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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOWENTHAL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 25, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ALAN S. LOWENTHAL 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 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

SOCIALISTS' BIG LIE PROPAGANDA EXPOSED

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, a "big lie" is a political propaganda technique made famous by Germany's National Socialist German Workers' Party. But more on that later.

For more than 2 years, Socialist Democrats and their fake news media allies, CNN, MSNBC, The New York Times, Washington Post, and countless others, have perpetrated the biggest

political lie, con, scam, and fraud in American history.

Attorney General Barr's executive summary of Mueller's report has publicly confirmed what many of us have known for a long time. The accusations of collusion between President Trump and Russia in the 2016 elections are nothing but a big lie.

The Mueller investigation was massive. It "employed 19 lawyers who were assisted by a team of approximately 40 FBI agents, intelligence forensic accountants, and other professional staff. The special counsel issued more than 2,800 subpoenas, executed nearly 500 search warrants, obtained more than 230 orders for communication records . . . and interviewed approximately 500 witnesses."

After tens of millions of wasted American tax dollars, the finding is succinct: "The report does not recommend any further indictments, nor did the special counsel obtain any sealed indictments that have yet to be made public. . . ."

The investigation "did not establish that members of the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian Government in its election interference activities."

The Mueller report vindicates President Trump and his 2016 campaign from the Socialists' baseless, reckless, and false big lie charges of Russian election collusion.

Equally important, there is a converse to President Trump's vindication.

Mueller's report confirms that Socialist Democrats and their fake news media allies made up nonexistent allegations and engaged in the most sordid of fake news, big lie propaganda, scam, fraud, and smear campaign in American history.

Socialist Democrats and their fake news media allies were shameless, shameless in their big lie scam that has inspired hatred against President

Trump and violence against Americans who support America's foundational principles.

If Socialists and the fake news media had any honor, they would cleanse their souls and atone for their sins by uttering mea culpas and apologizing to the American people for the fraud and scam committed.

More likely, however, they will double down and propagate even more big lies, because doubling down is essential to big lie theory. In that vein, I quote from another Socialist who mastered big lie propaganda to a maximum and deadly effect.

"In the big lie, there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily; and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods.

"It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and waver and will continue to think that there may be some other explanation."

Who is this big lie master? That quote was in 1925 by a member of Germany's National Socialist German Workers' Party. That is right, Germany's Socialist Party, more commonly known as the Nazis. The author was Socialist Adolph Hitler in his book, "Mein Kampf".

Mr. Speaker, America can either learn from history or be doomed to repeat it.

When it comes to big lie political propaganda in America, as the Mueller

□ 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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report confirms, America's Socialists and their fake news media allies are experts and have no peers.

Regardless, America must reject their big lies or succumb to the danger that lurks and horrific damage that results.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise on National Medal of Honor Day to recognize the recipients of our Nation's highest military distinction for acts above and beyond the call of duty.

Twenty-five Medal of Honor recipients hail from Arkansas. Their stories of self-sacrifice are not forgotten.

Today, we pay tribute to those individuals for their meticulous service, sacrifice, and heroism.

I would like to also recognize and thank Arkansas Boy Scout Donald J. Fitzgerald for his outstanding work to preserve the legacy of Medal of Honor recipients and their stories.

Over the last 3 years, Donald has visited the graves of over 160 Medal of Honor recipients, documenting several Medal of Honor recipients' stories and lives.

He chose to share with the world what he learned, and wrote a book about his travels titled, "Our Missions of Honor".

I applaud Donald for his initiative, his efforts, and dedication to all Medal of Honor recipients past and present.

We pray that their efforts may be long remembered by our citizens.

GULF WAR MEMORIAL

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two fellow Arkansans, Jeff Kurczek and Brenten Byrd, for their valiant efforts to memorialize the bravery and legacy of veterans who served in Operation Desert Storm.

Operation Desert Storm was one of the most successful operations in American military history. Over 700,000 Americans were deployed overseas to liberate Kuwait from Saddam Hussein's invasion. 383 Americans lost their lives in that conflict, including four Arkansans.

Last month, former Vice President Dick Cheney and others took part in the dedication of the future site for the National Operation Desert Storm Memorial located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Jeff, a Sherwood, Arkansas, accountant, served our country for the duration of the Gulf war and acts as the organization's treasurer and CFO.

Brent lives in Elm Springs, Arkansas, where he works with the Veteran's Affairs Department on the mental well-being of our veterans. He served honorably in the U.S. Marines and later in the U.S. Army during Desert Storm. He now acts as the organization's communications director.

I thank them for their service to our Nation and commend their good work and efforts to honor the brave men and women who took part in Operation Desert Storm.

VAN BUREN COUNTY WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the committed professionals at Van Buren County and their determination to improve that community's health and well-being.

The Van Buren County Wellness Committee, founded by former County Judge Roger Hooper in 2017, seeks to create a bridge between local health resources, information, and initiatives to improve the health and well-being of the residents.

At present, three grant-funded health-awareness kiosks have been installed across the county featuring asset mapping of community health resources and county health initiatives.

These kiosks allow residents to find the best doctors and healthcare services within their communities, connecting individuals with the services they need, from food insecurity to mental health support and recovery.

I would like to extend a hand of gratitude and congratulations to Roger and the entire Van Buren County Wellness Committee for their worthwhile investment in the health of our citizens in that county.

WE MUST STAND WITH OUR FRIENDS IN ISRAEL

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this past week, President Trump and Secretary Pompeo took a bold step to affirm Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. I support this administration and our long-time friend and ally, Israel, in this fight to protect their homeland.

I have stood on the mountains of the Golan where Abraham and his nephew Lot parted ways some 4,000 years ago. I could hear the cannons and the missiles and the tanks just miles away in war-stricken Syria. We learned how, in a matter of hours during the Yom Kippur war of 1974, Syrian forces overran the Golan, jeopardizing both Israeli and American security.

This small range of mountains, less than 125 miles from Jerusalem, serves as a buffer from Israel and its many foes who desire nothing more than to wipe them off of the face of the Earth.

From the 3rd millennium B.C., the occupants of the Golan Heights have included the Amorites, Arameans, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, the Israelites again, Alexander the Great, and the Roman Empire. In later centuries, Christians crusaded, Mongols ruled, and the Ottomans conquered the land.

Starting in 1885, Jewish families bought and lived on the land in the Golan Heights, and stayed there until

1920, when riots drove them out. For the next 40 years, the boundaries of this area were debated and defined by the French and the British.

We all know the State of Israel was born in 1948, and the Golan was mutually shared with neighboring countries. This, however, led to constant raids and civil unrest in the region and debate over a scarce item in the area, water.

Finally, in the 1960s, Syria ignored previous water agreements and attempted to divert water from Israel. This led to the armed War over Water, which was won by Israel in 1967, and pushed the Syrians out of the Golan, leaving Israel in control once again.

This is where most leftist naysayers will begin their history, as if Israel had no claim to the land in the first place or as if it never had been contested.

This matters for America for a variety of reasons. Set aside the fact that Israel is our most loyal and strategically vital ally in the Middle East. Let's look at Russia. Americans are rightly concerned about the cyber and geopolitical moves of that adversarial nation. The Golan, however, is an example of where those on the left are turning a blind eye.

Since the time of Peter the Great and Catherine the Great, Russia has sought a warm-water port in the Mediterranean and to stake their claim to land south of the Black Sea. Not only does Syria provide them both, it also presents an opportunity for Russia and their ally Iran, as the leaders have said, to wipe Israel off the map.

We cannot let this happen. We mustn't let this happen. We must continue to stand up to thugs like Putin and Assad, and with our friends in Israel.

THERE WAS NO COLLUSION

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, no collusion, no collusion, no collusion.

That is right. After 2 years, Mr. Speaker, let me say that again: there is no collusion.

After 2 years and a cost of more than \$25 million, that is \$50,000 a day spent on this witch hunt of taxpayer money, there was no collusion.

And indeed, there was no pot of gold at the end of the media's rainbow; nothing besides fool's gold yet again.

Mr. Speaker, how can you spend \$50,000 a day on an investigation?

As I think back, I may have been the first person in the Chamber to call this investigation for what it was: a witch hunt.

Now, I am not a lawyer, but Kansas common sense would suggest if there was no collusion, no corrupt intent by the President, and no crime committed, there would be absolutely no case for an obstruction of justice charge. But I am sure Kansas common sense is the last thing on the minds of some Members of Congress.

So now, during every waking hour for 675 straight days, Democrats and the media have had a field day smearing the President, his friends, and his family.

They have hired 19 lawyers, 40 FBI agents, and issued nearly 3,000 subpoenas, all of which have further confirmed what we already knew before the investigation started: there was no collusion.

□ 1215

Importantly, Mueller confirmed that no one with the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian Government. Additionally, we found out through this investigation the Russians made many attempts to offer to help the Trump campaign, and time and time again, the Trump team stood up and rejected Russia.

I want the media, which spent thousands of hours painting a picture of collusion and conspiracy, to cover these Mueller findings that show the President stood firm against the Russian's multiple attempts. And I ask the Democrats, who misled the public for months, to come forward and speak the truth.

Instead, what does the biased media and Democrats say in response to Mueller's verdict? Absolutely nothing. You could almost hear a pin drop as I walked through the Capitol today. It is so quiet. No Democrats are here today for morning-hour debate. What does that say?

As I stand on the House floor today, I have one question for this Chamber and for this Nation: Can we please move on and work with our President, rather than against him, and focus on policy rather than fantasy?

NEBRASKA FLOODING AND SEVERE WEATHER

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the harsh weather and flooding experienced throughout the State of Nebraska over the past few weeks.

On Wednesday, March 13, a large storm, known as a bomb cyclone, hit our State of Nebraska and much of the Midwest. It brought with it blizzard conditions, high wind, and large amounts of rain, followed by highly destructive flooding, which continues in some areas today.

As I spent the past week touring damage and recovery efforts, one theme was clear: Nebraskans don't scare from a challenge, nor do they stand by as their friends and neighbors suffer. Entire communities have come together to fill sand bags, open shelters, and rescue neighbors in need. Ranchers across the State have battled to clear pastures, reunify herds, and reach newborn calves.

I appreciate President Trump moving quickly to approve a Federal disaster declaration requested by Governor Ricketts and supported by the entire Nebraska congressional delegation. Governor Ricketts has estimated the cost of rebuilding infrastructure de-

stroyed by the storm at more than \$400 million, and the Nebraska Farm Bureau estimates the toll from lost crop and livestock production could top even \$1 billion.

