H.R. 136. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to protect unpaid interns in the Federal Government from workplace harassment and discrimination, and for other purposes.

H.R. 202. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 relative to the powers of the Department of Justice Inspector General.

H.R. 247. An act to amend chapter 36 of title 44, United States Code, to make certain changes relating to electronic Government services, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 113. An act to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 135. An act to amend the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 to strengthen Federal antidiscrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 136. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to protect unpaid interns in the

Federal Government from workplace harassment and discrimination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 202. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 relative to the powers of the Department of Justice Inspector General; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 247. An act to amend chapter 36 of title 44, United States Code, to make certain changes relating to electronic Government services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

### 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 Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 137. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the credit for employers establishing workplace child care facilities, to increase the child care credit to encourage greater use of quality child care services, to provide incentives for students to earn child care-related degrees and to work in child care facilities, and to increase the exclusion for employer-provided dependent care assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 138. A bill to modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in the States of Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 139. A bill to designate the bridge located in Blount County, Tennessee, on the Foothills Parkway (commonly known as "Bridge 2") as the "Dean Stone Bridge"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 140. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the President James K. Polk Home in Columbia, Tennessee, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SASSE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 141. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 142. A bill to impose privacy requirements on providers of internet services similar to the requirements imposed on Federal agencies under the Privacy Act of 1974; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. KING, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 143. A bill to authorize the Department of Energy to conduct collaborative research with the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to improve healthcare services for veterans in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 144. A bill to designate the mountain at the Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming, as Devils Tower, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SASSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 145. A bill to expand opportunity through greater choice in education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 146. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Move America bonds and Move America credits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 147. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 148. A bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 149. A bill to establish a Senior Scams Prevention Advisory Council; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 150. A bill to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 151. A bill to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 152. A bill to direct the President to impose penalties pursuant to denial orders with respect to certain Chinese telecommunications companies that are in violation of the export control or sanctions laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 153. A bill to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 154. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve oversight of contracts for services and financial processes of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JONES (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 155. A bill to improve the financial literacy of secondary school students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 156. A bill to prevent conflicts of interest that stem from executive branch employees receiving bonuses or other compensation arrangements from non-Government sources, from the revolving door that raises concerns about the independence of executive branch employees, and from the revolving door that casts aspersions over the awarding of Government contracts and other financial benefits; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SASSE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. LEE):

S. 157. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit kindergarten through grade 12 educational expenses to be paid from a 529 account; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 158. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 159. A bill to implement equal protection under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States for the right to life of each born and preborn human person; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SASSE, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. LEE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 160. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 161. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on filing requirements under the Universal Service Fund programs; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 162. A bill to provide back pay to low-wage contractor employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 163. A bill to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. HOEVEN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 164. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 165. A bill to amend chapter 85 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify that Federal employees excepted from a furlough are eligible for unemployment compensation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 166. A bill to provide provisional protected presence status for certain aliens and to provide mandatory appropriations relating to border security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 167. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to extend the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 168. A bill to retitle Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as Indiana Dunes National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 169. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from gross income for civil damages as recompense for trafficking in persons; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 170. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to limit the amount of certain qualified conservation contributions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 171. A bill to authorize the Office on Violence Against Women to improve the handling of crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by incorporating a trauma-informed approach into the initial response to and investigation of such crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 172. A bill to delay the reimposition of the annual fee on health insurance providers

until after 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SASSE:

S. Res. 19. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that disqualifying a nominee to Federal office on the basis of membership in the Knights of Columbus violates the Constitution of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS):

S. Con. Res. 1. A concurrent resolution calling for credible, transparent, and safe elections in Nigeria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 20

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 20, a bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require the disclosure of certain tax returns by Presidents and certain candidates for the office of the President, and for other purposes.

S. 39

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 39, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 47

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 47, a bill to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 69

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 69, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 83

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 83, a bill to amend section 203 of Public Law 94-305 to ensure proper authority for the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 92

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 92, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive

branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 96

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 96, a bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 98

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 98, a bill to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

S. 104

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 104, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 106

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 106, a bill to reauthorize and extend funding for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps.

S. 113

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 113, a bill to appropriate funds for pay and allowances of excepted Federal employees, and for other purposes.

S. 119

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 119, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 120

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 120, a bill to protect victims of stalking from gun violence.

S. 131

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 131, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for the administrative costs of providing health benefits to individuals who are unauthorized immigrants.

S.J. RES. 3

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as co-sponsors of S.J. Res. 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SASSE, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 141. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Thank you very much to my colleagues, the Senator from Nebraska, the Senator from Mississippi, as well as our other colleague, the Senator from Missouri. Thank you for joining us on the floor today to express our support for those who march for life. Thank you so much.

As my colleagues can attest, the invaluable message being shared by the pro-life community this week has implications far beyond that of simply the March for Life. As I travel across my home State of Iowa, I see this life-affirming message in our pregnancy resource centers, maternity homes, and adoption agencies. These comprehensive on-the-ground services provide women and families with service options that are changing and saving lives every single day.

These life-affirming services are the foundation of the pro-life movement across our Nation, and I sincerely thank those centers and agencies for their critical work to fight for vulnerable lives throughout the year.

I see the same message in the remarkable stories of individual families, such as the Pickering family from Newton, IA. I have had the opportunity to share the phenomenal story of Micah Pickering on the Senate floor before. As you may recall, Micah was born at just 20 weeks postfertilization. He was only about the size of a bag of M&M's—the size of the palm of my hand. That was Micah. Yet Micah was also a perfect, fully-formed baby boy, with 10 fingers and 10 toes. In fact, no one makes his case more eloquently than Micah himself.

When I first met Micah, I had a picture of him displayed in my office from

the day that he was born—again, the size of the palm of my hand. Micah immediately ran up to that picture. He pointed at it, and he said: “Baby.”

Micah recognized right away that even at just 20 weeks postfertilization, the humanity of the child was undeniable.

Micah's parents and the doctors and nurses at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics recognized this humanity, as well, and were dedicated to his survival. Today Micah is a happy, healthy, and energetic 6-year-old boy.

Stories like Micah's are extraordinary reminders that the life-affirming services, for which the pro-life community marches, have real and significant impacts on the lives of families across America.

Since coming to Congress, I have also tried to do my part to ensure that this message from those in my home State of Iowa and from other communities all across the Nation is taken back and turned into action in Washington. For me, that has meant supporting crucial pro-life initiatives, such as the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would prevent abortions after 20 weeks of development—the very same age at which my dear Micah was born.

Another critical piece of legislation, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, would create concrete enforcement provisions to hold abortionists accountable if they do not provide the same degree of care to a baby who survives an abortion as they would any child born naturally premature at that same age.

Fighting for commonsense legislation that protects innocent life has been a priority of mine in the Senate. But Congress must also do more to ensure that taxpayers are not forced to subsidize abortion or the abortion industry giants, such as Planned Parenthood.

During the 115th Congress, I led the fight in the Senate to pass critical legislation, which was signed into law in 2017, that ensures States are not forced to provide entities like Planned Parenthood, the Nation's single largest provider of abortions, with Federal title X dollars.

I am grateful to have worked with former Congresswoman Diane Black, my Senate colleagues, and President Trump to make sure States are not forced to award providers like Planned Parenthood with taxpayer dollars like title X family planning grants.

As I have stated time and again, taxpayers should not be forced to foot the bill for roughly one-half billion dollars annually for an organization like Planned Parenthood, which exhibits such disrespect for human life. With that in mind, today I reintroduced legislation that would defund Planned Parenthood while still protecting vital funding for women's healthcare services. Contrary to what they claim, Planned Parenthood is not the Nation's preeminent provider of women's healthcare. In fact, Planned Parent-

hood facilities do not even perform in-house mammograms; something so simple is not performed by Planned Parenthood.

On the other hand, just as my colleague the senior Senator from Nebraska stated, community health centers continue to greatly outnumber Planned Parenthood clinics nationwide and provide more comprehensive preventive and primary health services, including cervical and breast cancer screenings, diagnostic laboratory and radiology services, well childcare, prenatal and postnatal care, immunizations, and so much more. Access to comprehensive health services is absolutely critical to women and families across this Nation, and federally qualified health centers offer such services, regardless of a person's ability to pay.

A recent GAO study that I requested, along with many of my colleagues in both the House and the Senate, showed that over a 3-year period, federally qualified health centers served 25 million individuals compared to only 2.4 million individuals that Planned Parenthood served. That is more than 10 times more people served by those healthcare centers.

Furthermore, a recent Marist poll shows that 54 percent of Americans do not support taxpayer dollars going toward abortions. While there are Federal regulations that prevent Federal dollars from directly covering abortion, these laws are governed by a complicated patchwork of policies and funding riders that must be reapproved during the appropriations process every single year.

Since 1976, the Hyde amendment has been attached to appropriations bills in order to block Federal funds from paying for abortions. However, this policy, which once drew widespread bipartisan support, has recently been under attack. For the first time ever, the Affordable Care Act authorized and appropriated funds that bypassed the Hyde amendment funding restrictions. In 2016, the Democratic Party added the repeal of the Hyde amendment protections to its Presidential platform.

The Hyde amendment is a long-standing and critical provision that protects Federal dollars and ensures that taxpayers are not footing the bill for abortion procedures. That is why I support the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2019, which was recently reintroduced in the Senate. This legislation would permanently codify the Hyde amendment, ensuring that funding restrictions remain in place and are applied to all Federal programs. Furthermore, this bill takes important steps to eliminate certain tax benefits related to abortions and improve disclosure requirements related to insurance coverage of abortion.

Preventing our taxpayer dollars from paying for abortion procedures—a position that a majority of Americans agree with—should not be a complicated process vulnerable to partisan

attack. Congress must take steps to ensure that permanent protections apply governmentwide.

As such, I urge the Senate to consider the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Disclosure Act on the floor in order to protect not only our taxpayer dollars but the innocent lives of our most vulnerable.

I appreciate all of the marchers who will be coming to Washington, DC, in the following days and spending their time in a most worthy effort, which is our annual March for Life. God bless them all. Of course, God bless my Iowans for that journey.

Thank you very much.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 151. A bill to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 151

*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 “Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act” or the “TRACED Act”.

#### SEC. 2. FORFEITURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) CIVIL FORFEITURE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person that is determined by the Commission, in accordance with paragraph (3) or (4) of section 503(b), to have violated any provision of this subsection shall be liable to the United States for a forfeiture penalty pursuant to section 503(b)(1). The amount of the forfeiture penalty determined under this subparagraph shall be determined in accordance with subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 503(b)(2).

“(B) VIOLATION WITH INTENT.—Any person that is determined by the Commission, in accordance with paragraph (3) or (4) of section 503(b), to have violated this subsection with the intent to cause such violation shall be liable to the United States for a forfeiture penalty. The amount of the forfeiture penalty determined under this subparagraph shall be equal to an amount determined in accordance with subparagraphs (A) through (F) of section 503(b)(2) plus an additional penalty not to exceed \$10,000.

“(C) RECOVERY.—Any forfeiture penalty determined under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be recoverable under section 504(a).

“(D) PROCEDURE.—No forfeiture liability shall be determined under subparagraph (A) or (B) against any person unless such person receives the notice required by paragraph (3) or (4) of section 503(b).

“(E) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—No forfeiture penalty shall be determined or imposed against any person—

“(i) under subparagraph (A) if the violation charged occurred more than 1 year prior to

the date of issuance of the required notice or notice of apparent liability; and

“(ii) under subparagraph (B) if the violation charged occurred more than 3 years prior to the date of issuance of the required notice or notice of apparent liability.

“(F) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Commission may not determine or impose a forfeiture penalty on a person under both subparagraphs (A) and (B) based on the same conduct.”; and

(2) by striking subsection (h).

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall not affect any action or proceeding commenced before and pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—The Federal Communications Commission shall prescribe regulations to implement the amendments made by this section not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 3. CALL AUTHENTICATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) STIR/SHAKEN AUTHENTICATION FRAMEWORK.—The term “STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework” means the secure telephone identity revisited and signature-based handling of asserted information using tokens standards proposed by the information and communications technology industry to attach a certificate of authenticity to each phone to verify the source of each call.

(2) VOICE SERVICE.—The term “voice service”—

(A) means any service that is interconnected with the public switched telephone network and that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor to the North American Numbering Plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)(1)); and

(B) includes—

(i) transmissions from a telephone facsimile machine, computer, or other device to a telephone facsimile machine; and

(ii) without limitation, any service that enables real-time, two-way voice communications, including any service that requires internet protocol-compatible customer premises equipment (commonly known as “CPE”) and permits out-bound calling, whether or not the service is one-way or two-way voice over internet protocol.

(b) AUTHENTICATION FRAMEWORK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall require a provider of voice service to implement the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework in the internet protocol networks of voice service providers.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Federal Communications Commission shall not take the action described in paragraph (1) if the Commission determines that a provider of voice service, not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) has adopted the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework for calls on the internet protocol networks of voice service providers;

(B) has agreed voluntarily to participate with other providers of voice service in the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework;

(C) has begun to implement the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework; and

(D) will be capable of fully implementing the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications

Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the determination required under paragraph (2), which shall include—

(A) an analysis of the extent to which providers of a voice service have implemented the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework; and

(B) an assessment of the efficacy of the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework, as being implemented under this section, in addressing all aspects of call authentication.

(4) REVIEW AND REVISION OR REPLACEMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 3 years thereafter, the Federal Communications Commission, after public notice and an opportunity for comment, shall—

(A) assess the efficacy of the call authentication framework implemented under this section;

(B) based on the assessment under subparagraph (A), revise or replace the call authentication framework under this section if the Commission determines it is in the public interest to do so; and

(C) submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the assessment under subparagraph (A) and on any actions to revise or replace the call authentication framework under subparagraph (B).

(5) EXTENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—The Federal Communications Commission may extend any deadline for the implementation of a call authentication framework required under this section by 12 months or such further amount of time as the Commission determines necessary if the Commission determines that purchasing or upgrading equipment to support call authentication would constitute a substantial hardship for a provider or category of providers.

(c) SAFE HARBOR AND OTHER REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Communications Commission shall promulgate rules—

(A) establishing when a provider of voice service may block a voice call based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the call authentication framework under subsection (b);

(B) establishing a safe harbor for a provider of voice service from liability for unintended or inadvertent blocking of calls or for the unintended or inadvertent misidentification of the level of trust for individual calls based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the call authentication framework under subsection (b); and

(C) establishing a process to permit a calling party adversely affected by the information provided by the call authentication framework under subsection (b) to verify the authenticity of the calling party's calls.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the safe harbor under paragraph (1), the Federal Communications Commission shall consider limiting the liability of a provider based on the extent to which the provider—

(A) blocks or identifies calls based, in whole or in part, on the information provided by the call authentication framework under subsection (b);

(B) implemented procedures based, in whole or in part, on the information provided by the call authentication framework under subsection (b); and

(C) used reasonable care.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall preclude the Federal Communications Commission from initiating a rulemaking pursuant to its existing statutory authority.