The recovery will not be easy, but the hard work and dedication of Nebraskans across the State will be on full display as we recover, rebuild, and renew what was lost in these tragic events.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOWENTHAL) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Send us Your spirit. Enlighten the hearts of those who are faithful and tireless in securing equal justice under the law. Fulfill the hopes of those who long for peace and security for their children. Guide and protect all elected officials and all who choose to serve this Nation and local communities through public service.

May Your will be done in and through those who pray for divine guidance and who trust in Your providence, even in the midst of conflicting opinions, philosophical differences, and the threat of violence.

Unite Your people and keep them focused on essentials that reflect Your kingdom. May the fires of Your love, and human freedom, renew the face of the Earth.

And may all that is done this day 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:45 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1645

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOWENTHAL) at 4 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

VENEZUELA ARMS RESTRICTION ACT

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 920) to restrict the transfer of defense articles, defense services, and crime control articles to any element of the security forces of Venezuela that is under the authority of a government of Venezuela that is not recognized as the legitimate government of Venezuela by the Government of the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 920

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 "Venezuela Arms Restriction Act".

SEC. 2. RESTRICTION ON EXPORT OF COVERED ARTICLES AND SERVICES TO CERTAIN SECURITY FORCES OF VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, covered articles or services may not be exported from the United States to any element of the security forces of Venezuela that is under the authority of a government of Venezuela that is not recognized as the legitimate government of Venezuela by the Government of the United States.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the heads of other departments and agencies as appropriate, shall—

(1) determine, using such information that is available to the Secretary of State, whether any covered article or service has been

transferred since July 2017 to the security forces of Venezuela without a license or other authorization as required by law; and

(2) submit such determination in writing to the appropriate congressional committees.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce as appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the transfer by foreign persons of covered articles or services to elements of the security forces of Venezuela that are under the authority of a government of Venezuela that is not recognized as the legitimate government of Venezuela by the Government of the United States.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A list of all significant transfers by foreign persons of covered articles or services to such elements of the security forces of Venezuela since July 2017.

(2) A list of all foreign persons who maintain an existing defense relationship with such elements of the security forces of Venezuela.

(3) Any known use of covered articles or services by such elements of the security forces of Venezuela or associated forces, including paramilitary groups, that have coordinated with such security forces to assault, intimidate, or murder political activists, protesters, dissidents, and other civil society leaders, including Juan Guaido.

SEC. 4. TERMINATION.

This Act shall expire on the earlier of—

(1) the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Government of Venezuela has returned to a democratic form of government with respect for the essential elements of representative democracy as set forth in Article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) COVERED ARTICLE OR SERVICE.—The term “covered article or service”—

(A) for purposes of section 2, means—

(i) a defense article or defense service, as such terms are defined in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794); and

(ii) any article included on the Commerce Control List set forth in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of the Export Administration Regulations under subchapter C of chapter VII of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, and controlled for crime control purposes, if it is determined that the end-user is likely to use the article to violate the human rights of the citizens of Venezuela; and

(B) for purposes of section 3, means—

(i) any defense article or defense service of the type described in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act; and

(ii) any article of the type included on the Commerce Control List set forth in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of the Export Administration Regulations and controlled for crime control purposes.

(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” means a person that is not a United States person.

(4) PERSON.—The term “person” means an individual or entity.

(5) SECURITY FORCES OF VENEZUELA.—The term “security forces of Venezuela” includes—

(A) the Bolivarian National Armed Forces, including the Bolivarian National Guard;

(B) the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service;

(C) the Bolivarian National Police; and

(D) the Bureau for Scientific, Criminal and Forensic Investigations of the Ministry of Interior, Justice, and Peace.

(6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 920, the Venezuela Arms Restriction Act, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 920.

I would like to begin by thanking Ms. SHALALA for her leadership in authoring this important piece of legislation. She has been a leading voice in supporting the Venezuelan people.

Sadly, human rights violations in Venezuela are nothing new. In recent months, Nicolas Maduro and his cronies have intensified their brutal crackdown on those who have bravely and peacefully pushed for change.

With an increasing wave of demonstrations protesting the Maduro regime, Congress must do all it can to support efforts by the Venezuelan people to restore its democracy. This means making sure that weapons from the United States aren't being used to commit these horrific acts of violence against civilians. U.S. companies and individuals should not be able to profit from the repression of the Venezuelan people.

H.R. 920 codifies existing restrictions on arms exports to Venezuela's security forces and adds new restrictions on items like tear gas and riot gear that have been used to suppress peaceful protesters.

As the protests continue, you can be sure that the Maduro regime will do

everything it can to silence the Venezuelan people; so Congress must do everything in its power to keep these dangerous items out of the hands of the Venezuelan security forces.

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

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Venezuela Arms Restriction Act introduced by my colleagues from Florida, Congresswoman SHALALA and Congressman DIAZ-BALART, to whom we are deeply grateful. I would also like to thank Chairman SIREs for his support and leadership both of our committee and of this bill.

The criminal socialist dictatorship of Nicolas Maduro is systematically violating the human rights of the Venezuelan people through violence, intimidation, torture, and murder. According to local NGO Foro Penal, there are more than 850 political prisoners in Venezuela today.

Just last week, Maduro's intelligence services arrested Roberto Marrero, the chief of staff for the interim President and constitutional leader of Venezuela, Juan Guaido. The regime has made ludicrous claims that Marrero was leading a terrorist cell and it reportedly planted weapons and cash to try to frame him.

The Congress and the people of the United States must stand united with the people of Venezuela to help ensure that all individuals who violate their human rights are held accountable.

This bill supports these efforts by identifying and holding accountable any U.S. entities providing defense articles to Maduro's security forces, and it restricts all U.S. sales of defense articles to his socialist criminal dictatorship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in demonstrating our commitment to defending the security and human rights of the Venezuelan people by supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SHALALA), the author of this bill.

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, this evening, Congress will vote on a bill I introduced, H.R. 920, the Venezuela Arms Restriction Act. This bipartisan bill prohibits the export of defense articles and crime control materials from the United States to the security forces of Venezuela.

The United States should have no business selling these tools for oppression to the Maduro regime, as it punishes and kills those who are peacefully protesting and demanding a return to democracy.

Since Maduro usurped power in January, we have seen headline after headline:

“Maduro's Forces Kill, Injure Protesters as Standoff Over Aid in Venezuela Escalates”;

“Four Dead, Hundreds Detained After Venezuela Blackout”; and

“Venezuela Security Forces Kill, Punish Anti-Maduro Protestors.”

A few weeks ago, I traveled to the Venezuela-Colombia border, where I heard heartbreaking stories of friends and family members dying of starvation and treatable diseases, all while a brutal dictator does everything possible to prevent aid from being delivered.

I met with refugees at hospitals in Colombia and heard their harrowing stories of being on the verge of death due to a lack of medical care. There were a number of high-risk pregnancies as a result.

This is a humanitarian crisis that has bled through Venezuela's borders, and it continues to grow.

This is personal for us in south Florida, where thousands of Venezuelans who have fled the crisis now call home. We will continue to push for TPS, because our response to this crisis must include supporting our friends and neighbors in south Florida and around the country.

Today, in addition to the Venezuela Arms Restriction Act, we will vote on bills introduced by my south Florida colleagues to support the people of Venezuela as they demand free and fair elections. We will vote on bills to provide humanitarian aid directly to the Venezuelan people and a bill targeting Russian influence in Venezuela and its impact on the United States.

Today, Congress will not stand idly by as this humanitarian crisis rages on. With the passage of the Venezuela Arms Restriction Act, we will move one step closer to fulfilling our obligations to ensure that no weapons originating in the United States are used to silence dissent through intimidation, repression, and execution. Congress, today, will affirm its commitment to the women and men of Venezuela who are fighting for democracy and a brighter future.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

In closing, I thank the authors of the bill. Congresswoman SHALALA just spoke about the depth and breadth of the horrible humanitarian crisis that we see on our doorstep in Venezuela. I would like to comment that the average Venezuelan has lost over 20 kilos of weight in the last 2 years and they haven't had protein, so the whole country is starving to death, worse than any Warsaw Pact dictatorship has ever done.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Congressman DIAZ-BALART and certainly Chairman SIRES for their leadership on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all of my colleagues to enthusiastically support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Ms. SHALALA for her strong and timely

leadership on this legislation. It shows a strong commitment to the Venezuelan people and to our constituents who care so deeply about this issue.

The human rights situation in Venezuela is absolutely deplorable, and it is important that we take the common-sense steps in this legislation to help end the ongoing repression. Passing this measure will send an important message that Congress stands with the Venezuelan people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 920, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE ACT OF 2019

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 854) to provide humanitarian assistance to the Venezuelan people, including Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the Americas and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 854

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 “Humanitarian Assistance to the Venezuelan People Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. REPORT ON THE COORDINATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA INCLUDING STRATEGY ON FUTURE EFFORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report outlining the coordination of humanitarian assistance to the people of Venezuela, both in Venezuela and throughout the Western Hemisphere, with nongovernmental organizations and international organizations operating in Venezuela or countries in the region to alleviate the suffering of the Venezuelan people.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of how and under what circumstances the following humanitarian assistance has been provided:

(A) Public health commodities for Venezuelan health facilities and services, including medicines on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines, and basic medical supplies and equipment.

(B) Basic food commodities and nutritional supplements needed to address growing malnutrition and improve food security for the

people of Venezuela, with a specific emphasis on the most vulnerable populations.

(C) Technical assistance to ensure health and food commodities are appropriately selected, procured, and distributed, predominantly through local nongovernmental organizations.

(2) An identification of United States Agency for International Development and Department of State best practices in delivering humanitarian assistance, particularly with regard to food assistance, and how such best practices are being utilized in providing humanitarian assistance to Venezuela and countries in the region.

(3) A description of current and anticipated challenges to distributing humanitarian assistance in Venezuela and countries hosting Venezuelan migrants.

(4) A description of efforts to ensure that humanitarian and development assistance for Venezuelans is coordinated with other United States bilateral assistance in the Western Hemisphere and does not result in duplication or omission of such other bilateral assistance.

(5) A description of how the pre-positioning and distribution of humanitarian assistance is being monitored and evaluated, the number of beneficiaries reached, an assessment of how humanitarian and development assistance is benefitting Venezuelan migrants inside and outside of the country, and what additional staff may be necessary to manage such assistance.

(6) A strategy for future efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Venezuela that includes a description of future efforts regarding the matters described in paragraphs (1) through (5).

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF CONGRESS.

Congress strongly condemns all violent actions by the Maduro regime and Venezuela's security forces to block and divert humanitarian assistance from entering Venezuela.