**SEC. 4. PROTECTIONS FROM SPOOFED CALLS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and consistent with the call authentication framework under section 3, the Federal Communications Commission shall initiate a rulemaking to help protect a subscriber from receiving unwanted calls or text messages from a caller using an unauthenticated number.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In promulgating rules under subsection (a), the Federal Communications Commission shall consider—

(1) the Government Accountability Office report on combating the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification required by section 503(c) of division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2018 (Public Law 115-141);

(2) the best means of ensuring that a subscriber or provider has the ability to block calls from a caller using an unauthenticated North American Numbering Plan number;

(3) the impact on the privacy of a subscriber from unauthenticated calls;

(4) the effectiveness in verifying the accuracy of caller identification information; and

(5) the availability and cost of providing protection from the unwanted calls or text messages described in subsection (a).

**SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, shall convene an interagency working group to study Government prosecution of violations of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)).

(b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the study under subsection (a), the interagency working group shall—

(1) determine whether, and if so how, any Federal laws, including regulations, policies, and practices, or budgetary or jurisdictional constraints inhibit the prosecution of such violations;

(2) identify existing and potential Federal policies and programs that encourage and improve coordination among Federal departments and agencies and States, and between States, in the prevention and prosecution of such violations;

(3) identify existing and potential international policies and programs that encourage and improve coordination between countries in the prevention and prosecution of such violations; and

(4) consider—

(A) the benefit and potential sources of additional resources for the Federal prevention and prosecution of criminal violations of that section;

(B) whether to establish memoranda of understanding regarding the prevention and prosecution of such violations between—

(i) the States;

(ii) the States and the Federal Government; and

(iii) the Federal Government and a foreign government;

(C) whether to establish a process to allow States to request Federal subpoenas from the Federal Communications Commission;

(D) whether extending civil enforcement authority to the States would assist in the successful prevention and prosecution of such violations;

(E) whether increased forfeiture and imprisonment penalties are appropriate, such as extending imprisonment for such a violation to a term longer than 2 years;

(F) whether regulation of any entity that enters into a business arrangement with a common carrier regulated under title II of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) for the specific purpose of carrying, routing, or transmitting a call that

constitutes such a violation would assist in the successful prevention and prosecution of such violations; and

(G) the extent to which, if any, Department of Justice policies to pursue the prosecution of violations causing economic harm, physical danger, or erosion of an inhabitant's peace of mind and sense of security inhibits the prevention or prosecution of such violations.

(c) MEMBERS.—The interagency working group shall be composed of such representatives of Federal departments and agencies as the Attorney General considers appropriate, such as—

(1) the Department of Commerce;

(2) the Department of State;

(3) the Department of Homeland Security;

(4) the Federal Communications Commission;

(5) the Federal Trade Commission; and

(6) the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

(d) NON-FEDERAL STAKEHOLDERS.—In carrying out the study under subsection (a), the interagency working group shall consult with such non-Federal stakeholders as the Attorney General determines have the relevant expertise, including the National Association of Attorneys General.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the interagency working group shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study under subsection (a), including—

(1) any recommendations regarding the prevention and prosecution of such violations; and

(2) a description of what progress, if any, relevant Federal departments and agencies have made in implementing the recommendations under paragraph (1).

**SEC. 6. ACCESS TO NUMBER RESOURCES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) EXAMINATION OF FCC POLICIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall commence a proceeding to determine whether Federal Communications Commission policies regarding access to number resources, including number resources for toll free and non-toll free telephone numbers, could be modified, including by establishing registration and compliance obligations, to help reduce access to numbers by potential perpetrators of violations of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)).

(2) REGULATIONS.—If the Federal Communications Commission determines under paragraph (1) that modifying the policies described in that paragraph could help achieve the goal described in that paragraph, the Commission shall prescribe regulations to implement those policy modifications.

(b) AUTHORITY.—Any person who knowingly, through an employee, agent, officer, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, by or through any means or device whatsoever, is a party to obtaining number resources, including number resources for toll free and non-toll free telephone numbers, from a common carrier regulated under title II of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), in violation of a regulation prescribed under subsection (a) of this section, shall, notwithstanding section 503(b)(5) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 503(b)(5)), be subject to a forfeiture penalty under section 503 of that Act. A forfeiture penalty under this subsection shall be in addition to any other penalty provided for by law.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. HOEVEN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 164. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 164

*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 “TRICARE Reserve Improvement Act”.

**SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR TRICARE RESERVE SELECT OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE.**

Section 1076d(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member” and inserting “A member”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2).

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS****SENATE RESOLUTION 19—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT DISQUALIFYING A NOMINEE TO FEDERAL OFFICE ON THE BASIS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS VIOLATES THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. SASSE submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 19

Whereas, throughout the history of the United States, the religious liberty protected by both the First Amendment and the No Religious Test Clause of the Constitution of the United States has been at the heart of the American experiment;

Whereas, in 1960, the presidential candidacy of John F. Kennedy was met with significant anti-Catholic bigotry;

Whereas then Senator Kennedy responded to the bigotry with these timeless words: “For while this year it may be a Catholic against whom the finger of suspicion is pointed, in other years it has been, and may someday be again, a Jew or a Quaker or a Unitarian or a Baptist. . . . Today I may be the victim, but tomorrow it may be you, until the whole fabric of our harmonious society is ripped at a time of great national peril.”;

Whereas the Knights of Columbus (in this preamble referred to as the “Knights”) constitute the largest Catholic fraternal service organization in the world;

Whereas the Knights have a proud tradition of standing against the forces of prejudice and oppression, such as the Ku Klux Klan and Nazi Germany;

Whereas the Knights are founded on the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism; and

Whereas, in 2017, the Knights made more than \$185,000,000 in charitable contributions and volunteered more than 75,600,000 service hours: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that disqualifying a nominee to Federal office on the basis of membership in the Knights of Columbus violates clause 3 of article VI of the Constitution of the United States, which establishes that Senators “shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support th[e] Constitution” and “no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States”.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1—CALLING FOR CREDIBLE, TRANSPARENT, AND SAFE ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

##### S. CON. RES. 1

Whereas it is in the national interest of the United States to maintain a strong bilateral relationship with a politically stable, democratic, and economically sound Nigeria that can play a leadership role in the region and the continent more broadly;

Whereas Nigeria has presidential elections scheduled for February 16, 2019, and gubernatorial and National Assembly elections scheduled for March 2, 2019;

Whereas credible elections could further consolidate democratic gains achieved in Nigeria over the last two decades since the transition from military to civilian democratic rule;

Whereas a 2017 survey conducted by Afrobarometer found that 72 percent of Nigerians agreed that democratic elections are the best means of choosing their country's leaders, thus indicating that the country's citizens are deeply committed to democracy;

Whereas collaboration between civil society actors and the international community was a key factor that contributed to successful elections in 2015;

Whereas successive elections in Nigeria have featured varying degrees of violence;

Whereas there have been deeply concerning instances of incitement to violence in Nigeria by members of both the ruling coalition and the opposition inciting supporters to ethnic violence as a means by which to gain electoral advantage, intimidate electoral rivals, or suppress voter turnout;

Whereas, during the Ekiti and Osun gubernatorial elections in July 2018 and September 2018, respectively, there were concerning incidents in which some elements of Nigeria's security agencies displayed partisanship and a lack of objectivity, which risks escalating tensions within the country;

Whereas Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has improved the voting process, notably through the introduction of continuous voter registration, the adoption of simultaneous accreditation and voting, improvements to the secrecy of the ballot, and the advancement of smart card reader technology;

Whereas the statement of the September 2018 Joint National Democratic Institute/International Republican Institute Pre-Election Assessment Mission to Nigeria cited re-

maining challenges and concerns such as delays in finalizing the legal framework for the elections, delayed release of funds for the elections, security threats in the Middle Belt and North East, instances of vote-buying, and incitement to violence and disinformation; and

Whereas ensuring transparency in electoral preparations and building public confidence in the electoral process is vital for the success of the upcoming elections in Nigeria: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms that the people of the United States will continue to stand with the people of Nigeria in support of peace and democracy;

(2) calls on the Government of Nigeria and all political parties and actors to—

(A) take actions to facilitate elections that are credible, transparent, and peaceful in order to support the will of the people and advance the consolidation of democracy and the stability of the broader region;

(B) condemn in the strongest terms the use of speech that incites to violence, and refrain from any rhetoric or action that seeks to demonize or delegitimize opponents, sow division among Nigerians, or otherwise inflame tensions;

(C) seek to resolve any disputes over results peacefully, including through the legal system as necessary; and

(D) respect the impartiality of the Independent National Electoral Commission;

(3) calls on the Government of Nigeria to—

(A) refrain from deploying security forces in a partisan manner;

(B) ensure that security services maintain the highest level of professionalism and impartiality in facilitating the electoral process, enable accredited observers and journalists to perform their work, and protect the right of citizens to exercise their votes freely;

(C) move expeditiously to finalize the proposed reforms to the legal framework for the 2019 elections; and

(D) enforce laws against election malfeasance, including vote buying, and ensure equal and robust application through such measures as the establishment of the Electoral Offenses Commission and Tribunal;

(4) urges all Nigerians to fully and peacefully engage in the electoral process, insist on full enfranchisement, reject inflammatory or divisive rhetoric or actions, and seek to resolve any disputes over results through the legal system;

(5) calls upon the Independent National Electoral Commission to sustain confidence and trust in its management of the electoral process by—

(A) taking concrete measures to combat vote buying through voter education campaigns, enforcement of laws against voter inducement, and a nationwide ban on cell phones in the voting cubicle;

(B) releasing specimen ballots well in advance of Election Day so that civil society and other electoral stakeholders can conduct sufficient education to orient voters;

(C) making adequate arrangements to ensure the participation in the election of internally displaced persons (IDPs); and

(D) taking steps to clean the voter roll and ensure timely production and distribution of the Permanent Voter Card to new voters;

(6) encourages political parties in Nigeria to adhere to and enforce existing codes of conduct that commit parties to democratic electoral standards regarding campaign use of resources, engagement of voters, peaceful resolution of disputes, and acceptance of verified and credible results;

(7) condemns any efforts on the part of any politicians or political parties in Nigeria to

politicize the security and law enforcement agencies;

(8) encourages civil society organizations in Nigeria to—

(A) promote the peaceful participation of citizens in the electoral process and draw on existing inter-religious and peacebuilding bodies to enhance their efforts;

(B) disseminate information about citizen-based observation findings and analysis to increase public knowledge and understanding about the conduct of the elections; and

(C) continue leading important early warning and response mechanisms to mitigate election-related violence, including monitoring efforts to incite violence or further inflame tensions;

(9) supports efforts by the Department of State, including the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to assist election-related preparation in Nigeria, including through programs focused on conflict mitigation; and

(10) calls on the United States Government and other international partners, especially election-focused nongovernmental organizations, to—

(A) continue to support efforts by the Government of Nigeria to address the remaining electoral preparation challenges and identify gaps in which additional resources or diplomatic engagement could make important contributions to the conduct of the elections; and

(B) support civil society organizations and media organizations working towards transparency and accountability in the use of state resources around the election period.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1. Mr. KAINÉ (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 2, disapproving the President's proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2. Mr. KAINÉ (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 109, to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 251, to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

SA 4. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 251, supra.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1. Mr. KAINÉ (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 2, disapproving the President's proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

##### SEC. 2. APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

(a) The provisions of the following measures of the 116th Congress are hereby enacted into law:

(1) H.R. 21, as passed by the House of Representatives on January 3, 2019.

(2) H.J. Res. 1, as passed by the House of Representatives on January 3, 2019.

(b) In publishing this Act in slip form and in the United States Statutes at Large pursuant to section 112 of title 1, United States Code, the Archivist of the United States shall include after the date of approval at the end appendixes setting forth the texts of the measures referred to in subsection (a) of this section and the text of any other measure enacted into law by reference by reason of the enactment of this Act.

**SA 2.** Mr. KAINÉ (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 109, to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.**

(a) The provisions of the following measures of the 116th Congress are hereby enacted into law:

(1) H.R. 21, as passed by the House of Representatives on January 3, 2019.

(2) H. J. Res. 1, as passed by the House of Representatives on January 3, 2019.

(b) In publishing this Act in slip form and in the United States Statutes at Large pursuant to section 112 of title 1, United States Code, the Archivist of the United States shall include after the date of approval at the end appendixes setting forth the texts of the measures referred to in subsection (a) of this section and the text of any other measure enacted into law by reference by reason of the enactment of this Act.

**SA 3.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 251, to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 2, line 7, striking “6 years” and insert “5 years and 3 months”.

**SA 4.** Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 251, to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.”.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct an Executive Session.

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS**

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING**

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Fighting Elder Fraud: Progress Made, Work to be Done”.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Celine Wolff, have privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**APPOINTMENTS**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99-93, as amended by Public Law 99-151, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control The Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California (Vice Chairman); The Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island; The Honorable JACKY ROSEN of Nevada.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100-458, sec. 114(b)(2)(c), the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a six-year term: Thomas Daffron of Maine.

**CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 8, H.R. 251.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 251) to extend by two years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Johnson amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, the Johnson title amendment be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security)

On page 2, line 7, striking “6 years” and insert “5 years and 3 months”.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 251), as amended, was passed.

The amendment (No. 4) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.”.

**ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 4 p.m. Thursday, January 17; 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, following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration on the motion to proceed to S. 109; finally, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, there be 30 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, and upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 109.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT**

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 following the remarks of Senator MERKLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, the most important words of our Constitution are the first three: "We the People." Those three words, written in big, bold, beautiful script, convey the mission of our Constitution. We are a nation, as Abraham Lincoln opined, "of the people, by the people, and for the people." That was the mission.

Our Constitution also lays out how our Founding Fathers intended to be a nation of, by, and for the people to be governed by coequal branches, with the branch carrying the weight of policy development being Congress: the House, and the Senate. The Executive is to have quite a different role in executing the laws. Judiciary has yet another role in weighing whether the laws are in accordance with the parameters of the Constitution—the principles of the Constitution.

So there we are, the branch of government—the Senate and the House—with the power of the purse, with the responsibility for laying out the governing vision and rules for our Nation.

Yet, one-quarter of our government goes unfunded for a fourth week. Why is this Chamber not full of Senators? Why are we not debating funding bills? Why is there not a bill before the Senate right now? It is because the rhythm of the floor in this Chamber is guided by the majority leader. The majority leader refuses to put the bill on the floor so we can go about our work, putting the government back in business and ending this shutdown.