SEC. 4. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to appropriate congressional committees a report assessing the impact of United States humanitarian assistance on the people of Venezuela, both in Venezuela and throughout the Western Hemisphere, including the total number of beneficiaries reached.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide humanitarian assistance to support the people of Venezuela, both in Venezuela and throughout the Western Hemisphere, in accordance with established international humanitarian principles.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that not less than \$150,000,000 is necessary for each of fiscal years 2020 and 2021 to carry out this section.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2020 and 2021 to carry out this section.

SEC. 6. DEFINITION.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

(A) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(B) The Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(C) The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(D) The Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) VENEZUELAN SECURITY FORCES.—The term “Venezuelan security forces” includes the following:

(A) The Bolivarian National Armed Forces, including the Bolivarian National Guard.

(B) The Bolivarian National Intelligence Service.

(C) The Bolivarian National Police.

(D) The Bureau for Scientific, Criminal and Forensic Investigations of the Ministry of Interior, Justice, and Peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 854, the Humanitarian Assistance to the Venezuelan People Act of 2019, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and I thank Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL for her leadership on this important issue. From her first day as a Member of Congress, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL made it clear that supporting the Venezuelan people and making sure they receive the humanitarian assistance they need would be at the top of her agenda. I am proud to partner with her on this bill.

Over the last few years, we have watched in horror as the Venezuelan economy collapsed and rule of law in that country evaporated. Today, the man-made crisis created by the Chavez-Maduro regime in Venezuela has reached unthinkable levels.

Ninety percent of the Venezuelan population lives in poverty. Earlier this month, the country suffered another massive blow when its electric grid collapsed. This made it impossible to refrigerate food, and some Venezuelans could no longer receive necessary medical treatments.

These tremendous hardships have generated a mass exodus from Venezuela. Almost 10 percent of the population has fled the country over the last 3 years. The United Nations projects that by the end of this year, Venezuelans would make up the largest refugee population in the world.

As suffering is only expected to worsen, Congress must do everything it can to help the people of Venezuela. Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL's legislation addresses the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela head-on by authorizing new funding and requiring that USAID and the State Department develop a humanitarian assistance strategy for the Venezuelan people in Venezuela and throughout the region.

□ 1700

Other countries in the region and particularly our close allies, Colombia, have done so much to open up their hearts and their borders to the Venezuelan refugees. It is important that the United States help ease the burdens on our regional partners, and this bill is an important step forward.

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

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Humanitarian Assistance to the Venezuelan People Act introduced by my colleague from Florida (Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL) and supported enthusiastically by our chairman, ALBIO SIREs.

The humanitarian crisis in Venezuela is unprecedented in our hemisphere and is affecting the entire region. So far, more than 3 million Venezuelans have fled the criminal socialist dictatorship of Maduro, whose mismanagement and repression are creating immense challenges for neighboring communities.

As Chairman SIREs said, there are millions of refugees in Colombia, the United States, and around the world who fled from Venezuelan oppression.

This bill will ensure that we have a long-term strategy for U.S.-led humanitarian assistance to address the crisis so that it is coordinated effectively with local partners to meet the needs of its beneficiaries.

It condemns violent actions by the Maduro regime to block humanitarian aid from entering the country, and it authorizes funding necessary for future humanitarian assistance.

The administration has courageously led the humanitarian effort for the people of Venezuela and has received invaluable support from the Governments of Colombia and Brazil; and, more recently, the Government of the Netherlands has agreed to allow the nearby island of Curacao to be used as a hub to support future humanitarian aid.

The United States and this Congress must remain united in our support for the people of Venezuela in their struggle for freedom and democracy, especially as they struggle to survive without adequate food and basic medicines.

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the author of this bill, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL).

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY).

Nicolas Maduro is an illegitimate president. As a result of his brutal dictatorship, the Venezuelan people are suffering in one of the worst humanitarian crises in the Western Hemisphere.

Without basic food and medicine, people are starving and dying. As many as 3.4 million Venezuelans have left the country and migrated to neighboring countries, which are having immense difficulty absorbing such high volumes of migrants.

My bill would help alleviate the pain of the Venezuelan people by providing humanitarian assistance in accordance with established international humanitarian principles to those within the country and in the region. It gives Congress the authority to provide as much funding as is necessary to address the crisis in both 2020 and 2021, with no less than \$150 million for each year.

It also requires the State Department and USAID to show the American people the most effective way to coordinate with nongovernmental and international organizations operating throughout the region, and the bill also requires the administration to submit a report to Congress assessing the impact of U.S. humanitarian assistance.

Maduro has proven that he is willing to let his own people suffer and die rather than accept international aid. It is not enough to provide USAID with the funds for this aid. The administration must show that they are strategically trying everything they can to get the aid to the Venezuelan people inside the country, not just leaving it at the border. That is what this bill will achieve.

Finally, the bill expresses Congress' strong condemnation of all violent actions by the Maduro regime and Venezuela's security forces to block and divert humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have no additional speakers.

I would like to thank the author once again, my colleague, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, and my neighbor in the Cannon Building.

I would like to also thank, once again, Chairman SIREs for his leadership in this area, and I enthusiastically encourage everyone in this Congress to support this bill and prepare for the day when we can get aid to the people of Venezuela.

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

I would like to once again thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL) for her remarkable leadership on this issue, which demonstrates her strong commitment to the Venezuelan people and to her constituents who care so deeply about this issue.

It is crucial that we stand with our partners and allies in the region to provide desperately needed assistance to the Venezuelan people and help relieve the burden that Colombians and Venezuela's other neighbors have taken on over the last few years.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 854, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EUROPEAN ENERGY SECURITY AND DIVERSIFICATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1616) to prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage countries in Central and Eastern Europe to diversify their energy sources and supply routes, increase Europe's energy security, and help the United States reach its global energy security goals, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1616

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 "European Energy Security and Diversification Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **EARLY-STAGE PROJECT SUPPORT.**—The term "early-stage project support" includes the following:

- (A) Feasibility studies.
- (B) Resource evaluations.
- (C) Project appraisal and costing.
- (D) Pilot projects.

(E) Commercial support, such as trade missions, reverse trade missions, technical workshops, international buyer programs, and international partner searchers to link suppliers to projects.

(F) Technical assistance and other guidance to improve the local regulatory environment and market frameworks to encourage transparent competition and enhance energy security.

(G) Long-term energy sector planning.

(2) **LATE-STAGE PROJECT SUPPORT.**—The term "late-stage project support" includes support described in section 1421 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (also referred to as the "BUILD Act of 2018"; enacted as division F of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-254)).

(3) **INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.**—The term "international financial institution" has the meaning given such term in section 1701(c) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c)).

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the United States has economic and national security interests in assisting European and Eurasian countries achieve energy security through diversification of their energy sources and supply routes.

(b) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) advance United States foreign policy and development goals by assisting European

and Eurasian countries to reduce their dependence on energy resources from countries that use energy dependence for undue political influence, such as the Russian Federation, which has used natural gas to coerce, intimidate, and influence other countries;

(2) promote the energy security of European and Eurasian allies and partners of the United States by encouraging the development of accessible, transparent, and competitive energy markets that provide diversified sources, types, and routes of energy;

(3) encourage United States public and private sector investment in European and Eurasian energy infrastructure projects to bridge the gap between energy security requirements and commercial demand in a way that is consistent with the region's absorptive capacity;

(4) help facilitate a well-functioning market for energy resources in a way that benefits the energy security of the United States and European and Eurasian allies and partners of the United States; and

(5) help facilitate the export of United States energy technology and expertise to global markets.

SEC. 4. PRIORITIZATION OF EFFORTS AND ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN EUROPE AND EURASIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In pursuing the policy described in section 3(b), the Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of United States agencies that operate under the foreign policy guidance of the Secretary, shall, as appropriate, prioritize and expedite the efforts of the Department of State and such agencies in supporting the efforts of the European Commission and European and Eurasian countries to increase the energy security of such countries, including through—

(1) providing diplomatic and political support to the European Commission and such countries, as necessary to—

(A) facilitate international negotiations concerning cross-border infrastructure;

(B) enhance Europe's and Eurasia's regulatory environment with respect to energy; and

(C) develop accessible, transparent, and competitive energy markets supplied by diverse sources, types, and routes of energy; and

(2) providing support to improve European and Eurasian energy markets, including early-stage project support and late-stage project support for the construction or improvement of energy infrastructure, as necessary, to—

(A) diversify the energy sources and supply routes of such countries;

(B) enhance energy market integration across the region; and

(C) increase competition within energy markets.

(b) **PROJECT SELECTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of agencies described in subsection (a), shall identify and, in accordance with paragraph (3), select energy infrastructure projects that would be appropriate for United States assistance under this section.

(2) **PROJECT ELIGIBILITY.**—A project is eligible for United States assistance under this section if such project is—

(A) related to—

(i) natural gas infrastructure, such as interconnectors, storage facilities, liquefied natural gas import facilities, or reverse flow capacity;

(ii) electricity transmission infrastructure, electricity storage projects, or smart grid projects;

(iii) renewable energy projects in wind, solar, tidal, or other forms; or

(iv) the improvement, rehabilitation, or construction of electricity generation facilities to increase the efficiency and reliability of electricity production; and

(B) located in a European or Eurasian country.

(3) **PREFERENCE.**—In selecting among projects that are eligible under paragraph (2), the Secretary of State and the heads of agencies described in subsection (a) shall give preference to projects that—

(A) improve the capacity of energy systems to efficiently transfer gas and electricity within and between European or Eurasian countries;

(B) have already been identified by the European Commission as being integral for the energy security of European or Eurasian countries;

(C) are expected to enhance energy market integration and transparency;

(D) can attract funding from the private sector, an international financial institution, the government of the country in which the project will be carried out, or the European Commission; or

(E) have the potential to use United States goods and services.

(c) **TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of agencies described in subsection (a), as appropriate, shall provide diplomatic and political support to the European Commission and European or Eurasian countries, as necessary, including by using the diplomatic and political influence and expertise of the Department of State to build the capacity of such countries to resolve any impediments to the development of projects selected under subsection (b).

(2) **EARLY-STAGE PROJECT SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of State, in coordination, as appropriate, with the heads of agencies described in subsection (a), including the Director of the Trade and Development Agency, shall provide early-stage project support to projects selected under subsection (b), as necessary and in accordance with section 661 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2421).

(3) **LATE-STAGE PROJECT SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of State, in coordination, as appropriate, with the heads of agencies described in subsection (a), shall provide late-stage project support to projects selected under subsection (b), as necessary and in accordance with section 1412 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act (relating to the establishment of the United States International Development Finance Corporation).

(d) **FUNDING.**—

(1) **TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.**—Subparagraph (A) of section 661(f)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2421(f)(1)) is amended by striking "\$48,000,000 for fiscal year 2000" and inserting "\$79,500,000 for fiscal year 2020".

(2) **COUNTERING RUSSIAN INFLUENCE FUND.**—Section 254 of the Countering Russian Influence in Europe and Eurasia Act of 2017 (enacted as title II of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act; Public Law 115-44; 22 U.S.C. 9543) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "fiscal years 2018 and 2019" and adding "fiscal years 2020 and 2021"; and

(B) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(7) To assist United States agencies that operate under the foreign policy guidance of the Secretary of State in providing assistance under section 4 of the European Energy Security and Diversification Act of 2019."

(e) **EXCEPTION.**—No United States assistance under this section may be provided to a European or Eurasian country that engages

in a significant transaction described in subsection (a) of section 231 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9525).

SEC. 5. PROGRESS REPORTS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for seven years, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on progress made in providing assistance for projects under section 4 that includes the following:

(1) A description of the energy infrastructure projects the United States has identified for such assistance.

(2) For each such project, the following:

(A) A description of the role of the United States in the project, including in early-stage project support and late-stage project support.

(B) The amount and form of any debt financing and insurance provided by the United States Government for the project.

(C) The amount and form of any early-stage project support.

(D) An update on the progress made on the project as of the date of the report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1616, the European Energy Security and Diversification Act of 2019, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the European Energy Security and Diversification Act of 2019.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. KINZINGER and Mr. KEATING, for introducing this bipartisan legislation.

When we look at the full scope of Vladimir Putin's nefarious behavior throughout the world, we see it take many shapes: insidious attempts to influence democratic elections, incursions into the sovereign territory of other nations, and military exercises designed to intimidate its neighbors.

But this legislation addresses yet another tool in Putin's arsenal: the manipulation of natural resources.

More and more, we see Russia using energy as a weapon to blackmail countries depending on Russian energy sources. The European Union and many of our allies and partners in Europe recognize this threat and have begun to take steps to reduce their vulnerability to Russian pressure.

This bill will ramp up American support for Europe's energy security and reduce dependence on Russia, including financial support for projects that better connect European energy networks and improve energy efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the European Energy Security and Diversification Act, which the Foreign Affairs Committee adopted unanimously earlier this month.

This bill, sponsored by Mr. KEATING and Mr. KINZINGER, for whom we are deeply thankful, will help European and Eurasian countries reduce their reliance on Russian energy by providing diplomatic, political, technical, and financial support to projects that diversify energy sources and supply routes, enhance energy market integration across the region, and increase competition within the energy markets.

Europe imports nearly 40 percent of its natural gas from Russia. Some EU countries source as much as 100 percent of their gas from Moscow, which has weaponized its energy dominance in the region to coerce, intimidate, and influence the political decisions of countries that depend on it for their energy.

In 2006, 2009, and 2014, Vladimir Putin cut off gas to Ukraine, a country he has tried to dismember through his illegal annexation of Crimea and his continued aggression in the East.

Putin is now trying to build a massive new pipeline to Germany, the Nord Stream 2. This pipeline will increase Russian influence over Berlin, a key NATO ally and the largest economy in the EU, and also reduce Russia's reliance on Ukraine as a vital pipeline transit route to other European markets. This will deprive Ukraine of its critical transit fees, the proceeds of which are roughly equal to what it spends on its military.

It is not hard to see that this is a strategic play by Putin to increase pressure on Ukraine, where he continues to wage a war, and also get closer to Germany and dominate their energy.

This bill isn't just about helping Europe. This bill advances U.S. foreign policy and economic interests by strengthening our alliances with countries in the region and promoting U.S. energy as an appropriate alternative to the bondage of Russia.

The shale revolution and the repeal of the 1970s-era ban on crude oil sales in 2015 have unlocked America's abundant oil and natural gas reserves. These have enabled us to become the world's largest producer of oil and gas—some 13 million barrels a day now—giving our partners and allies a reliable alternative to unstable sources of energy.

We also lead the world in cutting-edge clean energy technologies, one of which, carbon sequester, is very important for the environment as well. Others are like nuclear and renewables, which this bill promotes.

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING).

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs), the chair of the subcommittee dealing with the very important issue that we are dealing with now in the Western Hemisphere and Venezuela, and I associate myself with his remarks in that regard.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY), who has been a strong advocate of energy diversification and renewable energy on the Foreign Affairs Committee, for his support.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1616, which is a bill I introduced with the ranking member, Representative KINZINGER, as well as a bill I sponsored towards the last days of the last Congress with Senator CHRIS MURPHY of Connecticut, showing bipartisan and bicameral support for this effort.

Mr. Speaker, we saw again last weekend with the summary of the Mueller report coming forward just underscoring, once again, the attack that was made on our country by Russia. There is no mistaking it now. There was little mistake, given our intelligence sources at the time.

This is not only a way that Russia is seeking, number one, to attack the democracies of our country, but also to strategically create a wedge with the greatest asset we have, something that they certainly do not have.

□ 1715

That asset is the coalition we have with our European allies. It is one of our greatest strengths, and it is unique to this historic coalition.

One of the ways Russia is continuing to break up this Western coalition and cause great damage, is not just the attacks like they had in the U.S. over their election and democracy, but also wielding energy as a weapon to break up this great coalition we have, hurt democracies in Europe—particularly Eastern Europe and here—undercutting our interest in sharing the values that we have with our greatest allies.

This is something in terms of the energy resources we can't take for granted. We know that this is a time when the U.S. is a great exporter of energy in this world, and it is something that will benefit our economy going forward but will also benefit the diversification of energy in Europe as well, something that will advance their economy, but something also that will give them great protection against this Russian threat.

We also know that it is not just the exporting of this energy that is going to be of value, but this bill also targets renewable energy development as well, and that is something that brings the European countries together with the U.S., and also, together, sets us at a greater stage to compete worldwide.

We can work together exchanging technological advances. We can work together as we share investments in

each other's countries. This is something that will both help the U.S. economy as a major exporter, but also help our growth going forward. So, we need to work more closely. Specifically, this bill authorizes financing for private-sector investments both in energy security projects in the United States and likewise in the trade that will ensue in renewables.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the committee for taking such early action in this Congress. I think it states the priority nature of this, knowing that this is going to be something that enhances European security, our security, enhances our economy and theirs, and seeks to protect us. Because as they talk about projects like Nord Stream 2 in Germany, they are using right now that leverage to create a threat and to isolate countries like Ukraine from their basic energy economic development.

This is important in so many respects. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, showing the leadership of this bipartisan bill, to move it forward quickly.

I also want to recognize, again, Senator MURPHY who has been such a leader of this on the Senate side. It is rare that we have such strong bipartisan support for a bill, as well as bicameral support. Let's go ahead and move this forward today.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to thank the authors of this important bill, Mr. KINZINGER and Mr. KEATING, as well as Chairman SIRES for his support, and I am glad to know that Senator MURPHY is on the case as well.

One more time, I would just like to say, if I might, what a terrible idea the Nord Stream 2 pipeline is, and I appreciate the strong comments that Congressman KEATING just made. We should be opposing that, and we should be supporting the Trans-Caucasus pipeline to get more oil into Eastern Europe, away from Russia, and out of the bondage of their control of the pipelines.

So, I would like to thank the authors one more time and encourage all our colleagues to support this important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to thank, again, Mr. KINZINGER and Mr. KEATING for their work on this bill to bolster our allies in the face of Russian pressure.

This is a good measure that addresses Russia's use of energy to exploit and blackmail countries around the world, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1616, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

MEDICAID SERVICES INVESTMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2019

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1839) to amend title XIX to extend protection for Medicaid recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment, establish a State Medicaid option to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through health homes, prevent the misclassification of drugs for purposes of the Medicaid drug rebate program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1839

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 "Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROTECTION FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS OF HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AGAINST SPOUSAL IMPOVERISHMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2404 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5 note), as amended by section 3(a) of the Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-3), is amended by striking "March 31, 2019" and inserting "September 30, 2019".

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) PROTECTING STATE SPOUSAL INCOME AND ASSET DISREGARD FLEXIBILITY UNDER WAIVERS AND PLAN AMENDMENTS.—Nothing in section 2404 of Public Law 111-148 (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5 note) or section 1924 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5) shall be construed as prohibiting a State from disregarding an individual's spousal income and assets under a State waiver or plan amendment described in paragraph (2) for purposes of making determinations of eligibility for home and community-based services or home and community-based attendant services and supports under such waiver or plan amendment.

(2) STATE WAIVER OR PLAN AMENDMENT DESCRIBED.—A State waiver or plan amendment described in this paragraph is any of the following:

(A) A waiver or plan amendment to provide medical assistance for home and community-based services under a waiver or plan amendment under subsection (c), (d), or (i) of section 1915 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n) or under section 1115 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1315).

(B) A plan amendment to provide medical assistance for home and community-based services for individuals by reason of being determined eligible under section 1902(a)(10)(C) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(C)) or by reason of section 1902(f) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(f)) or otherwise on the basis of a reduction of income based

on costs incurred for medical or other remedial care under which the State disregarded the income and assets of the individual's spouse in determining the initial and ongoing financial eligibility of an individual for such services in place of the spousal impoverishment provisions applied under section 1924 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-5).

(C) A plan amendment to provide medical assistance for home and community-based attendant services and supports under section 1915(k) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(k)).

SEC. 3. STATE OPTION TO PROVIDE COORDINATED CARE THROUGH A HEALTH HOME FOR CHILDREN WITH MEDICALLY COMPLEX CONDITIONS.

Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1945 the following new section:

"SEC. 1945A. STATE OPTION TO PROVIDE COORDINATED CARE THROUGH A HEALTH HOME FOR CHILDREN WITH MEDICALLY COMPLEX CONDITIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 1902(a)(1) (relating to statewideness) and section 1902(a)(10)(B) (relating to comparability), beginning October 1, 2022, a State, at its option as a State plan amendment, may provide for medical assistance under this title to children with medically complex conditions who choose to enroll in a health home under this section by selecting a designated provider, a team of health care professionals operating with such a provider, or a health team as the child's health home for purposes of providing the child with health home services.

"(b) HEALTH HOME QUALIFICATION STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall establish standards for qualification as a health home for purposes of this section. Such standards shall include requiring designated providers, teams of health care professionals operating with such providers, and health teams to demonstrate to the State the ability to do the following:

"(1) Coordinate prompt care for children with medically complex conditions, including access to pediatric emergency services at all times.

"(2) Develop an individualized comprehensive pediatric family-centered care plan for children with medically complex conditions that accommodates patient preferences.