The majority leader has refused to have the Senate fulfill its responsibility and, indeed, has said: "... will not take up any proposal that does not have a real chance of ... getting a Presidential signature."

In the Constitution, we have the ability to set law without a Presidential signature. It is certainly not a waste of time to be here debating proposals for funding the government. In fact, this is a complete abdication of our responsibility. It is an abdication at a time when 800,000 American families have a mother or father who is not getting paid, when many more thousands of contractors are not getting paid. Millions of Americans are seeking government services and finding there is no one to answer their phone call or their letter or process their online application, whether for an FAA mortgage, whether for an agricultural grant or loan for the next farming season, whether it is any of a host of hundreds of roles the government plays in facilitating the commerce and life of this Nation.

President Trump and the Senate majority are holding seven funding bills hostage. Hostage-taking is not the wisest move. Only one of these hos-

tages has anything to do with the battle over the border. So why not release six of these hostages? Why not end the Trump-McConnell shutdown and release six of the seven hostages and on the seventh do a continuing resolution so we can continue debating the issues at stake while putting people back to work. That is a pretty good idea.

Here is the genius of the idea, which is, these are bills that already have support in the Senate. If we were to look at that support, we would find it was substantial when these bills came through in a bipartisan fashion under a Republican-led Senate. You have the Republican endorsement from here and you have the Democratic endorsement from the House. That is the making of a path forward.

Yet we need to remind the Members how our Constitution is constructed. Article I section 7 says in an abbreviated format: "If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections." Then it goes back to the House and Senate, whichever body first initiated it. "... and if approved by two-thirds ... it shall become a Law."

Let's recognize that the vision of our Constitution was not for us to sit on some chair or bench somewhere waiting for someone far down Pennsylvania Avenue to tell us what to do. That is not fulfilling our job. The President is supposed to implement the laws we pass—the vision we adopt—not for us to sit here doing nothing, waiting for the man in the Oval Office to tell us he has some message from on high on what we are supposed to do. No, that is not the vision of our Constitution.

It is disturbing that a responsibility we all signed on to—we took our oath of office—is being neglected in this Chamber at this moment, when so many Americans are suffering as a result.

Those funding bills that I was speaking of and that partisan support, how strong it was—the Agriculture bill, Interior, Financial Services, General Government, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development. Those passed this floor just a few weeks ago on a 92-to-6 vote. How much more bipartisan does it get?

The State and Foreign Operations bill passed out of the Republican-led Appropriations Committee 31 to 0. The Commerce, Justice, and Science spending bill passed 30 to 1 in our spending committee. Homeland Security passed out 26 to 5.

So these have a powerful imprint of overwhelming bipartisan support in this Chamber, and yet we sit here afraid to take action and lay out the vision we have a responsibility to lay out.

I hope every Member will say back home that they invite the feedback of their constituents; that they will hold townhalls because then they will hear what I hear, which is that is an absurdity. It is an irresponsibility. It is a failure of leadership. It is a neglect of

duty, and that is not what this Chamber should be about. It is not a proud moment to have such dysfunction in the heart of the Senate.

I am reminded of the historical reference: "While Nero fiddles, Rome burns." It is a reference to the year A.D. 64, when Rome burned to the ground. The historian Suetonius records that Nero was responsible for the fire, and he watched it from a tower while playing an instrument and singing about the destruction of a different place—the destruction of Troy.

Here we sit today with our leadership's fiddling while our Nation suffers, while our leadership watches from afar from the tower, playing some fiddle for its amusement, instead of taking action here on the floor of the Senate.

While the Republican Senate leadership fiddles, our farmers aren't getting the funds or assistance they need to get through the winter to prepare for the next season because the Department of Agriculture is closed for business.

While the Republican leadership of this Chamber fiddles, firefighters whom we ask to risk their lives in fighting massive infernos in our Nation's forests are missing out on critical training and preparation time for the next fire season. In addition, the work being done to thin the forests, to make the forests more fire resistant, is suspended. The work getting the fuel off the forest floors to make them more fire resistant is suspended. The prescription burns being done to make the forests more fire resistant are canceled. Yet this is the time they have to happen. While the leadership fiddles, it is setting the stage for more savage forest fires to wreak havoc on the Western States in the United States in the summer to come.

While the Republican leadership of this Chamber fiddles, 100,000 low-income tenants are at risk because there is no staffer in place at Housing and Urban Development to renew the 1,100 affordable housing contracts that expired last month.

While the leadership fiddles, small, rural economies, like that of Lakeview, OR, are stuck in limbo and are unable to move forward on critical projects. According to the South Central Oregon Economic Development District's director, they are working at trying to give a loan to a small business in Lakeview, but they need EPA staff approval to be able to use the grant funding for an environmental assessment before they can borrow funds to buy a building. So they are up the creek while the Republican leadership fiddles.

The real victims in this misguided standoff are the hundreds of thousands of Federal workers who aren't being paid and the contractors who might never be paid. Let's listen to them. What do they have to say about this? Are they writing and saying: "Love this dysfunction in the Senate. Love

the failure of leadership. Love the incompetence. Love the fact that nobody is working here to solve the problem?"

No, that is not what they are saying.

Erin, a furloughed Forest Service employee of Sandy, OR, writes that both she and her husband are Forest Service employees who have been furloughed in the Mt. Hood National Forest, and they are terrified about their personal finances.

Erin writes:

I have two boys that I will still have to continue to pay daycare for so I do not lose their spot. That's \$1,400 a month alone.

She went on to write:

We have to be smart on how we balance our finances because the cost of living is going up, but our salaries have not been increased besides a minor cost-of-living adjustment last year. So I am very worried what a long shutdown means for my family and my coworkers.

Erin and her husband have every right to be worried about what is in the future for her family. They are suffering the effects of this shutdown through no fault of their own.

Steven, of southeast Portland, writes:

I am writing as a constituent, residing in southeast Portland, and as a furloughed Federal employee. I do not in any way support President Trump's efforts to build a wall along our southern border. The proposed wall is unneeded. It would be a wantonly wasteful use of taxpayer money. It would be environmentally destructive, and it would further the inhumane disregard of the rights of those seeking asylum.

Steven is a Federal worker who is not being paid, and he doesn't support this shutdown.

Julie, the wife of a firefighter in Redmond, OR, wrote last week that her husband "isn't able to work because of the government shutdown." In just over a week, they are supposed to hire all of their seasonal firefighters for the summer. If they can't work, the hiring will get delayed or not happen, which will put communities at serious risk this summer from wilderness fires. This risk for this coming summer is very real in our State of Oregon.

Julie writes:

In no way is it OK to let the government shut down. . . . Don't participate in holding our own country hostage.

Dr. Genevieve Grady, of Sheridan, OR, wrote:

I am a licensed clinical psychologist who is working at the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Sheridan, OR. I am also a single mom with two children under the age of 5. As an essential Federal employee, I am required to continue to work without being paid. As a licensed psychologist, I could cultivate outside work with Agency permission to supplement my income. However, I am unable to do this due to having to continue working full time. Given that I am a single mother of two small children, I must provide care for my children during all other hours of the day. In order to maintain a roof over my and my children's heads, I have had to contact my Federal student loan company to seek relief. Unfortunately, they cannot alter my student loan status any earlier than February 6. My daycare provider, who watched my children so that I may continue going to work with-

out pay, is an in-home provider with three teenaged children of her own. I cannot ask her to go without pay as she too needs to continue keeping her family financially stable.

She writes:

There are very few expenses in my life that can go without money: food, daycare, gas to get to work, car insurance to drive legally, a phone required for my job to contact me in an emergency, medical expenses. Both of my kids have been sick during this furlough and have had to see the doctor to get medication. After 26 days without pay, these bills continue to require cash to pay, and I continue to wonder how much longer I should keep coming to work or when I should look for another job.

Linnea from Roseburg, OR, writes:

The unrepentant hostage holding of people's wages is cruel and shows just how removed the Trump administration is from the American people. I live in a single-income household in which the only breadwinner is a government employee, my mother. This means that we went through the holidays not knowing when the next paycheck was going to come. We still don't know.

Britt, a furloughed IRS worker who was proud of his government service and called it his small way of participating in our democracy, writes:

My savings is small and will not last through an extended shutdown. I have already applied for unemployment insurance compensation, but that process takes several weeks before I actually receive any money. I have never had to file for unemployment before, and it's quite unsettling that I am forced to resort to government aid.

Like so many other Oregonians in a State that is 20-percent National Forest, Brien, of Pendleton, OR, writes:

As a United States Forest Service employee, I am waiting for relocation reimbursement on a current move. I used most of my savings to move duty stations 2 months ago, and with the current furlough, I cannot afford to miss a pay period even if I will get it in the end. I am currently paying interest on my move that was to be covered by the Forest Service. If the furlough lasts longer than January 13, it will be extremely difficult to avoid late payment charges on utilities, mortgage, and other bills. Don't hold me and my middle-class family hostage to rich men's antics.

That is exactly what is happening with a President who is so far removed from the reality of ordinary people, with a President who worked with the leadership of this body in the Senate to approve a series of spending bills that we passed by a vast bipartisan majority but who then changed his mind and withdrew his support after they were passed. The President switched his position after the bills went through the Senate. The President bragged about owning this shutdown. He didn't have 1 second of worry about the plight of an ordinary American who was struggling to pay his bills.

From his ivory tower, his skyscraper in Florida, and his club—and, oh, he is still happy with his golf courses—he has no idea of the pain this is inflicting on people. If someone explains it to him, he doesn't care. That says a lot about the failure of leadership. As this writer said, "Don't hold me and my

middle-class family hostage to rich men's antics."

Air traffic controllers are essential to the safety of our air traffic across this country. I received a stack of handwritten letters last week—old-fashioned, ink on paper, all kinds of paper, all colors of pens. They were handwritten by Oregon air traffic controllers who have been absolutely incensed with what is going on. Being an air traffic controller is an unbelievably tough job. Air traffic controllers are responsible for thousands of lives at any given moment. They have to be on their game 100 percent of the time. It can't be 99.5 or a plane is going to crash on you that day. These folks are working without pay. It is inflicting stress and anxiety on people who should have their absolute, full attention solely on the job of making sure no plane hits another.

James Ferguson, of Forest Grove, writes:

If the shutdown lasts any longer, I will lose my health insurance and will no longer be able to pay for my 1-year-old son's physical therapy, potentially adding additional months to correct his spine and neck muscle problems.

This is another example of the pain. Here is a parent who feels the medical affliction of his child is going to be accentuated by the actions of the Republican leadership in the Senate and President Trump in the Oval Office. James isn't complaining that he needs to go shopping for new clothes or that he wants to check out a new car. He is worried about getting medical care for his infant child. He is worried about his infant child's recovery and of his improvement being stalled or damaged by this callous, inhumane shutdown.

Trevor Stokes, of Hillsboro, OR, and his wife are veterans of the U.S. Navy. They certainly are no strangers to sacrificing for their country.

In fact, in his letter, Trevor writes:

Over the past few weeks, during the shutdown, I have worked both Christmas and New Year's as well as their eves. I was not able to spend time with my family, which is a necessary sacrifice.

Then he writes:

Now our financial future is uncertain due to a potentially long unpaid period. I've had to withdraw from mutual funds just to cover monthly financial obligations. My family and the families of my air traffic colleagues have suffered from the sudden loss of income. Please end the shutdown.

We ask so much of these people. We ask long hours and missed holidays in the name of protecting us as travelers. Shouldn't we also be looking out for them in their time of need?

Why don't we reopen the Department of Transportation and make sure our air traffic controllers start getting paid? All of these individuals are saying: Do your job. Do your job. Do your job. Senate leadership, do your job.

Put the bills that have passed the Senate already back on the floor so that we can send them to the Oval Office. Let us do our job.

This Trump-McConnell shutdown, this inaction of the Senate, abdicating

its responsibility—isn't that exactly parallel to Nero fiddling while Rome burned? That fire here in America is touching the lives of so many. There are 800,000 workers without pay. Thousands more are contractors. Millions of Americans are caught in limbo in the midst of an important transaction—applying for an agricultural loan, trying to get a mortgage, signing up for help from the Small Business Administration to launch their business, getting their paperwork processed in one of 1,000 different ways, and here, the leadership fiddles while the American public suffers. It is wrong.

It may not be comfortable to have a debate on the spending bills. It may not be comfortable to vote on these bills. It may not be sweet to support or oppose a particular amendment, but do you know what is worse? What is worse is doing nothing.

That is what this Chamber is doing right now. It is doing nothing, despite our responsibility to millions of Americans to act. Let's change that. Let's change it now.

I understand that the majority is going on a retreat. Instead of going on a retreat to play the fiddle, how about you be here on the floor and put these bills on the floor? Let's get all 100 Senators on the floor to actually talk to each other, to actually wrestle with the issues, to actually make our arguments, and to actually take the votes instead of going off somewhere to party. That is just wrong.

I encourage the majority leader to read the letter that was sent to him today from the freshmen from the House of Representatives down the hall. The freshmen haven't been here long enough to become cynical. They haven't become trapped in the partisan boundaries and warfare that seem to ensnare so much of this Chamber and the Chamber across the way. No, they are here, fresh from other occupations and other responsibilities, still full of common sense and the passion to do what is right for the American people. So let's listen to them.

Today they sent a letter to Majority Leader McConnell, which I read on the floor earlier today, and they said: Put the bills on the floor, put the spending bills on the floor—the bills that have already passed here in the Republican-led Senate or that passed overwhelmingly by the Republican-led Appropriations Committee, endorsed by the Democratic House. Put them on the floor and act.

Let's listen to the freshmen down the hall. They are reminding us that we have a responsibility to act, and let's do so immediately.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 4 P.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 4 p.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:35 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 4 p.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MINDY BRASHEARS, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SAFETY, VICE ELISABETH ANN HAGEN, RESIGNED.

NAOMI C. EARP, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, VICE JOE LEONARD, JR.

SCOTT HUTCHINS, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS, VICE CATHERINE E. WOTEKI.

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

WILLIAM BOOKLESS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, VICE MADELYN R. CREEDON.

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

VERONICA DAIGLE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE FREDERICK VOLLRATH, RESIGNED.

### DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

JOSEPH BRUCE HAMILTON, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2022, VICE DANIEL J. SANTOS, TERM EXPIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

THOMAS MCCAFFERY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE JONATHAN WOODSON, RESIGNED.

### DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

JESSIE HILL ROBERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2023. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

LISA VICKERS, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2021, VICE JOSEPH BRUCE HAMILTON, TERM EXPIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SETH DANIEL APPLETON, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE KATHERINE M. O'REGAN.

### EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

SPENCER BACHUS III, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2023, VICE PATRICIA M. LOUI, TERM EXPIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

THELMA DRAKE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATOR, VICE PETER M. ROGOFF, RESIGNED.

### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

DINO FALASCHETTI, OF MONTANA, TO BE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FINANCIAL RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE RICHARD B. BERNER, RESIGNED.

### NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

RODNEY HOOD, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 2, 2023, VICE RICHARD T. METSGER, TERM EXPIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT HUNTER KURTZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE SANDRA BROOKS HENRIQUEZ, RESIGNED.

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JEFFREY NADANER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE DAVID W. MILLS, RETIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

BIMAL PATEL, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL, RESIGNED.

### EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

JUDITH DELZOPPO PRYOR, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2021, VICE LARRY W. WALTHER, TERM EXPIRED.

KIMBERLY A. REED, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2021, VICE FRED F. HOCHBERG, RESIGNED.

CLAUDIA SLACK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT

BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2023, VICE SEAN ROBERT MULVANEY, TERM EXPIRED.

### CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

ANN MARIE BUERKLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2018. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

ANN MARIE BUERKLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, VICE ELLIOT F. KAYE.

### METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

ALAN E. COBB, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 22, 2023, VICE WILLIAM SHAW MCDERMOTT, TERM EXPIRED.

### AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RICK A. DEARBORN, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE JEFFREY R. MORELAND, TERM EXPIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIANA FURCHTGOTT-ROTH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION. (NEW POSITION)

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

LANE GENATOWSKI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY-ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE ELLEN DUDLEY WILLIAMS.

### AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JOSEPH RYAN GRUTERS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE ALBERT DICLEMENTE, TERM EXPIRED.

### CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

JANICE MIRIAM HELLREICH, OF HAWAII, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2024, VICE HOWARD ABEL HUSOCK, TERM EXPIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HEIDI R. KING, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, VICE MARK R. ROSEKIND.

### CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

ROBERT A. MANDELL, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2022, VICE BRENT FRANKLIN NELSEN, TERM EXPIRED.

DON MUNCE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2024, VICE LORETTA CHERYL SUTLIFF, TERM EXPIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BARRY LEE MYERS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE, VICE KATHRYN D. SULLIVAN, RESIGNED.

### CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

BRUCE M. RAMER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2024. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MICHELLE A. SCHULTZ, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

### AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LEON A. WESTMORELAND, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

### METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

WILLIAM SHAW MCDERMOTT, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 30, 2024, VICE NINA MITCHELL WELLS, TERM EXPIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

RITA BARANWAL, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (NUCLEAR ENERGY), VICE PETER BRUCE LYONS, RESIGNED.

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SUSAN COMBS, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE RHEA S. SUH, RESIGNED.

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

WILLIAM COOPER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE STEVEN CROLEY, RESIGNED.

CHRISTOPHER FALL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE CHERRY ANN MURRAY.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

AIMEE KATHRYN JORJANI, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2021, VICE MILFORD WAYNE DONALDSON, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JOHN FLEMING, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, VICE ROY K. J. WILLIAMS.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

JOHN L. RYDER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2021, VICE MICHAEL MCWHERTER, TERM EXPIRED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PETER C. WRIGHT OF MICHIGAN, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE MATHY STANISLAUS.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, VICE ALAN L. COHEN, TERM EXPIRED.

JASON J. FICHTNER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, VICE LANHEE J. CHEN, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

JAMES B. LOCKHART III, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE CHARLES P. BLAHOUS III, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND

JAMES B. LOCKHART III, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND AND THE FEDERAL DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE CHARLES P. BLAHOUS III, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

JAMES B. LOCKHART III, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE CHARLES P. BLAHOUS III, TERM EXPIRED.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

DAVID FABIAN BLACK, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2019, VICE CAROLYN W. COLVIN, TERM EXPIRED.

DAVID FABIAN BLACK, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2025. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ELIZABETH DARLING, OF TEXAS, TO BE COMMISSIONER ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE RAFAEL J. LOPEZ.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

MICHAEL J. DESMOND, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AND AN ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, VICE WILLIAM J. WILKINS.

MICHAEL FAULKENDER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE KAREN DYNAN.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

AMY KARPEL, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2020, VICE F. SCOTT KIEFF, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JEFFREY KESSLER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE PAUL PIQUADO, RESIGNED.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

ANDREW M. SAUL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2019, VICE MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, RESIGNED.

ANDREW M. SAUL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2025. (REAPPOINTMENT)

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

RANDOLPH J. STAYIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2026, VICE MEREDITH M. BROADBENT, TERM EXPIRED.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

IRVING BAILEY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 17, 2021, VICE MATTHEW MAXWELL TAYLOR KENNEDY, TERM EXPIRED.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

ALEXANDER CRENSHAW, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, VICE MARK GREEN, TERM EXPIRED.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

LOUIS DEJOY, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 17, 2020, VICE JAMES M. DEMERS, TERM EXPIRED.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

GEORGE M. MARCUS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, VICE MORTON H. HALPERIN, TERM EXPIRED.

SUSAN M. MCCUE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RICHARD C. PARKER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE T. CHARLES COOPER, RESIGNED.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

CHRISTOPHER P. VINCZE, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 17, 2019, VICE TODD A. FISHER, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN P. ABIZAID, OF NEVADA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA.

STEPHEN AKARD, OF INDIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE GENTRY O. SMITH, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JOHN BARSA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE MARCELA ESCOBARI.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PAMELA BATES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

MARSHALL BILLINGSLEA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS), VICE SARAH SEWALL, RESIGNED.

LYNDA BLANCHARD, OF ALABAMA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

KIMBERLY BREIER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2020, VICE ADOLFO A. FRANCO, TERM EXPIRED.

UNITED NATIONS

ANDREW P. BREMBERG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIAN J. BULATAO, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (MANAGEMENT), VICE PATRICK FRANCIS KENNEDY.

KATE MARIE BYRNES, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

SEAN CAIRCROSS, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION, VICE DANA J. HYDE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOSEPH CELLA, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI, THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU, THE KINGDOM OF TONGA, AND TUVALU.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINA CHANG, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE JONATHAN NICHOLAS STIVERS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

R. CLARKE COOPER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS), VICE PUNEET TALWAR, RESIGNED.

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA

JANE L. CORWIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE COMMISSIONER ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA, VICE LANA POLLACK.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EDWARD F. CRAWFORD, OF OHIO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO IRELAND.

ROBERT A. DESTRO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR, VICE TOMASZ P. MALINOWSKI.

JEFFREY L. EBERHARDT, OF WISCONSIN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DAVID T. FISCHER, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO.

MICHAEL J. FITZPATRICK, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR.

KENNETH S. GEORGE, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY.

JAMES S. GILMORE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

BRETT P. GIROIR, OF TEXAS, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, VICE THOMAS FRIEDEN.

JEFFREY ROSS GUNTER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND.

KENNETH A. HOWERY, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN.

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

DARRELL E. ISSA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, VICE LEOCADIA IRINE ZAK.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RONALD DOUGLAS JOHNSON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR.

DOUG MANCHESTER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS.

LANA J. MARKS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

RONALD MORTENSEN, OF UTAH, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION), VICE ANNE CLAIRE RICHARD.

W. PATRICK MURPHY, OF VERMONT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MICHAEL PACK, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR THE TERM OF THREE YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN RAKOLTA, JR., OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

LEANDRO RIZZUTO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BARBADOS, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERATION OF SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA, GRENADA, AND SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES.

## INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

MARK ROSEN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE MARGRETHE LUNDSAGER, RESIGNED.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DANIEL N. ROSENBLUM, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN.

DAVID SCHENKER, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS), VICE ANNE W. PATTERSON, RESIGNED.

## INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA

ROBERT C. SISSON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE COMMISSIONER ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA, VICE DERETH BRITT GLANCE.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DAVID STILWELL, OF HAWAII, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS), VICE DANIEL R. RUSSELL.

## PEACE CORPS

ALAN R. SWENDIMAN, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS, VICE CARLOS J. TORRES.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DONALD R. TAPIA, OF ARIZONA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAMAICA.

KIP TOM, OF INDIANA, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

CHRISTINE J. TORETTI, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA.

MATTHEW H. TUELLER, OF UTAH, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ.

## INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA

LANCE V. YOHE, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE COMMISSIONER ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA, VICE RICHARD M. MOY.

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADRIAN ZUCKERMAN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ROMANIA.

## NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

KATHE HICKS ALBRECHT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2024, VICE BRUCE R. SIEVERS, TERM EXPIRED.

## PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

GORDON HARTOGENSIS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE W. THOMAS REEDER, JR., RESIGNED.

## NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

CHARLES WICKSER BANTA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022, VICE MARIA ROSARIO JACKSON, TERM EXPIRED.

KEEGAN F. CALLANAN, OF VERMONT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2024, VICE MANFREDI PICCOLOMINI, RESIGNED.

DAVID ARMAND DEKEYSER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020, VICE DAWN HO DELBANCO, TERM EXPIRED.

## LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

ROBERT J. GREY, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020. (REAPPOINTMENT)

## NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

KIM R. HOLMES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE PAULA BARKER DUFFY, TERM EXPIRED.

## CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

VICTORIA ANN HUGHES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2021. (REAPPOINTMENT)

## NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

MICHELLE ITCZAK, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2020, VICE IRVIN M. MAYFIELD, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

PHYLLIS KAMINSKY, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020, VICE ADELE LOGAN ALEXANDER, TERM EXPIRED.

## LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

ABIGAIL L. KUZMA, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2019, VICE CHARLES NORMAN WILTSE KECKLER, RESIGNED.

ABIGAIL L. KUZMA, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2022. (REAPPOINTMENT)

JOHN G. LEVI, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020. (REAPPOINTMENT)

## NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

BARBARA COLEEN LONG, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022, VICE DEEPA GUPTA, TERM EXPIRED.

## LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

JOHN G. MALCOLM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020, VICE MARTHA L. MINOW, TERM EXPIRED.

FRANK X. NEUNER, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2019, VICE SHARON L. BROWNE, RESIGNED.

FRANK X. NEUNER, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2022. (REAPPOINTMENT)

## CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HEATHER REYNOLDS, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2021, VICE DEAN A. REUTER, TERM EXPIRED.

## LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

GLORIA VALENCIA-WEBER, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020. (REAPPOINTMENT)

## NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

CARLETON VARNEY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022, VICE PAUL W. HODES, TERM EXPIRED.

JEAN M. YARBROUGH, OF MAINE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE MARTHA WAGNER WEINBERG, TERM EXPIRED.

## FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

WILLIAM I. ALTHEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2024. (REAPPOINTMENT)

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WILLIAM BEACH, OF KANSAS, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ERICA LYNN GROSHEN, TERM EXPIRED.

## NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

MARY ANNE CARTER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE R. JANE CHU, RESIGNED.

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

JANET DHILLON, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2022, VICE JENNY R. YANG, TERM EXPIRING.

SHARON FAST GUSTAFSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE P. DAVID LOPEZ, RESIGNED.

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JOHN LOWRY III, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, VICE MICHAEL HERMAN MICHAUD.

SCOTT A. MUGNO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE DAVID MORRIS MICHAELS.

JOHN P. PALLASCH, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE PORTIA Y. WU.

## FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

MARCO M. RAJKOVICH, JR., OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2024, VICE ROBERT F. COHEN, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CHERYL MARIE STANTON, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE DAVID WEILL, RESIGNED.

## FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

ARTHUR R. TRAYNOR III, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2022, VICE PATRICK K. NAKAMURA, TERM EXPIRED.

## UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

RON A. BLOOM, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2020, VICE MICKEY D. BARNETT, TERM EXPIRED.

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

WILLIAM BRYAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE L. REGINALD BROTHERS, JR., RESIGNED.

## MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

JULIA AKINS CLARK, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2021, VICE ANNE MARIE WAGNER, TERM EXPIRED.

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JOSEPH V. CUFFARI, OF ARIZONA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE JOHN ROTH.

## UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2025. (REAPPOINTMENT)

## MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

DENNIS DEAN KIRK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2023, VICE SUSAN TSUI GRUNDMANN, TERM EXPIRED.

DENNIS DEAN KIRK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD, VICE SUSAN TSUI GRUNDMANN.

## UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

ROMAN MARTINEZ IV, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2024, VICE JAMES C. MILLER III, TERM EXPIRED.

## MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

ANDREW F. MAUNZ, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2025, VICE MARK A. ROBBINS, TERM EXPIRED.

## UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

CALVIN R. TUCKER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2023, VICE CAROLYN L. GALLAGHER, TERM EXPIRED.

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

RONALD D. VITIELLO, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE SARAH R. SALDANA.

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

WILLIAM R. EVANINA, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER. (NEW POSITION)

## PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD

ADITYA BAMZAI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2020, VICE ELISEBETH COLLINS COOK, RESIGNING.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SHANNON LEE GOESSLING, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, VICE SUSAN B. CARBON.

## PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD

TRAVIS LEBLANC, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2022, VICE JAMES XAVIER DEMPSEY, TERM EXPIRED.

## UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

VIRGIL MADDEN, OF INDIANA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A

TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE PATRICIA CUSHWA, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

JAMES E. TRAINOR III, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FOR A TERM EX-

PIRING APRIL 30, 2023, VICE MATTHEW S. PETERSEN, TERM EXPIRED.

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

ROBERT C. TAPPELLA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE, VICE DAVITA VANCE-COOKS.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DAVID CHRISTIAN TRYON, OF OHIO, TO BE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, VICE DARRYL L. DEPRIEST, RESIGNED.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN P. MARKO, PAST GRAND KNIGHT OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 302

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stephen P. Marko, who will be honored by the Knights of Columbus Council 302 during their 121st Anniversary celebration on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Stephen is the immediate past Grand Knight of Wilkes-Barre Council 302.

Stephen was born on February 25, 1971 to the late Stephen J. Marko and the former Joanne Dezinski. He is a graduate of James M. Coughlin High School Class of 1989. He continued his education at Luzerne County Community College, where he studied Electronics and Laser Electro Optics Technology. Stephen is a veteran of the United States Army Reserve and was deployed with the 365th Engineering Company C during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. He is currently employed at Tobyhanna Army Depot as an Electronics Mechanic.

Stephen joined Knights of Columbus Council 302 in 2012. He served as Warden and Deputy Grand Knight of the Council and was elected to the role of Grand Knight in 2016. Following his two-year tenure as Grand Knight, he now serves as the treasurer for the council. He is also a member and Pilot of the Bishop Hafey 4th Degree Assembly.

Stephen married the former Jacqueline Cromack of Wilkes-Barre on November 25, 2000. They are active members of Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church in Hanover Township. They are step-parent and parent, respectively, to four children: Abigail, Alison, Kerry Anne, and Richard.