"(3) Work in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner with the family of a child with medically complex conditions to develop and incorporate into such child's care plan, in a manner consistent with the needs of the child and the choices of the child's family, ongoing home care, community-based pediatric primary care, pediatric inpatient care, social support services, and local hospital pediatric emergency care.

"(4) Coordinate access to—

"(A) subspecialized pediatric services and programs for children with medically complex conditions, including the most intensive diagnostic, treatment, and critical care levels as medically necessary; and

"(B) palliative services if the State provides such services under the State plan (or a waiver of such plan).

"(5) Coordinate care for children with medically complex conditions with out-of-State providers furnishing care to such children to the maximum extent practicable for the families of such children and where medically necessary, in accordance with guidance issued under subsection (e)(1) and section 431.52 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations.

"(6) Collect and report information under subsection (g)(1).

"(c) PAYMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A State shall provide a designated provider, a team of health care professionals operating with such a provider,

or a health team with payments for the provision of health home services to each child with medically complex conditions that selects such provider, team of health care professionals, or health team as the child's health home. Payments made to a designated provider, a team of health care professionals operating with such a provider, or a health team for such services shall be treated as medical assistance for purposes of section 1903(a), except that, during the first 2 fiscal year quarters that the State plan amendment is in effect, the Federal medical assistance percentage applicable to such payments shall be increased by 15 percentage points, but in no case may exceed 90 percent.

“(2) METHODOLOGY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The State shall specify in the State plan amendment the methodology the State will use for determining payment for the provision of health home services. Such methodology for determining payment—

“(i) may be tiered to reflect, with respect to each child with medically complex conditions provided such services by a designated provider, a team of health care professionals operating with such a provider, or a health team, the severity or number of each such child's chronic conditions, life-threatening illnesses, disabilities, or rare diseases, or the specific capabilities of the provider, team of health care professionals, or health team; and

“(ii) shall be established consistent with section 1902(a)(30)(A).

“(B) ALTERNATE MODELS OF PAYMENT.—The methodology for determining payment for provision of health home services under this section shall not be limited to a per-member per-month basis and may provide (as proposed by the State and subject to approval by the Secretary) for alternate models of payment.

“(3) PLANNING GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning October 1, 2022, the Secretary may award planning grants to States for purposes of developing a State plan amendment under this section. A planning grant awarded to a State under this paragraph shall remain available until expended.

“(B) STATE CONTRIBUTION.—A State awarded a planning grant shall contribute an amount equal to the State percentage determined under section 1905(b) (without regard to section 5001 of Public Law 111–5) for each fiscal year for which the grant is awarded.

“(C) LIMITATION.—The total amount of payments made to States under this paragraph shall not exceed \$5,000,000.

“(d) COORDINATING CARE.—

“(1) HOSPITAL NOTIFICATION.—A State with a State plan amendment approved under this section shall require each hospital that is a participating provider under the State plan (or a waiver of such plan) to establish procedures for, in the case of a child with medically complex conditions who is enrolled in a health home pursuant to this section and seeks treatment in the emergency department of such hospital, notifying the health home of such child of such treatment.

“(2) EDUCATION WITH RESPECT TO AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH HOME SERVICES.—In order for a State plan amendment to be approved under this section, a State shall include in the State plan amendment a description of the State's process for educating providers participating in the State plan (or a waiver of such plan) on the availability of health home services for children with medically complex conditions, including the process by which such providers can refer such children to a designated provider, team of health care professionals operating such a provider, or health team for the purpose of establishing a

health home through which such children may receive such services.

“(3) FAMILY EDUCATION.—In order for a State plan amendment to be approved under this section, a State shall include in the State plan amendment a description of the State's process for educating families with children eligible to receive health home services pursuant to this section of the availability of such services. Such process shall include the participation of family-to-family entities or other public or private organizations or entities who provide outreach and information on the availability of health care items and services to families of individuals eligible to receive medical assistance under the State plan (or a waiver of such plan).

“(4) MENTAL HEALTH COORDINATION.—A State with a State plan amendment approved under this section shall consult and coordinate, as appropriate, with the Secretary in addressing issues regarding the prevention and treatment of mental illness and substance use among children with medically complex conditions receiving health home services under this section.

“(e) GUIDANCE ON COORDINATING CARE FROM OUT-OF-STATE PROVIDERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2020, the Secretary shall issue (and update as the Secretary determines necessary) guidance to State Medicaid directors on—

“(A) best practices for using out-of-State providers to provide care to children with medically complex conditions;

“(B) coordinating care for such children provided by such out-of-State providers (including when provided in emergency and non-emergency situations);

“(C) reducing barriers for such children receiving care from such providers in a timely fashion; and

“(D) processes for screening and enrolling such providers in the respective State plan (or a waiver of such plan), including efforts to streamline such processes or reduce the burden of such processes on such providers.

“(2) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall issue a request for information to seek input from children with medically complex conditions and their families, States, providers (including children's hospitals, hospitals, pediatricians, and other providers), managed care plans, children's health groups, family and beneficiary advocates, and other stakeholders with respect to coordinating the care for such children provided by out-of-State providers.

“(f) MONITORING.—A State shall include in the State plan amendment—

“(1) a methodology for tracking reductions in inpatient days and reductions in the total cost of care resulting from improved care coordination and management under this section;

“(2) a proposal for use of health information technology in providing health home services under this section and improving service delivery and coordination across the care continuum (including the use of wireless patient technology to improve coordination and management of care and patient adherence to recommendations made by their provider); and

“(3) a methodology for tracking prompt and timely access to medically necessary care for children with medically complex conditions from out-of-State providers.

“(g) DATA COLLECTION.—

“(1) PROVIDER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—In order to receive payments from a State under subsection (c), a designated provider, a team of health care professionals operating with such a provider, or a health team shall report to the State, at such time and in such

form and manner as may be required by the State, the following information:

“(A) With respect to each such provider, team of health care professionals, or health team, the name, National Provider Identification number, address, and specific health care services offered to be provided to children with medically complex conditions who have selected such provider, team of health care professionals, or health team as the health home of such children.

“(B) Information on all applicable measures for determining the quality of health home services provided by such provider, team of health care professionals, or health team, including, to the extent applicable, child health quality measures and measures for centers of excellence for children with complex needs developed under this title, title XXI, and section 1139A.

“(C) Such other information as the Secretary shall specify in guidance.

When appropriate and feasible, such provider, team of health care professionals, or health team, as the case may be, shall use health information technology in providing the State with such information.

“(2) STATE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—A State with a State plan amendment approved under this section shall report to the Secretary (and, upon request, to the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission), at such time and in such form and manner determined by the Secretary to be reasonable and minimally burdensome, the following information:

“(i) Information reported under paragraph (1).

“(ii) The number of children with medically complex conditions who have selected a health home pursuant to this section.

“(iii) The nature, number, and prevalence of chronic conditions, life-threatening illnesses, disabilities, or rare diseases that such children have.

“(iv) The type of delivery systems and payment models used to provide services to such children under this section.

“(v) The number and characteristics of designated providers, teams of health care professionals operating with such providers, and health teams selected as health homes pursuant to this section, including the number and characteristics of out-of-State providers, teams of health care professionals operating with such providers, and health teams who have provided health care items and services to such children.

“(vi) The extent to which such children receive health care items and services under the State plan.

“(vii) Quality measures developed specifically with respect to health care items and services provided to children with medically complex conditions.

“(B) REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES.—Not later than 90 days after a State has a State plan amendment approved under this section, such State shall submit to the Secretary, and make publicly available on the appropriate State website, a report on how the State is implementing guidance issued under subsection (e)(1), including through any best practices adopted by the State.

“(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

“(1) to require a child with medically complex conditions to enroll in a health home under this section;

“(2) to limit the choice of a child with medically complex conditions in selecting a designated provider, team of health care professionals operating with such a provider, or health team that meets the health home qualification standards established under subsection (b) as the child's health home; or

“(3) to reduce or otherwise modify—

“(A) the entitlement of children with medically complex conditions to early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment services (as defined in section 1905(r)); or

“(B) the informing, providing, arranging, and reporting requirements of a State under section 1902(a)(43).

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) CHILD WITH MEDICALLY COMPLEX CONDITIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term ‘child with medically complex conditions’ means an individual under 21 years of age who—

“(i) is eligible for medical assistance under the State plan (or under a waiver of such plan); and

“(ii) has at least—

“(I) one or more chronic conditions that cumulatively affect three or more organ systems and severely reduces cognitive or physical functioning (such as the ability to eat, drink, or breathe independently) and that also requires the use of medication, durable medical equipment, therapy, surgery, or other treatments; or

“(II) one life-limiting illness or rare pediatric disease (as defined in section 529(a)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff(a)(3))).

“(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the Secretary from establishing higher levels as to the number or severity of chronic, life threatening illnesses, disabilities, rare diseases or mental health conditions for purposes of determining eligibility for receipt of health home services under this section.

“(2) CHRONIC CONDITION.—The term ‘chronic condition’ means a serious, long-term physical, mental, or developmental disability or disease, including the following:

“(A) Cerebral palsy.

“(B) Cystic fibrosis.

“(C) HIV/AIDS.

“(D) Blood diseases, such as anemia or sickle cell disease.

“(E) Muscular dystrophy.

“(F) Spina bifida.

“(G) Epilepsy.

“(H) Severe autism spectrum disorder.

“(I) Serious emotional disturbance or serious mental health illness.

“(3) HEALTH HOME.—The term ‘health home’ means a designated provider (including a provider that operates in coordination with a team of health care professionals) or a health team selected by a child with medically complex conditions (or the family of such child) to provide health home services.

“(4) HEALTH HOME SERVICES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘health home services’ means comprehensive and timely high-quality services described in subparagraph (B) that are provided by a designated provider, a team of health care professionals operating with such a provider, or a health team.

“(B) SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The services described in this subparagraph shall include—

“(i) comprehensive care management;

“(ii) care coordination, health promotion, and providing access to the full range of pediatric specialty and subspecialty medical services, including services from out-of-State providers, as medically necessary;

“(iii) comprehensive transitional care, including appropriate follow-up, from inpatient to other settings;

“(iv) patient and family support (including authorized representatives);

“(v) referrals to community and social support services, if relevant; and

“(vi) use of health information technology to link services, as feasible and appropriate.