It is an honor to celebrate Stephen as he is recognized as Past Grand Knight. May he continue to serve the Knights of Columbus and his community with commitment and dedication.

HONORING THE LONGVIEW HIGH SCHOOL LOBOS, 2018 CLASS 6A DIVISION II TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

### HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, it may have taken eighty-one years, but the doggedness and passion that fueled the city of Longview, Texas, to harness the great oil boom and a state championship title in 1937 has once again proven undaunted—resulting in the Longview High School Lobos capturing the top rung in Texas high school athletics to

become the 2018 Class 6A Division II Texas State High School Football Champions.

As the Lobos' fight song attests, the team was determined to "circle in and hit them hard" when facing the tangle with the Beaumont West Brook Bruins, culminating in a thrilling 35–34 victory for the Wolf Pack in front of a spectacular throng numbering more than 48,000 strong, a big majority of which were apparently loyal Lobos fans.

The down-to-the-wire fight was the culmination of a perfect 16–0 season for the Lobos, and was even more gratifying since the Lobos had faced West Brook in the playoffs for three straight years. This was the first opportunity, however, for the two teams to grapple for the state trophy.

This represented the first top tier title opportunity for the Lobos after decades of near misses and close calls, providing passionate fans a long season to bask in the momentum and a history making trip to capture state wide bragging rights.

Though the Lobos were down at halftime 28 to 20, they certainly were not out because of their heart, their talent, their coaching and their community support. This was a Longview team that simply refused to stay down, and refused to lose.

And the Lobos earned those bragging rights in spectacular fashion, coming from behind in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter to secure a fantastic win. Trailing Beaumont West Brook 34–29 with 8:17 left in the 4th quarter, Quarterback Haynes King's outstanding passing pushed the Lobos offense to West Brook's red zone. Stalwart running back Jessie Anderson then punched through to the end zone, giving the Lobos a 35–34 lead with 4:42 left in the game. The Lobos were ahead by one, but played the odds and went for two points in case West Brook tried a field goal. Though the extra two-point conversion was unsuccessful, the two were unneeded because of the way the Lobo defense, yet again, rose to the occasion and crushed the Bruins' comeback attempt along with their hopes for victory.

No question Beaumont West Brook deserved to be in the State Championship, had an absolutely fabulous team, and played a stellar game. But the Longview Lobos proved they had everything a fan could want in an unbeatable football team. They made Longview, Gregg County, and all East Texas swell with pride.

The game's Offensive Most Valuable Player was Lobo quarterback Haynes King who was 16-of-27 for 423 passing yards. He connected on two touchdown passes and rushed for a touchdown as part of his 65 rushing yards.

Kamden Perry secured a Class 6A state championship game record of 8 catches for 218 yards including a 77-yard touchdown catch. Perry's amazing reception record was joined by Kaden Kearbey's great catches that added another 87 yards, which included a touchdown on a 40-yard catch.

Kyas Moore, who also has another year to play with the Lobos, caught a breathtaking pass that took Longview 54 yards down the field on their 4th quarter go-ahead drive.

Though Jessie Anderson's total rushing yards was not his high this year, he showed once again how incredibly valuable he is to this championship team. His two touchdowns on two punishing runs showed him to be a weapon that is anything but secret. In fact, his second touchdown was the final and go-ahead score of the game.

The Lobo defense showed the huge crowd at Cowboy Stadium in Arlington that both sides of the ball deserved to be State Champs. Tyshawn Taylor made 11 brutal tackles, including pairing with a crashing hit by Ja'vontae Writt, creating a final Bruin drive-stop because of its recovery by Micheal Martin with 1:02 left in the game.

The Defensive Most Valuable Player was Jephaniah Lister with a team-high 12 tackles. Yet another defensive standout was Isiah Rodgers who had 10 tackles and one broken up pass. Of course the play of Robert Pierce and Jaylon Allen have to be mentioned as they both participated in an important sack.

As many college and pro teams have learned, a team must have a good kicker to be of championship caliber which is exactly what the Lobos have in J.K. Martin, who kicked a fourth quarter 28-yard field goal, and four times prevented any runback at all with touchbacks in the end zone. He also showed college quality in averaging 44 yards on his two punts.

Proving who had the better offense not only with the score, Longview had 569 yards of total offense compared to 493 by West Brook.

After the Lobo go-ahead score in the 4th quarter, West Brook Bruins took the Lobo kick off and began their drive to try to retake the lead. But that is when the crushing blow created the fumble Martin recovered. Even then the game was not on ice until a first down was made by a long run by Keilyn Williams to create a first and goal with only 2:08 to play, but Longview showed its grace in victory by taking a knee until the clock ran out and the Lobos' stellar win was secure.

It is an esteemed honor to pay tribute to the members of the 2018 state championship Longview Lobos team: Otarvio Buchanan, Jephaniah Lister, Kybrien Jackson-Jamerson, Ja'vontae Writt, Ty'monyahe Abney, Jessie Anderson, Cedric Hopkins, Dylan Davis, Jacob Johnson, Daquavion Randall, Jy'christon Baxter, Haynes King, Marqualon Haynes, Kamden Perry, Jayden Williams, Jacoby Jackson, Jordan Malone, Spiro Mijalis, Da'kiemion Mumphrey, Datravirus Nelson, Micheal Martin, Markevion Haynes, J.K. Martin, Tyree Hale, Kameron Sublett, Keith Halton, Dalton Serrato, Kaden Kearbey, Jacobie Bowman, Keilyn Williams, Patrick Webb, Cameron Wilson, Jakobe Ross, Isiah Rodgers, Jaharious Jones, Jamien Horne, Dezmond Armstrong, Reginald Hutchins, De'leon Jones, Tainique Taylor, Aisaiah Taylor, Charlie Templeton, Shannon Jackson, Kevin Jones, Robert Vinson, Tyshawn Taylor, De'cameron Thomas, Kaden Meredith, Jacorey Valentine, Lavayvian Godlock, Davyon Mitchell, Laqualon Hale, Asiyas Hall, Alex Zulueta, Hunter Jones, Coy Sanders,

● 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.

Corey Evans, Davian Reese, Harvey Boyd, Dasabrian Parker, Logan Noguera, Logan Peters, Dakirin Buchanan, Ruben Flores, Robert Pierce, Xavier Blanton, Andrew Beltran, Brandon Snyder, Bryant Arthur III, Timothy Polk, Syre Moore, Kaleb Snoddy, Jahkamian Carr, Daniel Mancha, Devin Brooks, Bailey Smith, Xabier Evans, Isaiah George, Joaquin Tovar, Leundrae Craven, Brady Miller, Kevon Green, Brian Bell, Jacob Warner, Marcus Williams, Alessandro Lazalde, Marcus Harry, Gavin Roberts, Jhy'mhriyon Gay, Jamie Jones, Connor Cox, Parker Cox, Cedric Smith, Daniel Warner, Lakeithan Duffey, Jonathan Tutt, Logan Washburn, Elijah Cox, Elijah Byrd, Malik Miller, Da'qwaylen Reed, Tavion Sterling, Trevor Ford, David Parks, Kaylon Allen, Damykal Mcmillan, Anthony Parker, Jakeilan Howard, Quintele Jackson, Kyas Moore, Trevor N. Tamplin, Miguel Maldonado, Daze Wallace, Kenterias Parker, Asriel Jones, Austin Pencheon, Jorge Rebollar, Samuel Mijalis, Jhailon Braden, Asontte Smith, Aiden Diaz, Jaydyn James-Rollins, Michael Mavhunga, Antonio Onofre, Sawyer Goram-Welch, Joe Jones, Kiyas Ingram, Owen Kuenemann, Spencer Powell, Jonathon Davis, Jared Reese, Carlos Vazquez, Jordan Wallace, and Jaylon Allen.

The Lobos are a perfect representation of what can be accomplished when a team possesses both perseverance and discipline, combined with motivation, guidance, and resolve from an experienced and proficient coaching staff. Among those individuals committed to "Making A Difference: One Student At A Time" are: Superintendent Dr. James Wilcox; Assistant Superintendent Secondary Education James Brewer, Athletic Director/Head Football Coach John King; Assistant Athletic Director Johnny Hamilton; Football Staff consisting of Oscar Wilson, Chris Vallery, Jon Witt, C.J. Lottinger, David Ashley, Casey Pearce, Randy Huffstickler, Scott Hartt, Chris Lashley, Brandon Bonds, Trevor Murphy, Brad Faulkner, Tracy Carpenter, Jalen Claiborne, Robert Hanna, Cade Carnett; Athletic Trainers Deirdre Scotter, Jessica Hill, Kristin Croley; as well as Band Director Tommy Moore, Viewette Director Deborah McGowan, and Cheerleader Sponsor Heather Gee.

It is with great pride that I join with the citizens of Longview, as well as the entire First District of Texas, in congratulating the Longview Lobos on their State Football Championship. This is an outstanding accomplishment, and may God continue to bless these young people, along with their families, friends and neighbors in Longview.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
RANDY GHAN

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of my longtime friend Mr. Randy Ghan, who passed away on December 7, 2018 at the age of 67. Randy will be remembered as a dedicated and committed labor leader and advocate for worker rights in the Central Valley. Randy worked tirelessly to ratify the Central Labor Council, creating one of the strongest labor councils in California.

He dedicated his life to the labor movement and is known as a labor icon.

Randy was born on November 5, 1951 in Fresno, California to Irene Kuns and Melvin Ghan. He attended Humboldt State University. Randy's labor career began when he joined the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers Union and Local 85 (Bakers 85) at the Perfection Macaroni factory in Fresno. Randy was elected as the first shop steward in the history of the factory when he was just 20 years old. His efficiency and passion to succeed earned him a position on the union bargaining team. While on the bargaining team, Randy showed strong work ethic and was offered a job with the union and joined the executive board of the Central Labor Council (CLC).

After being on the executive board of the CLC for 15 years, Randy ran for Secretary-Treasurer (CEO) and won with the support from his allies in UFCW 1288 and SEIU 752. Randy took on the position when the CLC was struggling financially and he successfully revamped the organization. Randy got CLC out of debt by affiliating dozens of new unions and brokering deals to save money and build political capacity. Today, the CLC stands as one of the best funded labor councils in California.

One of Randy's proudest accomplishments was the creation of the CLC Partnership, which provides employment readiness services to workers across Fresno. The joint efforts of CLC, ProPath and Regenerate California Innovation has assisted numerous people in finding gainful employment. In an act of kindness and true leadership, Randy gave his salary for the hours worked in the partnership to hire additional staff at the CLC.

In appreciation of his years of hard work, Randy was recognized as Labor Leader of the Year by the CLC in 1992 and 2017. He was the only labor leader to ever receive this honor twice.

Randy was preceded in death by his loving partner Sharon Hodson. He leaves behind his sister Judy, daughters Maria and Tracey, numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and many friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and achievements of my friend Randy Ghan. Randy leaves a legacy of advocacy and selflessness to improve the lives of so many in the Valley. He will be missed dearly by those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. JOHNNIE LEE  
BROWN COLLIER

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated woman of God, great wife, steadfast mother, and friend of longstanding, Mrs. Johnnie Lee Brown Collier. Sadly, Mrs. Collier passed away on December 27, 2018. Her funeral service was held on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 11 a.m. at the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Mrs. Johnnie Lee Brown Collier was born on October 22, 1926, in Columbus, Georgia to the union of Cleola Daniel Brown and John Brown, Sr. She gave her life to Christ and was

baptized at an early age at Rosehill Memorial Baptist Church. From that time on, God continued to be the center of her life until her passing. She served as the Sunday School Superintendent and Church Clerk at Rosehill before moving her membership to the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in 1957. Her first pastor at Fourth Street was the late Reverend Henry Harris. Mrs. Collier paved the way for others as she was the first Church Secretary at Fourth Street. She was a natural and gifted leader as she served in a variety of leadership positions at Fourth Street to include the Deacon's Wives (she served as Chairperson for two terms), PICCM Community Leader in Zebulon Community, Women's Day Speaker, 1961, Chairperson of Program and Pastoral Relations Committee, and was the Roast and Toast Honoree in 1996.

Mrs. Collier was the epitome of a great wife and mother. She married the late Deacon Samuel Lee Collier on April 26, 1950. God blessed this union for 34 years until Deacon Collier's untimely death on May 27, 1984. Six children were born to this union to include two sets of twins: Bernice Collier Collins, Bernard Collier (deceased), Agnes Collier Averett, Samuel Lee Collier, Jr., Michelle Collier McClain, and Michael Collier. Fred Rogers once said that, "It's not so much what you have in life that matters, it's what we do with what we have." Mrs. Collier did a lot for others with what she had. In addition to her own children, she served as a mother figure to her siblings and countless others she found in need of guidance and a helping hand.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that, "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Mrs. Collier paid her rent and she paid it well. She served in a variety of community organizations to include: Electric City Chapter 482 of the Order of the Eastern Stars (Worthy Matron), Spencer High Alumni (Class of 1943), Muscogee County Board of Elections (Voting Precinct Manager); and she traveled to various state conventions to further her knowledge of the voting process. She was also an entrepreneur and a photographer. Her professional career took her to the Medical Center, the Area Mental Health Clinic, and the Enrichment Services Program. Her benevolence extended throughout the community and she often used her influence and networking to help others to find gainful employment.

Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 constituents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, salute and honor the life of Mrs. Johnnie Lee Brown Collier. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Mrs. Collier's family during this time of bereavement. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding missed votes due to a funeral. Had I been present for roll call vote number

30, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 116, the Investing in Main Street Act, I would have voted yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 31, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.J. Res. 27, Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, I would have voted nay. Had I been present for roll call vote number 32, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 41, Rejecting White nationalism and White supremacy, I would have voted yea. Had I been present for roll call vote number 33, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 135, Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act, I would have voted yea.

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IN HONOR OF ERIC LANDIS

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Eric Landis, who is stepping down as my Senior Defense and Homeland Security Advisor to take on a new role with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Eric serves our nation proudly as a member of the Kentucky Air National Guard. In 2010, he was deployed to Europe in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and to Iraq for a 10 month tour in support of Operation New Dawn. On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank him for his service and patriotism.

I first became acquainted with Eric Landis when we worked together in the administration of Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher. Eric later took the Constitutional Law Courses I taught at the University of Kentucky. He subsequently worked on my congressional campaign, and after I was elected to Congress in 2012, Eric moved to Washington D.C. and became a crucial member of my staff. He understands issues that are important to the people of Kentucky's Sixth District, particularly matters dealing with national security, our military, and veterans' affairs. Eric's patriotism shines through every day and his love of country is evident to all who meet him.

Eric Landis brought infectious enthusiasm and unwavering optimism to his daily work. He treated each of my constituents with the utmost respect and was able to diffuse any contentious situation. Eric's dedication to the people of Kentucky's Sixth District is unparalleled and unwavering. He leaves a lasting legacy as a servant leader.

I am honored to call Eric Landis a loyal and trusted friend. I wish him all the best as he leaves to take on a new opportunity. I thank Eric Landis for his friendship, his tireless work on behalf of the people of the Sixth District, and his outstanding service to our country.

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HONORING JOEL NELSEN FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CENTRAL VALLEY

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the achievements of Mr. Joel

Nelsen, the recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Citizen Award from the Sequoia Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Joel is being honored for his many years outstanding civic service to the community and agriculture industry. Joel has exemplified what it means to be a leader in the community through his involvement and dedication to the Central Valley.

Joel was born in San Diego, California. He served four years in the United States Navy before graduating from California State University, Fullerton, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. Joel began his career in agriculture with the Fresh Produce Council in Los Angeles. He eventually was recruited to work in the Central Valley's agriculture industry, joining California Citrus Mutual as Executive Officer in 1982. For over 30 years, Joel has been on the forefront of various issues affecting the produce, citrus, and agriculture industries. As a result, he was appointed President of California Citrus Mutual, overseeing association's 2,200 members.

Joel has demonstrated a significant level of involvement in the community through his career. He is Vice-Chair of the United States Citrus Science Council. Joel has also been appointed to four terms on USDA's Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade, and in 2015 he was selected by his colleagues to be chairman of the committee. In addition, Joel is the founding Chairman for the Agri-Business Presidents' Council, a member of the University of California President's Advisory Commission on Agriculture and Natural Resources and serves on the Executive Committee for the Citrus Health Response Program.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing Mr. Joel Nelsen, recipient of the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Sequoia Council of the Boy Scouts of America. I ask that you join me in wishing Joel and his family continued success and prosperity.

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IN HONOR OF DR. JOHN TANAKA'S RETIREMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

**HON. LIZ CHENEY**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to University of Wyoming professor Dr. John Tanaka on his retirement.

Dr. Tanaka has dedicated his life to researching range and land management practices that improve and restore lands and ranches throughout the West. Dr. Tanaka has received multiple state and federal research grants and has made major contributions to improving sustainable range management practices. After nearly 40 years of dedication to range management and rangeland science, Dr. Tanaka will be retiring and will have the opportunity to relax and enjoy all that Wyoming has to offer.

The University of Wyoming and the many ranchers and landowners who have benefitted from his pioneering research are incredibly grateful for Dr. Tanaka's years of service. Again, Madam Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Dr. Tanaka on his long career and his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR PREVENTION OF ABUSE PEORIA, ILLINOIS

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize the Center for Prevention of Abuse (CFPA), in Peoria, Illinois, and their vital services offered to Illinois communities. As we recognize Human Trafficking and National Slavery Prevention Month, it is important we also commemorate organizations, like CFPA, across the nation that work relentlessly to combat the growing humanitarian crisis of human trafficking.

Started in 1975 as a single rape crisis hotline, CFPA has grown to a highly respected statewide organization with a dynamic and effective leadership team. Along with human trafficking services, CFPA is the only organization in Illinois that provides domestic violence, sexual abuse and assault, and adult protective services under one roof. Last year, CFPA provided comprehensive care to seventeen victims of labor and sex trafficking. Additionally, CFPA provides a safe place to escape and receive the necessary care to those being exploited for sex and labor purposes.

While Central and Southern Illinois may not be major hubs for human trafficking, CFPA has helped residents of small and rural communities across the state recognize the seriousness of this hidden crime occurring in our back yards. In 2018, CFPA conducted forty-eight hours of training for law enforcement, first responders, and medical providers. CFPA has continued to work tirelessly to raise awareness by training community members and providing the necessary resources so trafficking crimes can be effectively reported.

The state of Illinois has benefitted greatly from the efforts and resources provided by CFPA. I extend my sincere appreciation to the leadership team and volunteer staff at the Center for Prevention of Abuse for their continued work raising awareness and helping victims of human trafficking.

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CONSTITUENTS AFFECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, the House will vote again today to immediately reopen the U.S. government and end President Trump's government shutdown. It is unwarranted and wrong to force our Coast Guard, our Customs and Border, TSA officers, air traffic controllers and others to work without getting paid. I have heard from many Tampa area government public servants, contractors and their family members who have shared with me how the shutdown is affecting them.

One of my Tampa neighbors who runs a small business in her retirement years to help support her son with mental disabilities advised me that "[As a] tax preparer—I cannot get responses from the IRS that affect [my] clients."

Another neighbor who hoped to retire by years end is also running out of hope says, "We are told there is no more funding after January 18 for the courts, and our colleagues in the U.S. Attorney's office failed to be paid [today], although they stay on the job prosecuting criminals."

Another wrote to me after learning about what his own customers are going through: "I was touched by [the story of] a young woman who I gave an estimate to. She is engaged to a young man who works for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. As she explained it, he is required to work without being paid, as they try to begin their lives together."

Another neighbor is not a government employee, but is still affected by the shutdown: "My wife and I are in the process of starting a new business and are dependent on an SBA loan," he wrote me. "We've spent months looking for a location in this very tight commercial real estate market and finally found one. We don't want to lose the opportunity to secure the location, start our new business and begin hiring employees just because the president makes demands that our representative legislature and our voters do not agree with."

Still another: "I am extremely upset about this government shutdown. I am a private contractor working on a government contract. I have been unemployed for weeks because of this. I can't pay my bills."

Our TSA officers, Customs officers and air traffic controllers at Tampa International Airport are outstanding. TSA Officer Luis Mendoza advised me that "I've been with TSA for 12 years. I have experienced previous shutdowns and close calls, but I really feel that this one is going to be a tough one to get through. The officers in Tampa are trying to hang in there because as they shared, 'We do believe in the Oath we took to protect the flying public and guard against threats.' But many are trying to figure out how to pay for gas, child care services, and groceries before rent, bills and medical care."

I also spoke with Admiral Karl Schultz who leads the Coast Guard this morning regarding our shared deep concern that our frontline Coast Guard service members are not being paid. In fact, one Coast Guard mother wrote me, "I have a son in the Coast Guard in Tampa, Florida that due to the government shut down will not be paid . . . I first hand know how this affects an individual and it take(s) several if not a life time to recover from this. These people should not have to suffer for others just trying to make a vote."

I urge the White House and GOP Senators to take up the bills to reopen America's government along with the detailed plan we have negotiated for modern border security—and do it today.

Otherwise there will be more headlines like the one on the front page of my hometown newspaper that says "Federal workers' new need: food assistance". Thanks to Tampa International Airport, Feeding Tampa Bay, United Way Suncoast, USAA, the Crisis Center and others who are supporting our neighbors caught in Pres. Trump's government shutdown, but this is no substitute for the government of the United States of America to function and provide the services all of our constituents need, for public servants to get paid and to fulfill the oath to protect and defend America.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR.  
GENE W. KALLSEN

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Dr. Gene W. Kallsen, on the occasion of his retirement as Emergency Faculty and Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine at UCSF, Fresno and Community Regional Medical Center's Emergency Department. Dr. Kallsen served his last shift as an emergency physician on December 28, 2018. This is the culmination of a medical career spanning over 40 years in emergency medicine in Fresno. Under his exemplary leadership, Dr. Kallsen has achieved success through innovative thinking and integrity.

Dr. Kallsen, a native of Minnesota, attended the University of Minnesota Medical School and completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Kallsen received his residency training at the University of California, San Francisco—Fresno and competing an internship at the University of Washington Affiliate/Harborview Medical Center.

Dr. Kallsen first began his career as an emergency medical resident at UCSF Fresno, where he maintained stable relationships with staff and patients. His strong work ethic and dedication to helping people earned him a position as a faculty member, and eventually as Chief and Medical Director for the program. During the program's 43-year history, UCSF Fresno's emergency program has graduated more than 300 residents. Dr. Kallsen's time at UCSF Fresno can be characterized by his compassion and willingness to go the extra mile to help his patients and students.

Dr. Kallsen's distinguished career includes more than 10 years as Fresno County's first Emergency Medical Services director, two years as chair of the California Commission of Emergency Medical Services, 23 years as chief of UCSF Fresno's Emergency Medicine Department, five years as assistant dean at UCSF Fresno and over 28 years in leadership roles with the Central Faculty Medical Group. He also led the emergency medicine department transition from University Medical Center to Community Regional Medical Center. Today, Community Regional's Emergency Department is one of the largest and busiest in California, seeing an average of 110,000 patients a year. In addition, Dr. Kallsen and his wife Pam have established the Gene W. Kallsen, MD, Endowed Chair in Emergency Medicine at UCSF Fresno, to ensure that the teaching program will continue to recruit the finest physicians and medical educators to head its emergency medicine program for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Gene W. Kallsen for his remarkable career achievements with Community Regional Medical Center's Emergency Room. Dr. Kallsen will leave a robust foundation for the Emergency Department to continue to build upon. He has created a lasting legacy that will continue to help the people of the San Joaquin Valley. I wish Dr. Kallsen the very best as he enters this new phase of his life.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH WEDDING  
ANNIVERSARY OF ALFREDO AND  
GUILLERMINA HERNÁNDEZ

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 50th wedding anniversary of Alfredo and Guillermina Hernández.

Alfredo and Guillermina were married December 18, 1968, in México Distrito Federal. While still residing in Mexico, they had three children: Veronica, José Alfredo and David Alejandro.

Alfredo and Guillermina immigrated with their children to the United States on September 29, 1979. They settled in Santa Ana, California, where they became productive members of their community, never taking for granted the opportunities our great country has provided them.

For 30 years until he retired, Alfredo worked for Miniondas, a Spanish newspaper based out of Santa Ana, and Mrs. Hernández has been a small business owner in Santa Ana since 1987. Their hard work and dedication bettered not only their lives, but the lives of their children, grand-children and the generations of children who will follow in their footsteps.

Their eldest daughter, Veronica, has been employed with the Santa Ana Unified School District for 28 years, and is married to Ladislao Guillen.

Their son, José Alfredo, who has been in practice for 18 years as an immigration and criminal defense attorney, served the SAUSD for 10 years as an elected member of the School Board. He established his own law firm in December of 2006, and is married to Alma, an attorney who serves as a Riverside County prosecutor.

Their son, David Alejandro, served as a United States Marine for 14 years and now works at the Department of Health & Human Services, and is married to Laura.

The legacy of this couple continues not only through their three children, but also through their nine grandchildren, one of whom is serving in the United States Army Reserve, another who has obtained a university degree, and others who are pursuing their educations, dreams, and goals.

Considering the strong values, they were provided with from their own parents, it's not surprising that Mr. and Mrs. Hernández achieved this significant milestone. Alfredo's parents, now passed, were married for 50 years, and Guillermina's parents have been married for 69 years and counting.

Madam Speaker, please join me in acknowledging the accomplished lives of Alfredo and Guillermina Hernández and the gift they've given their children, a set of values that stem from their humble roots as immigrants. Together, they have produced an extraordinary family, whose members are now living the American Dream.

HONORING PAULA AND JIM  
BUONOMO

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Paula and Jim Buonomo for their distinguished careers and continued dedication to making their community a better place to live and raise a family.

Over the past 30 years, Paula has held many prominent roles and has served with distinction on the Shrewsbury School Committee, as a member Shrewsbury Town Meeting, on the Board of Directors for the Worcester County Food Bank, and as Chair of the Shrewsbury Democratic Town Committee. I would also like to thank Paula for her time spent as a District Representative in my office—where I saw her affinity for helping others first hand.

Jim has also consistently proven his devotion to improving the lives of others through his time serving on the Board of Directors at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and playing a crucial role in many other initiatives aimed at improving the lives of students in Shrewsbury.

On January 26th, the Shrewsbury Education Foundation will present Paula and Jim with the Community Service Award, recognizing the couple for consistently going above and beyond in their service to their community, and particularly the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

Throughout the years, they have stepped up and worked together at critical times to improve the lives of students, including the campaigns for the Floral Street School and Shrewsbury High School. They also played a significant role in making the Shrewsbury Public Library and new athletic complex a reality—which will benefit the residents of Shrewsbury for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and the people of Massachusetts, I would like to thank and recognize Paula and Jim for their work in improving the Shrewsbury School District and the Massachusetts education system. Their tireless efforts have forever changed Shrewsbury and the Commonwealth for the better.

HONORING MR. WILLIAM ASTOR  
KIRK

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Astor Kirk on his great contributions to civil rights activism.

Raised in the East Texas town of Harleton, William began his journey to higher education at Wiley College, a historically black college located in Pittsburg, Texas. He transferred and continued his trajectory at the prestigious Howard University in Washington, earning both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Political Science. He then pursued his doctorate at the University of Texas. He also completed postgraduate studies at the London

School of Economics and Political Science in England as a Fulbright scholar. He later served as a regional director of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity and as an adjunct associate professor of organization theory in the Graduate School of Management and Technology at the University of Maryland. He was founder and CEO of the Organization Management Services Corporation.

Kirk, also a United Methodist layperson, served as a director of the public affairs department of the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church from 1961 to 1966 and as the board's interim top executive in 1987 and 1988. He played a historic role in ending institutional segregation in the United Methodist Church.

Overcoming discrimination was a fight he knew well. He had earned a doctorate in political science at the University of Texas at Austin—the university's first Ph.D. awarded to an African-American.

Kirk also led Huston-Tillotson students in various protests against segregated public facilities in Austin during that era, and he was said to be instrumental in the desegregation of the city's library and other facilities.

He was known as a complete gentleman, a person who believed in forgiving and in not allowing bitterness to define his life.

Before his death, Kirk had prepared an omnibus resolution to end discrimination against sexual minorities, to be presented at the 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church.

William Astor Kirk died on Friday, August 12, 2011, at 89 years of age. He and his wife Vivian, who died in 2010, had been members of Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington since 1984, and he served in many leadership roles. He is survived by his son, William A. Kirk, Jr., his late daughter Marie Kirk Dunn, daughter-in-law Hillary, his late son-in-law Reginald Dunn, and four granddaughters Ayanna, Jenelle, Allison and Stefanie.

Madam Speaker, today I honor the life of Mr. William Astor Kirk for his many contributions to ending discriminatory practices in the United Methodist Church as well as throughout the City of Austin. William made a career of serving others, and his work had a direct and positive influence on the lives of literally thousands.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. DONALD G. JEWELL

**HON. STEVE STIVERS**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to celebrate the 100th birthday of one of Millersport, Ohio's most distinguished citizens, a man who continues to bring smiles to others, Mr. Donald G. Jewell.