“(5) DESIGNATED PROVIDER.—The term ‘designated provider’ means a physician (including a pediatrician or a pediatric specialty or subspecialty provider), children’s hospital, clinical practice or clinical group practice, prepaid inpatient health plan or prepaid ambulatory health plan (as defined by the Secretary), rural clinic, community health center, community mental health center, home health agency, or any other entity or provider that is determined by the State and approved by the Secretary to be qualified to be a health home for children with medically complex conditions on the basis of documentation evidencing that the entity has the systems, expertise, and infrastructure in place to provide health home services. Such term may include providers who are employed by, or affiliated with, a children’s hospital.

“(6) TEAM OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—The term ‘team of health care professionals’ means a team of health care professionals (as described in the State plan amendment under this section) that may—

“(A) include—

“(i) physicians and other professionals, such as pediatricians or pediatric specialty or subspecialty providers, nurse care coordinators, dietitians, nutritionists, social workers, behavioral health professionals, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, nurses, individuals with experience in medical supportive technologies, or any professionals determined to be appropriate by the State and approved by the Secretary;

“(ii) an entity or individual who is designated to coordinate such a team; and

“(iii) community health workers, translators, and other individuals with culturally appropriate expertise; and

“(B) be freestanding, virtual, or based at a children’s hospital, hospital, community health center, community mental health center, rural clinic, clinical practice or clinical group practice, academic health center, or any entity determined to be appropriate by the State and approved by the Secretary.

“(7) HEALTH TEAM.—The term ‘health team’ has the meaning given such term for purposes of section 3502 of Public Law 111-148.”

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

Section 223(d)(3) of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by striking “for 2-year demonstration programs under this subsection” and inserting “to conduct demonstration programs under this subsection for 2 years or through June 30, 2019, whichever is longer”.

SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON REBALANCING DEMONSTRATION.

Section 6071(h)(1)(F) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1396a note) is amended by striking “\$112,000,000” and inserting “\$132,000,000”.

SEC. 6. PREVENTING THE MISCLASSIFICATION OF DRUGS UNDER THE MEDICAID DRUG REBATE PROGRAM.

(a) APPLICATION OF CIVIL MONEY PENALTY FOR MISCLASSIFICATION OF COVERED OUTPATIENT DRUGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1927(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-8(b)(3)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “AND DRUG PRODUCT” after “PRICE”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking “; and” at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) in clause (iv), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by inserting after clause (iv) the following new clause:

“(v) not later than 30 days after the last day of each month of a rebate period under the agreement, such drug product information as the Secretary shall require for each of the manufacturer’s covered outpatient drugs.”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in clause (ii), by inserting “, including information related to drug pricing, drug product information, and data related to drug pricing or drug product information,” after “provides false information”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new clauses:

“(iii) MISCLASSIFIED DRUG PRODUCT OR MISREPORTED INFORMATION.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Any manufacturer with an agreement under this section that knowingly (as defined in section 1003.110 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) misclassifies a covered outpatient drug, such as by knowingly submitting incorrect drug product information, is subject to a civil money penalty for each covered outpatient drug that is misclassified in an amount not to exceed 2 times the amount of the difference between—

“(aa) the total amount of rebates that the manufacturer paid with respect to the drug to all States for all rebate periods during which the drug was misclassified; and

“(bb) the total amount of rebates that the manufacturer would have been required to pay, as determined by the Secretary using drug product information provided by the manufacturer, with respect to the drug to all States for all rebate periods during which the drug was misclassified if the drug had been correctly classified.

“(II) OTHER PENALTIES AND RECOVERY OF UNDERPAID REBATES.—The civil money penalties described in subclause (I) are in addition to other penalties as may be prescribed by law and any other recovery of the underlying underpayment for rebates due under this section or the terms of the rebate agreement as determined by the Secretary.

“(iv) INCREASING OVERSIGHT AND ENFORCEMENT.—Each year the Secretary shall retain, in addition to any amount retained by the Secretary to recoup investigation and litigation costs related to the enforcement of the civil money penalties under this subparagraph and subsection (c)(4)(B)(ii)(III), an amount equal to 25 percent of the total amount of civil money penalties collected under this subparagraph and subsection (c)(4)(B)(ii)(III) for the year, and such retained amount shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation and until expended, for activities related to the oversight and enforcement of this section and agreements under this section, including—

“(I) improving drug data reporting systems;

“(II) evaluating and ensuring manufacturer compliance with rebate obligations; and

“(III) oversight and enforcement related to ensuring that manufacturers accurately and fully report drug information, including data related to drug classification.”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in clause (iv), by striking “, and” and inserting a comma;

(II) in clause (v), by striking the period and inserting “, and”; and

(III) by inserting after clause (v) the following new clause:

“(vi) in the case of categories of drug product or classification information that were not considered confidential by the Secretary on the day before the date of the enactment of this clause.”

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 1903(i)(10) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(i)(10)) is amended—

(i) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by adjusting the left margin so as to align with the left margin of subparagraph (B); and

(II) by striking “, and” and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “; or” and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) with respect to any amount expended for a covered outpatient drug for which a suspension under section 1927(c)(4)(B)(ii)(II) is in effect; or”.

(B) Section 1927(b)(3)(C)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–8(b)(3)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking “subsections (a) and (b)” and inserting “subsections (a), (b), (f)(3), and (f)(4)”.

(b) RECOVERY OF UNPAID REBATE AMOUNTS DUE TO MISCLASSIFICATION OF COVERED OUTPATIENT DRUGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1927(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–8(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) RECOVERY OF UNPAID REBATE AMOUNTS DUE TO MISCLASSIFICATION OF COVERED OUTPATIENT DRUGS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that a manufacturer with an agreement under this section paid a lower per-unit rebate amount to a State for a rebate period as a result of the misclassification by the manufacturer of a covered outpatient drug (without regard to whether the manufacturer knowingly made the misclassification or should have known that the misclassification would be made) than the per-unit rebate amount that the manufacturer would have paid to the State if the drug had been correctly classified, the manufacturer shall pay to the State an amount equal to the product of—

“(i) the difference between—

“(I) the per-unit rebate amount paid to the State for the period; and

“(II) the per-unit rebate amount that the manufacturer would have paid to the State for the period, as determined by the Secretary, if the drug had been correctly classified; and

“(ii) the total units of the drug paid for under the State plan in the period.

“(B) AUTHORITY TO CORRECT MISCLASSIFICATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that a manufacturer with an agreement under this section has misclassified a covered outpatient drug (without regard to whether the manufacturer knowingly made the misclassification or should have known that the misclassification would be made), the Secretary shall notify the manufacturer of the misclassification and require the manufacturer to correct the misclassification in a timely manner.

“(ii) ENFORCEMENT.—If, after receiving notice of a misclassification from the Secretary under clause (i), a manufacturer fails to correct the misclassification by such time as the Secretary shall require, until the manufacturer makes such correction, the Secretary may do any or all of the following:

“(I) Correct the misclassification, using drug product information provided by the manufacturer, on behalf of the manufacturer.

“(II) Suspend the misclassified drug and the drug’s status as a covered outpatient drug under the manufacturer’s national rebate agreement, and exclude the misclassified drug from Federal financial participation in accordance with section 1903(i)(10)(E).

“(III) Impose a civil money penalty (which shall be in addition to any other recovery or penalty which may be available under this section or any other provision of law) for each rebate period during which the drug is misclassified not to exceed an amount equal to the product of—

“(aa) the total number of units of each dosage form and strength of such misclassified drug paid for under any State plan during such a rebate period; and

“(bb) 23.1 percent of the average manufacturer price for the dosage form and strength of such misclassified drug.

“(C) REPORTING AND TRANSPARENCY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit a report to Congress on at least an annual basis that includes information on the covered outpatient drugs that have been identified as misclassified, any steps taken to reclassify such drugs, the actions the Secretary has taken to ensure the payment of any rebate amounts which were unpaid as a result of such misclassification, and a disclosure of expenditures from the fund created in subsection (b)(3)(C)(iv), including an accounting of how such funds have been allocated and spent in accordance with such subsection.

“(ii) PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Secretary shall make the information contained in the report required under clause (i) available to the public on a timely basis.

“(D) OTHER PENALTIES AND ACTIONS.—Actions taken and penalties imposed under this clause shall be in addition to other remedies available to the Secretary including terminating the manufacturer’s rebate agreement for noncompliance with the terms of such agreement and shall not exempt a manufacturer from, or preclude the Secretary from pursuing, any civil money penalty under this title or title XI, or any other penalty or action as may be prescribed by law.”.

(2) OFFSET OF RECOVERED AMOUNTS AGAINST MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 1927(b)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–8(b)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting “, including amounts received by a State under subsection (c)(4),” after “in any quarter”.

(c) CLARIFYING DEFINITIONS.—Section 1927(k) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–8(k)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “paragraph (5)” and inserting “paragraph (4)”; and

(2) in paragraph (7)(A)—

(A) by striking “an original new drug application” and inserting “a new drug application” each place it appears;

(B) in clause (i), by striking “(not including any drug described in paragraph (5))” and inserting “, including a drug product approved for marketing as a non-prescription drug that is regarded as a covered outpatient drug under paragraph (4).”;

(C) in clause (ii)—

(i) by striking “was originally marketed” and inserting “is marketed”; and

(ii) by inserting “, unless the Secretary determines that a narrow exception applies (as described in section 447.502 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation))” before the period; and

(D) in clause (iv)—

(i) by inserting “, including a drug product approved for marketing as a non-prescription drug that is regarded as a covered outpatient drug under paragraph (4),” after “covered outpatient drug”;;

(ii) by inserting “unless the Secretary determines that a narrow exception applies (as described in section 447.502 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation))” after “under the new drug application”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new sentence: “Such term also includes a covered outpatient drug that is a biological product

licensed, produced, or distributed under a biologics license application approved by the Food and Drug Administration.”.

(d) EXCLUSION OF MANUFACTURERS FOR KNOWING MISCLASSIFICATION OF COVERED OUTPATIENT DRUGS.—Section 1128(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a–7(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(17) KNOWINGLY MISCLASSIFYING COVERED OUTPATIENT DRUGS.—Any manufacturer or officer, director, agent, or managing employee of such manufacturer that knowingly misclassifies a covered outpatient drug under an agreement under section 1927, knowingly fails to correct such misclassification, or knowingly provides false information related to drug pricing, drug product information, or data related to drug pricing or drug product information.”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply to covered outpatient drugs supplied by manufacturers under agreements under section 1927 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–8) on or after such date.

SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF THIRD-PARTY LIABILITY PERIOD FOR CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(a)(2) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–67) is amended by striking “90 days” and inserting “100 days”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. DENIAL OF FFP FOR CERTAIN EXPENDITURES RELATING TO VACUUM ERECTION SYSTEMS AND PENILE PROSTHETIC IMPLANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1903(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(i)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

“(12) with respect to any amounts expended for—

“(A) a vacuum erection system that is not medically necessary; or

“(B) the insertion, repair, or removal and replacement of a penile prosthetic implant (unless such insertion, repair, or removal and replacement is medically necessary); or”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to items and services furnished on or after January 1, 2020.