An incredibly intelligent and hardworking man, Mr. Jewell valiantly offered his skills in service to our nation as a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the United States Air Force. He earned the rank of Master Sergeant and received the Bronze Star during World War II. His commitment to his fellow soldiers cannot be understated, as he still reflects fondly on their success and dedication.

Mr. Jewell has been a fixture of our community since 1945. In that time, he has helped make Millersport a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. An important contributor to our local economy, he owned a gas station and managed the Midland Screw Factory. Moreover, from his time on the village council to the founding of the Sweet Corn Festival, he spent his days diligently working to improve the lives of his neighbors and bring smiles to their faces.

Most importantly, Mr. Jewell has built a wonderful and fulfilling life in Millersport with his late wife June by his side, surrounded by his son, Edwin; three grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

He is an exemplary citizen and Millersport is undeniably a better place because of Mr. Donald G. Jewell, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing him a very happy 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BILL O'MALLEY

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, and Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY to recognize Bill O'Malley for his public service and legacy in our East Bay community.

Bill was born in Boston in 1924 and served in the U.S. Navy at a young age. After World War II, he studied at Fordham University in New York. In 1953, Bill and his wife, Claire Dunn, moved to California where they raised nine children. He graduated first in his class from Golden Gate University School of Law while attending at night.

A lifetime public servant, Bill held almost every role in Contra Costa County's legal system. He served as a deputy district attorney, deputy public defender, and was a founding member of the county's public defender's office. In 1968, Bill was appointed as Contra Costa County's District Attorney. During his 16-year tenure, he helped open the county's first rape crisis center and domestic violence shelter. Following his years as district attorney, Bill was elected to be a Superior Court judge where he presided over criminal, civil, and family law until his retirement in 1995.

Outside of the courtroom, Bill was an avid outdoorsman and traveler. He visited every state in the United States and visited all national parks and historic monuments, a feat not easily accomplished. In his retirement he loved spending time with his family and exploring his passion for history by studying World War I and visiting European battle-grounds.

His proudest achievement, though, was his family. Bill is survived by his sister, Grace Fitzgerald; sons Jake and Dan; daughters Nancy, Denise, Betsy, Grace, Patty, and Mary; as well as 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Bill was particularly gratified that his daughter, Nancy, became the first woman to serve as Alameda County District Attorney.

I join Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congressman

MIKE THOMPSON, and Congressman JERRY MCNERNEY in recognizing Bill's volunteerism and enthusiasm as a public servant in his community. He will be sincerely missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing him, and he will be remembered for his endless service to Contra Costa County.

COMMENDING PRIVATE JOHN  
GILLEY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sacrifice of Private John Gilley. The service and sacrifice of men and women like Private John Gilley are truly what makes our country great. Private Gilley served his country honorably in World War One, where he was wounded in the Battle of Courtrai. As a member of the 30th Division of the Army National Guard, which was attached to British Forces, Private Gilley took part in the campaign which resulted ultimately in the 30th Division breaching the Hindenburg Line to force the Armistice which ended the war.

Thankfully, Private Gilley survived his wounds and was discharged in February of 1919. Our area, the State of North Carolina and our Country are fortunate that he returned to Westfield, North Carolina where he and his wife raised their nine children.

While the Purple Heart was not available during World War One, Private Gilley was certainly eligible for it and it is fitting that it is being awarded to his family in his honor now. It has been my distinct privilege to work with Private Gilley's family to bring to light his sacrifice and give him the recognition he deserves. It is never too late to remember and honor those who have put our country's values above their own safety and well-being.

I am here to commend not only Private Gilley but also to commend his family for their perseverance in achieving the recognition he so richly deserves and for continuing his model of patriotism.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LES  
WRIGHT—FRESNO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL  
COMMISSIONER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Les Wright, on the occasion of his retirement as Fresno County's Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures. Les' final day as Agricultural Commissioner will be January 25, 2019. This is the culmination of a successful 27-year civil service, leadership and management career throughout the State of California.

Les, a native of Modoc County, earned his Associates degree in Production Agriculture from Shasta College. He began his career in government in 1976, serving at a border inspection station. With a background as a rancher, it did not take long for Les to realize

his true passion was in agriculture. He quickly rose up the ranks, serving as the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer for Modoc County, Deputy Commissioner of Kings County and Chief Deputy Commissioner of Fresno County. He was appointed Fresno County's Agricultural Commissioner on August 5, 2013.

As the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner, Les' primary objective is to promote and protect the county's multibillion-dollar agricultural industry. In his role, he oversees the number one agriculture producing county in the nation. Fresno County produces over 350 types of crops and is known to many as the breadbasket of the world. He is passionate about his work and serves as advocate for growers through the county. Passion for the agricultural industry run deep in the Wright household, as Les' wife Marilyn Kinoshita-Wright is also retiring this month from her position as Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Les Wright for his career achievements as Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner. Les will leave a robust foundation for Fresno County to continue to build upon. I wish Les and his wife Marilyn the very best as they enter this new phase of their life.

A TIMELINE OF STEVE KING'S  
RACIST REMARKS AND DIVISIVE  
ACTIONS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 16, 2019*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD, an article by Trip Gabriel that was published in the New York Times on January 15, 2019 detailing racist remarks and divisive actions made by Rep. STEVE KING.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 15, 2019]

A TIMELINE OF STEVE KING'S RACIST  
REMARKS AND DIVISIVE ACTIONS

(By Trip Gabriel)

While some Republicans suggested the Iowa congressman's views were new to them, Mr. King has a long and documented history of denigrating racial minorities.

Representative Steve King of Iowa, who was stripped of his House committee seats on Monday night after making remarks defending white supremacy, has a long history of racist comments and insults about immigrants.

Republicans rarely rebuked him until recently, with some suggesting that Mr. King's language and views were new to them.

"This just popped up on Friday," Representative Steve Scalise, the second-ranking House Republican, said on Sunday, when asked if the party would penalize Mr. King for saying, in an interview with The Times, "White nationalist, white supremacist, Western civilization—how did that language become offensive?"

National Republicans courted his political support in Iowa: He was a national co-chairman of Ted Cruz's 2016 presidential effort and of Gov. Kim Reynolds' 2018 election. House leadership appointed him chairman of the subcommittee on the Constitution and civil justice. And President Trump boasted in the Oval Office that he raised more money for Mr. King than for anyone else. Yet Mr. King, who won a ninth term in November, has pub-

licly promoted white nationalists and neo-Nazis on Twitter and disparaged nonwhite groups for years.

2002

Mr. King, in the Iowa State Senate, files a bill requiring schools teach that the United States "is the unchallenged greatest nation in the world and that it has derived its strength from . . . Christianity, free enterprise capitalism and Western civilization."

Mr. King is the chief sponsor of a law making English the official language of Iowa.

2005

Now in Congress, Mr. King introduces the English Language Unity Act, a bill to make English the official language of the United States.

Mr. King sues the Iowa Secretary of State for posting voting information on an official website in Spanish, Laotian, Bosnian and Vietnamese.

2006

At a rally in Las Vegas, Mr. King calls the deaths of Americans at the hands of undocumented immigrants "a slow-motion Holocaust." He claims that 25 Americans die daily because of undocumented immigrants, an unsupported and illogical leap from government statistics, which years later influences talking points by President Trump.

On the House floor, Mr. King demonstrates a model of a 12-foot concrete border wall topped with electrified wire that he designed: "We need to do a few other things on top of that wall, and one of them being to put a little bit of wire on top here to provide a disincentive for people to climb over the top or put a ladder there. We could also electrify this wire . . . We do that with livestock all the time."

2010

Mr. King on the House floor, speaking of how law enforcement officers can spot undocumented immigrants:

What kind of clothes people wear . . . what kind of shoes people wear, what kind of accent they have . . . sometimes it's just a sixth sense they can't put their finger on.

2011

Mr. King in a speech opposing the Affordable Care Act's mandate to cover contraception:

Preventing babies being born is not medicine. That's not constructive to our culture and our civilization. If we let our birthrate get down below the replacement rate, we're a dying civilization.

2012

On a panel at the Conservative Political Action Conference with Peter Brimelow, an open white nationalist, Mr. King referred to multiculturalism as:

A tool for the Left to subdivide a culture and civilization into our own little ethnic enclaves and pit us against each other.

2013

Mr. King on why he opposes legal status for Dreamers, who were brought into the country as children:

For everyone who's a valedictorian, there's another 100 out there that weigh 130 pounds and they've got calves the size of cantaloupes because they're hauling 75 pounds of marijuana across the desert. Those people would be legalized with the same act.

2015

Mr. King invites the far-right, anti-Islam Dutch politician Geert Wilders to Washington and appears with him at the Capitol. Mr. Wilders has called Islam "not a religion," said the Quran was "worse than Mein Kampf," and called for the closing of mosques.

Mr. King tweets a selfie with Mr. Wilders in front of a portrait of Winston Churchill.

Mr. Wilders praises Mr. King for having “the guts to speak out.”

2016

At the Republican National Convention in July, Mr. King claims that nonwhite groups haven’t contributed as much as whites to civilization: “This whole business does get a little tired. I would ask you to go back through history and figure out where are these contributions that have been made by these other categories of people you are talking about. Where did any other subgroup of people contribute more to civilization?”

Mr. King to The Washington Post days later: “The idea of multiculturalism, that every culture is equal—that’s not objectively true . . . We’ve been fed that information for the past 25 years, and we’re not going to become a greater nation if we continue to do that.”

In a tweet during a meeting in Amsterdam with Mr. Wilders and Frauke Petry, the leader of Germany’s far-right Alternative for Germany party, Mr. King says, “Cultural suicide by demographic transformation must end.”

In October, Marine Le Pen, the leader of France’s far-right party, tweets a picture of her meeting with Mr. King, the first elected American official to meet her.

Also in October, Mr. King meets in Austria with leaders of the far-right Freedom Party, including Heinz-Christian Strache and Norbert Hofer. The party was founded in the 1950s by former Nazis.

2017

“Wilders understands that culture and demographics are our destiny. We can’t restore our civilization with somebody else’s babies,” Mr. King tweets in his endorsement of Mr. Wilders in Dutch elections.

On March 14, Mr. King defends the tweet on Breitbart radio: “We’re watching as Western civilization is shrinking in the face of the massive, epic migration that is pouring into Europe. That’s the core of that tweet. They’re importing a different culture, a different civilization—and that culture and civilization, the imported one, rejects the host culture. And so they are supplanting Western civilization with Middle Eastern civilization and I say, and Geert Wilders says, Western civilization is a superior civilization—it is the first world.”

On Iowa talk radio, Mr. King recommends “The Camp of the Saints,” a racist 1973 novel

about an invasion of Europe by nonwhite immigrants.

Mr. King tweets agreement with Viktor Orban, Hungary’s authoritarian leader: “Mixing cultures will not lead to a higher quality of life but a lower one.”

2018

Mr. King says he does not want Somali Muslims working in meatpacking plants in Iowa: “I don’t want people doing my pork that won’t eat it, let alone hope I go to hell for eating pork chops.”

Asked by a reporter for HuffPost if he is a white nationalist or white supremacist, Mr. King responds: “I don’t answer those questions. I say to people that use those kind of allegations: Use those words a million times, because you’re reducing the value of them every time, and many of the people that use those words and make those allegations and ask those questions can’t even define the words they’re using.”

In an interview with a web publication in Austria, unzensuriert.at, which is linked to the far-right Freedom Party, Mr. King again praises the novel “Camp of the Saints”: “This narrative should be imprinted into everyone’s brain. When you are importing people, even importing one single person, you are importing their culture.”

In the same interview, Mr. King demonstrates familiarity with the “Great Replacement” conspiracy theory, also known as “white genocide,” which posits that an international elite, including prominent Jews like George Soros, are plotting to make white populations minorities in Europe and North America. “Great replacement, yes,” Mr. King says. “These people walking into Europe by ethnic migration, 80 percent are young men. They are somebody else’s babies.”

Mr. King endorses a Toronto mayoral candidate, Faith Goldy, who had recited the “14 words” used by neo-Nazis and gave an interview to a podcast for the neo-Nazi website The Daily Stormer.

The Anti-Defamation League writes to Speaker Paul D. Ryan calling for the censure of Mr. King for endorsing Ms. Goldy. The group also notes that the Austrian Freedom Party is “riddled with anti-Semitism and Holocaust trivialization.”

Representative Steve Stivers, chairman of the Republican House election committee, condemns Mr. King in a tweet: “We must

stand up against white supremacy and hate in all forms, and I strongly condemn this behavior.”

Asked on Oct. 21 on WHO-TV in Iowa, “What is a white nationalist?” Mr. King answers: “First of all, I think you have to be white, but then we’ve got Rachel Dolezal who didn’t have to be black to be black. It is a derogatory term today. I wouldn’t have thought so maybe a year or two or three ago. But today they use it as a derogatory term and they imply you are a racist. That’s the bottom line for that.”

2019

“White nationalist, white supremacist, Western civilization—how did that language become offensive? Why did I sit in classes teaching me about the merits of our history and our civilization?” Mr. King said in an interview with The New York Times published last week.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S233–S285*

**Measures Introduced:** Thirty-six bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 137–172, S. Res. 19, and S. Con. Res. 1. **Pages S273–74**

#### Measures Passed:

**Knights of Columbus:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 19, expressing the sense of the Senate that disqualifying a nominee to Federal office on the basis of membership in the Knights of Columbus violates the Constitution of the United States. **Pages S265–66**

**Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Extension Act:** Senate passed H.R. 251, to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Page S279**

McConnell (for Johnson/Peters) Amendment No. 3, to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security. **Page S279**

McConnell (for Johnson/Peters) Amendment No. 4, to amend the title. **Page S279**

#### Measures Considered:

**Sanctions With Respect to the Russian Federation:** Senate continued consideration of S. J. Res. 2, disapproving the President's proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation. **Pages S233–47**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 6), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the joint resolution. **Page S247**

Subsequently, the joint resolution was returned to the Calendar.

**No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed

to consideration of S. 109, to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions. **Pages S247–65**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Wednesday, January 16, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at approximately 4:30 p.m., on Thursday, January 17, 2019. **Pages S247–48**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 4 p.m., on Thursday, January 17, 2019; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, there be 30 minutes of debate, equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, and upon the use or yielding back of that time, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S279**

#### Appointments:

**United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control:** The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–93, as amended by Public Law 99–151, appointed the following Senators as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: Senators Feinstein (Vice Chairman), Whitehouse, and Rosen. **Page S279**

**John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development:** The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100–458, sec. 114(b)(2)(c), the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a six-year term: Thomas Daffron of Maine. **Page S279**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23,

1995, with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM-1) **Page S272**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

Naomi C. Earp, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

William Bookless, of California, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

Veronica Daigle, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Joseph Bruce Hamilton, of Texas, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2022.

Thomas McCaffery, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Jessie Hill Roberson, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2023.

Lisa Vickers, of Texas, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2021.

Seth Daniel Appleton, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Spencer Bachus III, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2023.

Thelma Drake, of Virginia, to be Federal Transit Administrator.

Dino Falaschetti, of Montana, to be Director, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury, for a term of six years.

Rodney Hood, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2023.

Robert Hunter Kurtz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Jeffrey Nadaner, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Bimal Patel, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2021.

Kimberly A. Reed, of West Virginia, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2021.

Claudia Slacik, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2023.

Ann Marie Buerkle, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2018.

Ann Marie Buerkle, of New York, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Alan E. Cobb, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring November 22, 2023.

Rick A. Dearborn, of Oklahoma, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Diana Furchtgott-Roth, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

Lane Genatowski, of New York, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy.

Joseph Ryan Gruters, of Florida, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Janice Miriam Hellreich, of Hawaii, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2024.

Heidi R. King, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Robert A. Mandell, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2022.

Don Munce, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2024.

Barry Lee Myers, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

Bruce M. Ramer, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2024.

Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for the term of five years.

Leon A. Westmoreland, of Georgia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

William Shaw McDermott, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring May 30, 2024.

Rita Baranwal, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy).

Susan Combs, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

William Cooper, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

Christopher Fall, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.

Aimee Kathryn Jorjani, of Wisconsin, to be Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for a term expiring January 19, 2021.

John Fleming, of Louisiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

John L. Ryder, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2021.

Peter C. Wright, of Michigan, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency.

Michael J. Astrue, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2022.

Jason J. Fichtner, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a term expiring September 30, 2024.

James B. Lockhart III, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

James B. Lockhart III, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

James B. Lockhart III, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019.

David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for a term expiring January 19, 2025.

Elizabeth Darling, of Texas, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

Michael J. Desmond, of California, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Amy Karpel, of Washington, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 16, 2020.

Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019.

Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2025.

Randolph J. Stayin, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2026.

Irving Bailey, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2021.

Alexander Crenshaw, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of three years.

Louis DeJoy, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2020.

George M. Marcus, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of three years.

Susan M. McCue, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of two years.

Richard C. Parker, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Christopher P. Vincze, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2019.

John P. Abizaid, of Nevada, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador.

John Barsa, of Florida, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Pamela Bates, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador.

Marshall Billingslea, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

Lynda Blanchard, of Alabama, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia.

Kimberly Breier, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2020.

Andrew P. Bremberg, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador.

Brian J. Bulatao, of Texas, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).

Kate Marie Byrnes, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia.

Sean Cairncross, of Minnesota, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Fiji, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

Mina Chang, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

R. Clarke Cooper, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs).

Jane L. Corwin, of New York, to be Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada.

Edward F. Crawford, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to Ireland.

Robert A. Destro, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

Jeffrey L. Eberhardt, of Wisconsin, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Non-proliferation, with the rank of Ambassador.

David T. Fischer, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Michael J. Fitzpatrick, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador.

Kenneth S. George, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

James S. Gilmore, of Virginia, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador.

Brett P. Giroir, of Texas, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

Jeffrey Ross Gunter, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland.

Kenneth A. Howery, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden.

Darrell E. Issa, of California, to be Director of the Trade and Development Agency.

Ronald Douglas Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador.

Doug Manchester, of California, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Lana J. Marks, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa.

Ronald Mortensen, of Utah, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration).

W. Patrick Murphy, of Vermont, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Michael Pack, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for the term of three years.

John Rakolta, Jr., of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

Leandro Rizzuto, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Mark Rosen, of Connecticut, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years.

Daniel N. Rosenblum, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan.

David Schenker, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

Robert C. Sisson, of Michigan, to be Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada.

David Stilwell, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

Alan R. Swendiman, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Peace Corps.

Donald R. Tapia, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to Jamaica.

Kip Tom, of Indiana, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture.

Christine J. Toretti, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta.

Matthew H. Tueller, of Utah, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq.

Lance V. Yohe, of North Dakota, to be Commissioner on the part of the United States on the International Joint Commission, United States and Canada.

Adrian Zuckerman, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to Romania.

Kathe Hicks Albrecht, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2024.

Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of five years.

Charles Wickser Banta, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2022.

Keegan F. Callanan, of Vermont, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2024.

David Armand DeKeyser, of Alabama, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020.

Robert J. Grey, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2020.

Kim R. Holmes, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2022.

Victoria Ann Hughes, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2021.

Michelle Itczak, of Indiana, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2020.

Phyllis Kaminsky, of Arizona, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2020.

Abigail L. Kuzma, of Indiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2019.

Abigail L. Kuzma, of Indiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2022.

John G. Levi, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2020.

Barbara Coleen Long, of Missouri, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2022.

John G. Malcolm, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2020.

Frank X. Neuner, Jr., of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2019.

Frank X. Neuner, Jr., of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2022.

Heather Reynolds, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring September 14, 2021.

Gloria Valencia-Weber, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2020.

Carleton Varney, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2022.

Jean M. Yarbrough, of Maine, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2022.

William I. Althen, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2024.

William Beach, of Kansas, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, for a term of four years.

Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years.

Janet Dhillon, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2022.

Sharon Fast Gustafson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years.

John Lowry III, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

Scott A. Mugno, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

John P. Pallasch, of Kentucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Marco M. Rajkovich, Jr., of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2024.

Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Arthur R. Traynor III, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring August 30, 2022.

Ron A. Bloom, of New York, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2020.

William Bryan, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security.

Julia Akins Clark, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2021.

Joseph V. Cuffari, of Arizona, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security.

Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2025.

Dennis Dean Kirk, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2023.

Dennis Dean Kirk, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Roman Martinez IV, of Florida, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2024.

Andrew F. Maunz, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2025.

Calvin R. Tucker, of Pennsylvania, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2023.

Ronald D. Vitiello, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

William R. Evanina, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

Aditya Bamzai, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for the remainder of the term expiring January 29, 2020.

Shannon Lee Goessling, of Florida, to be Director of the Violence Against Women Office, Department of Justice.

Travis LeBlanc, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2022.

Virgil Madden, of Indiana, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission for a term of six years.

James E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023.

Robert C. Tapella, of Virginia, to be Director of the Government Publishing Office.

David Christian Tryon, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

**Pages S282–85**

**Messages from the House: Page S272**

**Measures Referred: Pages S272–73**

**Additional Cosponsors: Pages S274–75**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S275–78**

**Additional Statements: Pages S271–72**

**Amendments Submitted: Pages S278–79**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S279**

**Privileges of the Floor: Page S279**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—6) **Page S279**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:35 p.m., until 4 p.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S279.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTORS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine the future of nuclear power, focusing on advanced reactors, after receiving testimony from Edward McGinnis, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Nuclear Energy, and Thomas Zacharia, Director, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, both of the Department of Energy; and Christina Back, General Atomics, San Diego, California.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee adopted its rules of procedure and subcommittee structure for the 116th Congress.

### NOMINATION

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Inhofe, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 116th Congress:

*Subcommittee on Children and Families:* Senators Paul (Chair), Murkowski, Burr, Cassidy, Roberts, Scott (SC), Romney, Casey, Sanders, Murphy, Kaine, Hassan, and Smith.

*Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety:* Senators Isakson (Chair), Scott (SC), Paul, Romney, Braun, Burr, Cassidy, Baldwin, Casey, Warren, Smith, Jones, and Rosen.

*Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security:* Senators Enzi (Chair), Burr, Collins, Cassidy, Roberts, Romney, Braun, Murkowski, Scott (SC), Sanders, Baldwin, Murphy, Warren, Kaine, Hassan, Jones, and Rosen.

*Senators Alexander and Murray are ex officio members of each subcommittee.*

## NOMINATION

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice, after receiving testimony from former Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey, Debevoise and Plimpton LLP, and Marc H. Morial, National Urban League, both of New York, New York; Derrick Johnson, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Baltimore, Maryland; former Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson, Finch McCrannie LLP, and Neil J. Kinkopf, Georgia State University College of Law, both of Atlanta, Georgia; Mary Kate Cary, University of Virginia Miller Center, Jonathan Turley, George Washington University Law School, and Chuck Canterbury, Fraternal Order of Police, all of

Washington, D.C.; and Reverend Sharon Risher, Charlotte, North Carolina.

## INTELLIGENCE

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

## FIGHTING ELDER FRAUD

*Special Committee on Aging:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine fighting elder fraud, focusing on progress made and work to be done, after receiving testimony from Derek Schmidt, Kansas Attorney General, Topeka; Candice Simeoni, Kennebunk Police Department, Kennebunk, Maine, on behalf of the York County Elder Abuse Task Force; Erika Flavin, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania; and Judith Kozlowski, Washington, D.C.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 49 public bills, H.R. 582–630; 3 private bills, H.R. 631–633; and 14 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 4; and H. Res. 46–51, 53–56, were introduced.

Pages H673–76

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Page H678

**Report Filed:** A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 52, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 28) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 116–3).

Page H673

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Sires to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H605

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:21 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H614

**Committee Elections:** The House agreed to H. Res. 46, electing Members to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives.

Page H617

**Suspension—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Monday, January 14th.

*Expanding Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses Act of 2019:* H.R. 190, to amend the Small Business Act to eliminate the inclusion of option years in the award price for sole source contracts, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 415 yeas to 6 nays, Roll No. 36.

Page H626

**Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019:** The House passed H.R. 268, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, by a yea-and-nay vote of 237 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 39.

Pages H626–62

Rejected the Dunn motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 193 yeas to 231 noes, Roll No. 38.

Pages H660–61

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–2, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–2, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole.

Page H639

Agreed to:

Bishop (GA) amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that increases emergency assistance funding to agricultural producers who suffered losses from hurricanes, wildfires and other agricultural related losses in 2018;

Pages H646–47

Velázquez amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that provides \$5 million to conduct an independent study, including a survey of participants, on the impact of the additional benefits provided through disaster nutrition assistance on the food insecurity, health status, and well-being of program participants; **Page H650**

Velázquez amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that provides \$25 million for Caño Martín Peña channel ecosystem restoration; **Pages H650–51**

Thompson (CA) amendment (No. 7 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that clarifies that winegrape growers whose crops were tainted by smoke from a 2018 wildfire are eligible for assistance under this Act, even if the damage is discovered after the grapes have been removed from the vine; **Pages H651–52**

Thompson (CA) amendment (No. 8 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that increases funding by \$50 million for the Community Development Fund to help address unmet infrastructure needs for grantees that received allocations for disasters that occurred in 2017; **Page H652**

Graves (LA) amendment (No. 9 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that extends eligibility to Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA projects, but ensures they do not receive funding in excess of the amount at which they are authorized; **Pages H652–53**

Richmond amendment (No. 10 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that amends section to clarify that the process for addressing duplication of benefits should be handled in accordance with current law; **Pages H653–54**

Westerman amendment (No. 11 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that increases the funding for USFS State and Private Forestry account, with the goals of helping state and private forest managers recover from the catastrophic fires of 2018 and helping these land managers prepare for the next fire season; **Pages H454–55**

Jayapal amendment (No. 12 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that restricts DHS funding from being used for the construction or expansion of immigration detention facilities; **Pages H655–56**

Sablan amendment (No. 13 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that increases the funding for the Northern Marianas Medicaid program by \$16 million to help the islands in recovery from Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu; **Pages H656–58**

Sablan amendment (No. 14 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that increases funding for the Marianas food stamps block grant by \$15,000,000 to cover the cost of households, not previously eligible for aid, who remain in need of assistance because of continuing income loss after Typhoon Mangkhut and

Super Typhoon Yutu; out of total population of 53,883, the Food and Nutrition Service reports 40,377 people qualified for disaster nutrition benefits; **Page H658**

González-Colón (PR) amendment (No. 15 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that increases the amount of nutritional assistance appropriated in Sec. 101 by \$5,000,000; **Pages H658–59**

Stewart amendment (No. 6 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that provides increased funding for hazardous fuels management activities to increase the resiliency of federal forests, to protect against catastrophic wildfires and reduce the amount of damage caused by such fires (agreed by unanimous consent to withdraw the earlier request for a recorded vote to the end that the Chair put the question de novo); and **Pages H651, H659**

McGovern amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that states that none of the funds in this bill for the Army Corps of Engineers or Department of Homeland Security may be used to plan, develop, or construct the border wall (by a recorded vote of 230 yeas to 197 nays, Roll No. 37). **Pages H647–49, H659**

Rejected:

Rice (SC) amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–2) that sought to remove the prohibition on the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's ability to waive requirements related to the environment. **Pages H649–50**

H. Res. 43, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 268) was agreed to by a yeas-and-nays vote of 230 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 35, after the previous question was ordered by a yeas-and-nays vote of 230 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 34. **Pages H618–26**

**Question of Privilege:** Representative Rush rose to a question of the privileges of the House and submitted a resolution (H. Res. 53). Subsequently, Representative Hoyer moved to refer the resolution to the Committee on Ethics and was recognized for one hour on the motion. The motion to refer was agreed to by voice vote, after the previous question was ordered without objection. **Pages H662–63**

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourns to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, January 17th. **Page H663**

**Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Representatives Himes, Sewell (AL), Carson (IN), Speier, Quigley, Swalwell (CA), Castro (TX), Heck, Sean Patrick Maloney (NY), Demings, and Krishnamoorthi. **Page H665**

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 2019—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–7).

**Page H662**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate today appears on page H671.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Four yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H624–25, H625–26, H626, H659, H660–61, and H661. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

### FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.J. Res. 28, the “Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a closed rule providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 28. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Com-

mittee on Appropriations or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides that it shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of January 25, 2019, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV, and that the Speaker or her designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section. Testimony was heard from Chairman Lowey and Representative Granger.

## *Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### **Senate**

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

#### **House.**

No hearings are scheduled.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

4 p.m., Thursday, January 17

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Thursday, January 17

Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 109, No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 4:30 p.m.

House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Consideration of H.J. Res. 28—Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Barr, Andy, Ky., E53  
Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E52  
Cartwright, Matt, Pa., E51  
Castor, Kathy, Fla., E53

Cheney, Liz, Wyo., E53  
Correa, J. Luis, Calif., E54  
Costa, Jim, Calif., E52, E53, E54, E56  
Fox, Virginia, N.C., E56  
Gohmert, Louie, Tex., E51  
Huizenga, Bill, Mich., E52

LaHood, Darin, Ill., E53  
McGovern, James P., Mass., E55  
Rush, Bobby L., Ill., E56  
Stivers, Steve, Ohio, E55  
Swalwell, Eric, Calif., E55  
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E55



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