SEC. 9. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1839.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to rise in support of H.R. 1839, the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act, a bill that will strengthen our healthcare system by putting patients first.

I am an emergency physician, and as a doctor I have treated patients who, because they couldn't afford the care they needed, slipped through the cracks, worsening their quality of life, harming themselves and their families, and sometimes ending up in the emergency department for lifesaving care.

This bill makes five essential reforms to Medicaid that put patients first, helping children and individuals with mental health issues access the care that they need.

The bill's first reform reflects the hard work and tireless efforts of my friend, Representative DINGELL, who has led the fight to extend Medicaid spousal impoverishment protections. Thanks to Representative DINGELL's advocacy, patients will be able to afford treatment and services without bankrupting their spouses.

Without this important protection, families would face a terrible choice between either unnecessary institutionalization or impoverishing themselves to ensure that their loved one receives the care that they need.

I would also like to thank Congressman UPTON for championing this important policy.

Second, my bill would provide additional funds to the successful Money Follows the Person demonstration. This funding will help more individuals transition from institutions to the communities they call home. I wanted to thank Representatives DINGELL and GUTHRIE for their advocacy on behalf of the patients and families who continue to benefit from this successful program.

Third, this bill includes the Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act, bipartisan legislation that gives States the flexibility to coordinate the most effective care for children with medically complex needs. The ACE Kids Act would not be possible without the sustained advocacy and hard work of Congresswoman CASTOR.

Representative CASTOR is an incredible advocate for some of our most vulnerable children and their families and has spent years championing this bill. I also want to thank my friend, Representative BILIRAKIS, for continuing to fight to ensure that our sickest kids have access to health homes.

Fourth, this bill contains important program integrity improvements to Medicaid, fixes that will save money and make Medicaid run more efficiently and effectively without sacrificing quality of care for patients.

That includes legislation championed by Representatives SCHRADER and WELCH to crack down on drug companies cheating the Medicaid program by

not paying proper rebates on their drugs. The bill also gives the Department of Health and Human Services the tools it needs to hold ill-intentioned pharmaceutical companies accountable, while ensuring that patients who depend on these drugs continue to have access to them.

Fifth, and finally, this bill extends funding for the Excellence in Mental Health Act, so that people who are struggling with mental health and substance use disorders can continue receiving the treatment they need. The extension will help Congress find a longer-term solution so that this program can continue providing care to the people who need it.

I would like to thank Representative MATSUI for her continued hard work to support this demonstration. In brief, this bipartisan bill strengthens Medicaid by putting patients first. It was the approach I took as a doctor in the emergency department, and one I am continuing to take in Congress.

I know this bill will make our healthcare system stronger and more equitable, and I am proud to lead this critical effort.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 1839, the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak today in support of H.R. 1839, the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019.

This is a bipartisan Medicaid extenders package that moves forward House priorities with responsible offsets. In fact, this package actually saves the Federal Government \$1 million.

H.R. 1839 includes a new program to improve access to healthcare from medically complex children and reauthorizes important and effective programs that benefit Americans each and every day.

□ 1730

Money Follows the Person is an important program for the State of Texas. This Medicaid demonstration, which was established in 2005, has enabled eligible individuals in States across our Nation to receive long-term care services in their homes or other community settings, rather than an institution such as a nursing home.

While I am disappointed that H.R. 1839 includes only \$20 million to extend this critical program through September instead of through the end of calendar year 2019, I am pleased that the funding for Money Follows the Person was ultimately included in this package.

This bill also includes an extension through September of the protection for Medicaid recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment program. This program specifically protects married individuals requiring Medicaid-covered

and long-term services and supports to ensure that they do not have to deplete their financial resources or bankrupt themselves in order to become or remain Medicaid-eligible to receive such services. Our seniors are among our most vulnerable citizens, and it is programs such as this that will help protect them from financial ruin.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, nearly one in five United States adults lives with a mental illness. Programs established to help individuals who are struggling with mental health issues, including the Excellence in Mental Health program, enable States to implement community behavioral health centers to address the needs of their populations. H.R. 1839 extends the Excellence in Mental Health program funding for Oregon and Oklahoma so that they will be on the same financial cycle as other States that are participating in the program.

The ACE Kids Act, which will improve care for children with complex medical needs, is also included in this package. The goal of this legislation is to improve comprehensive care for medically complex children through a State option to create a Medicaid health home specific to children. Health homes have proven effective in improving care coordination in the adult Medicaid population and hold promise for complex pediatric patients.

However, I want to clarify that this legislation is not intended to limit families or their physicians from selecting the provider of choice for medical services. There is nothing in this legislation that restricts the child's family or their physician from deciding who is best qualified as a Medicare provider. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has provided assurances that current freedom of choice rules will apply to new care coordination activity.

As a physician, I know that many children with chronic illnesses have a strong relationship with their physician and with other providers. I want to make certain that this new law will help families coordinate their care without affecting the relationship that families have with their current doctor or other medical care provider or other providers in their communities from whom they may wish to receive care.

This package contains must-pass provisions that will improve access for Medicaid beneficiaries, which is a laudable and important goal. Not only are these provisions imperative, but they are responsibly offset. In fact, this package saves money.

I would particularly like to thank the Energy and Commerce Committee staff, in particular J.P. Paluskiewicz and Caleb Graff, who have spent a significant amount of their lives negotiating this package to get it to the floor.

I support this legislation, and I urge other Members to continue to support this and get the other body to take it up and pass it as well.

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 and the important provisions within this legislation to address mental health and addiction.

Every one of us knows someone who has struggled, is struggling, or will struggle with mental health issues. Whether it is a friend, a neighbor, or a family member, mental illness impacts all of us in some way.

Several years ago, we took a huge step forward to expand access to mental health services in communities across the Nation. The Excellence in Mental Health Act of 2014 was the culmination of years of hard work. At the same time, it was the largest Federal investment toward improving community-based mental healthcare.

That legislation allowed States to establish certified community behavioral health centers to ensure everyone who needs mental health services can receive them. These clinics have expanded mental health and substance use treatments dramatically, increasing access to 24-hour care, and they have been extremely successful in showing us how we can achieve real results in our communities.

Patients can receive medication-assisted treatment at almost every clinic. For many patients and providers, this is the first time that such services have been available in their communities, which are very often in medically underserved areas. Over half of these clinics now offer same-day access to care, which is so critical to those suffering from an acute mental health crisis.

I recently heard from a clinic in Oregon that will lose funding at the end of this week if Congress doesn't act now. This clinic has doubled the amount of time their doctors are able to spend with patients, has been able to hire more staff, and goes to meet patients in the community to better serve the unique needs of this population. We cannot afford to let this progress expire.

For far too long, those with mental illness have been left in the shadows, and mental health prevention and treatment have been left out of our health systems.

The mental health crisis in this country is very personal to me, and I have been fighting for patients and their loved ones for many years. I believe there is a lot we can do better to stop or slow down the hurt and pain patients and families feel when mental health is left unaddressed.

The bill before us today will extend this critical program in two States, Oregon and Oklahoma, until June and is a first step toward funding and expanding the program later this year.

There is a lot more we must do, and I look forward to continuing to work

with my colleague, Representative MARKWAYNE MULLIN, to preserve this vital program.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), who is the Republican leader of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, this is really important legislation we are working on today. H.R. 1839, the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019, includes short-term extensions of several key Medicaid programs that have previously passed the House on a bipartisan basis.

I know our staffs on both sides of the aisle put a lot of time and effort into this, and I thank them all. I especially want to draw attention to Caleb Graff, who brought his own audience with him today in the gallery, his parents and brother. He has worked very hard on this, and we appreciate it.

I thank my chair and colleague, FRANK PALLONE of the Energy and Commerce Committee, for the partnership on this extenders package. Personally, I know a lot of us would have liked to have had these extended programs go out further to give beneficiaries and providers more certainty and more stability, and we will continue to put forth offers in good faith to work across the aisle to fund these critical parts of America's safety net.

However, we are here today up against a deadline, and I am pleased we were able to get at least through June and September, respectively, with these programs.

I am particularly pleased to see this package includes a short-term extension of the Excellence in Mental Health demonstration for my home State of Oregon. Both Oregon and Oklahoma were set to run out of funding at the end of this month, so this money will at least line them up with the other participating States whose funding expires at the end of June.

These eight State demonstration projects have shown promise as a way for community providers to expand access to treatment for mental and behavioral health, including addiction. As we continue our bipartisan work on the opioid crisis, which took more than 70,000 American lives in 2017 alone, Mr. Speaker, our behavioral health centers have the potential to provide real help. I have been encouraged to hear from providers in rural parts of my district, like Wallowa and Klamath Falls, about their success implementing this very program. I look forward to working on a longer term extension in the coming months.

The other Medicaid policies included in this bill are also very important.

The Money Follows the Person program is a demonstration program that helps transition individuals with chronic conditions and disabilities from institutions back into their local communities. That is where they can get the best care.

The so-called spousal impoverishment program protects seniors against the high costs of home and community-based services.

Finally, we are, once again, passing the ACE Kids Act here in the House, which was championed by our former colleague and chairman of the committee, Representative Joe Barton of Texas. It would improve the delivery of care for children with really complex medical conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan package of healthcare bills.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to avoid referencing occupants of the gallery.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend, Dr. RUIZ, for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of families of children with complex medical needs—and there are many families like this all across America—I rise to urge approval of H.R. 1839, which includes a bill I have been working on for a number of years with my colleagues, including former Representative Joe Barton. It is called the ACE Kids Act.

We drafted the Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act a few years ago with a simple but important goal of putting children and their families first. The bill authorizes the creation of cost-saving and time-saving health homes where specialized care is coordinated in a high-quality setting.

Mr. Speaker, the children with complex medical conditions and their families are heroic, like Caroline West in my hometown of Tampa. She has a rare genetic condition, cerebral palsy, and a seizure disorder. She can't walk, and it is very difficult for her to speak, but she attends school part time and enjoys the life of a typical teenager, in many respects.

Lucy Ferlita is the only living person in the United States with early onset myopathy with areflexia, respiratory distress, and dysphagia. Very little is known about this disease, but we know that it is very difficult for her to eat. She has to have a feeding tube, a ventilator to breathe, and nursing care 24 hours a day.

Jaden Velasquez has a congenital heart defect.

Lakota Lockhart has a central nervous system disorder that causes him to not be able to breathe while he sleeps.

I met all of these kids back home in Tampa at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital. St. Joe's has a world-renowned Chronic-Complex Clinic that was started 16 years ago by a compassionate pediatrician, Dr. Daniel Plasencia. This ACE Kids Act is modeled upon their work and the other good work being done at children's hospitals across this country.

The bill provides an incentive for States to establish health homes to

better coordinate care for kids with medical complexities. It also directs HHS to provide guidance to States on best practices.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to adopt this bill with the ACE Kids Act included.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from a whole host of organizations thanking us for our leadership and for introducing this bipartisan legislation to improve care for children with complex medical conditions.

MARCH 25, 2019.

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MICHAEL BENNETT,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KATHY CASTOR,
Washington, DC.

Hon. GUS BILIRAKIS,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ANNA ESHOO,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENS. GRASSLEY AND BENNETT, AND REPS. CASTOR, BILIRAKIS, ESHOO, AND HERRERA BEUTLER: As national organizations committed to children's health, we write in strong support of the "Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act of 2019" (ACE Kids Act, S. 317/H.R. 1226), which has been incorporated into the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 (H.R. 1839). We thank you for your leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation to improve care for children with complex medical conditions in the Medicaid program.

Children with complex medical conditions have chronic life-limiting illnesses and disabilities, and often see six or more specialists and a dozen or more physicians. Under the current Medicaid system, parents of children with multiple, life-threatening disabilities struggle to coordinate the complex care of their kids, which often requires travelling to out-of-state providers. The ACE Kids Act works to create a patient-centered, pediatric-focused delivery system for this unique population of children. It is an important step in fixing the current fragmented system for children with complex medical conditions, ensuring ready access to care and reducing the burden on their families.

Under the ACE Kids Act, specially-designed health homes created for children with complex medical conditions will employ national quality standards and coordinate care—both essential to improving overall quality of care. These health homes will include the full range of acute, post-acute and primary care providers, and will focus on outpatient care to ensure children get the care that they need in the most appropriate setting closest to home while reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits. The ACE Kids Act—which is voluntary for states, families and providers—will also help families access the array of outpatient and community services and supports needed by these children.

Providing children with complex medical conditions enrolled in Medicaid the best possible care is a national challenge, and the ACE Kids Act will bring us closer to ensuring these vulnerable children receive the care they need. We are proud to support the ACE Kids Act, and we look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation this year.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics; American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work; American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; The Amer-

ican Board of Pediatrics; American College of Cardiology; American College of Surgeons; American Heart Association; American Physical Therapy Association; American Psychological Association; American Society of Echocardiography; American Thoracic Society; America's Essential Hospitals; Association of American Medical Colleges; Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs; Autism Society of America; Autism Speaks.

Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy; Children's Hospital Association; ChildServe; Epilepsy Foundation; Family Voices; March of Dimes; Maxim Healthcare Services; Mended Little Hearts; Moms Rising; National Association for Children's Behavioral Health; National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners; National Board for Certified Counselors; National Down Syndrome Society; Pediatric Congenital Heart Association; Tricare for Kids Coalition; Vizient.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), who is the former chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the author of the Cures for the 21st Century bill.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan legislation.

I just want to remark briefly to my colleague from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) that the ACE Kids bill was a very important bill that we worked on actually for three Congresses. Joe Barton and the gentlewoman did a marvelous job. We didn't quite get it done. We passed it in this House with more than 400 votes in the last Congress. At the end, the Senate just didn't take it up.

It is very important that it is included as part of this bipartisan package, which we hope is early enough that we can get the Senate to act and pass it, because it really does impact families that are in much need.

I also am happy that we are moving this comprehensive bill today because it does contain a variety of important extensions. All of them had hearings and a lot of bipartisan support from the very first. This includes protections against spousal impoverishment for those seniors who have a spouse who is receiving home-based long-term care under Medicaid.

Back in 2010, we temporarily mandated these protections for home care, but that mandate was set to expire at the end of this very week, so it has to be extended.

Last year, my good friend and colleague, Mrs. DINGELL, and I introduced a bill to make the spousal impoverishment protections permanent, and we worked hard to get that done and passed here in this House. But at the end, even though we worked tirelessly on this, we got only a temporary extension. That is why it expires the end of this week.

This bill doesn't permanently extend it like we had hoped last year, but it does give a reprieve by extending the protection until the end of this year, so, in essence, a 9-month extension. It is my hope that we can use the time to actually pass a permanent extension.

I particularly commend the work of my colleague, Mrs. DINGELL from the

great State of Michigan, for her passion on this, to make sure that we can get it done. I applaud the Speaker for getting it scheduled on the House floor early so that we can get it done, hopefully, this week, and the Senate can concur. Then let's use the time to really make it permanent, to help these families that otherwise will have funds taken out, as this really does rely on Medicaid, to a large degree.

□ 1745

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California for his leadership on this issue and for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 1839, the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act.

This bill includes two provisions that are very important to seniors and the disabled. It makes improvements, but, as you have heard my other colleagues talk about, not enough and not for long enough.

First of all, it has a provision that I worked on with my colleague, Mr. UPTON, that extends the spousal impoverishment protections for seniors in Medicaid through the end of the fiscal year. These critical protections ensure that individuals are not forced to spend down almost all of their resources and potentially go bankrupt to get the care that they need. No American should be forced into poverty just to receive adequate healthcare.

In addition, this bill contains a provision that I worked on with my colleague, Mr. GUTHRIE, to extend the highly successful Money Follows the Person program, again, just through the end of the fiscal year. This program provides grants to States to help individuals voluntarily transition from an institutional setting to a community care setting, their own home. All Americans, regardless of income, deserve to receive long-term care in a setting that they prefer.

While I am pleased that these programs will be extended through the end of September and not allowed to lapse—and that is critical—this is only a partial victory. Both the Money Follows the Person program and spousal impoverishment protections need to be extended for the long term, not a few months at a time. We keep doing that. It was 3 months ago that we just extended it for 3 months.

Seniors and individuals with disabilities need to have security. They need to know and have peace of mind that these important provisions are going to be there for the long term. And States need stability and certainty in order to fully implement these efforts.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), a valuable member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Republican leader of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1839, which extends the important Medicaid Money Follows the Person program until September.

The Medicaid Money Follows the Person program allows certain Medicaid beneficiaries, such as the elderly or individuals with disabilities, to transition from a healthcare facility to receiving care in their own homes. It does not force patients to leave a facility if they don't want to.

Since the Money Follows the Person program was created over a decade ago, it has successfully helped over 88,000 individuals receive care in their own homes.

I have worked with Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL on the bipartisan EMPOWER Care Act, which extends the Medicaid Money Follows the Person program for 5 years.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1839 to extend the program until September, and I will continue to work with Congresswoman DINGELL to get the EMPOWER Act across the finish line.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, H.R. 1839. I really thank all the Members who put their heart and soul into their pieces of legislation. I thank the staff of the Energy and Commerce Committee, both Democratic and Republican, who have come together to work to plug a hole, to fill in the cracks, and to make sure that services continue, that value is given, and that healthcare puts our patients first, our kids first, so that we can give them the appropriate care that they deserve, no matter where they are from or whether or not they can afford it.

This is why I am so humbled to carry the water on this bill. On behalf of myself, my staff, and my office, I thank everybody involved in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bipartisan bill, H.R. 1839, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill, and I urge all Members to support it.

Once again, I want to single out and thank J.P. Paluskiewicz and Caleb Graff for really moving heaven and earth to get this to the floor so that these valuable programs do not lapse.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 1839, the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019.

This bill would extend programs that help seniors and people with disabilities live in the community, rather than institutions. It would extend the authorization of the Excellence in Mental Health demonstration so that none of the participating states run out of critical funds. It would authorize additional program integrity measures in the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program and in other areas of the Medicaid program. Finally, it would provide states with the

option to provide coordinated care for children with medically complex conditions.

As representatives of Americans from all corners of our country, we have a responsibility to protect and enhance Medicaid, a vital safety net program that finances the delivery of care to 69 million people in this country. Without this program, the quality and access of healthcare for our most vulnerable populations will be at risk. We must ensure that future generations are able to receive the necessary health benefits to live full and prosperous lives.

On behalf of the over four and a half million Medicaid beneficiaries in my home state of Texas, I am proud to support the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1839, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOWENTHAL) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1616, by the yeas and nays; and H.R. 1839, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, any remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

EUROPEAN ENERGY SECURITY AND DIVERSIFICATION ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfin-

ished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1616) to prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage countries in Central and Eastern Europe to diversify their energy sources and supply routes, increase Europe's energy security, and help the United States reach its global energy security goals, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 24, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 126]

YEAS—391

Adams	Cook	Graves (GA)
Aderholt	Cooper	Graves (LA)
Aguilar	Correa	Graves (MO)
Allred	Costa	Green (TN)
Amodei	Courtney	Green (TX)
Armstrong	Cox (CA)	Grothman
Arrington	Craig	Guest
Axne	Crawford	Guthrie
Babin	Crenshaw	Haaland
Bacon	Crist	Hagedorn
Baird	Crow	Harder (CA)
Balderson	Cuellar	Hartzler
Banks	Cummings	Hastings
Barr	Cunningham	Hayes
Barragán	Curtis	Heck
Bass	Davidson (KS)	Hern, Kevin
Beatty	Davidson (OH)	Herrera Beutler
Bera	Davis (CA)	Hice (GA)
Bergman	Davis, Rodney	Higgins (LA)
Beyer	Dean	Higgins (NY)
Bishop (GA)	DeFazio	Hill (AR)
Bishop (UT)	DeGette	Hill (CA)
Blumenauer	DeLauro	Himes
Blunt Rochester	DelBene	Holding
Bonamici	Delgado	Hollingsworth
Bost	Demings	Horn, Kendra S.
Boyle, Brendan	DeSaulnier	Horsford
F.	DesJarlais	Houlahan
Brady	Deutch	Hoyer
Brindisi	Diaz-Balart	Hudson
Brooks (IN)	Dingell	Huffman
Brown (MD)	Doggett	Huizenga
Brownley (CA)	Doyle, Michael	Hunter
Buchanan	F.	Hurd (TX)
Bucshon	Duffy	Jackson Lee
Budd	Emmer	Jayapal
Burgess	Engel	Jeffries
Bustos	Escobar	Johnson (GA)
Butterfield	Eshoo	Johnson (OH)
Byrne	Espallat	Johnson (SD)
Calvert	Estes	Johnson (TX)
Carbajal	Evans	Joyce (OH)
Cárdenas	Fitzpatrick	Joyce (PA)
Carson (IN)	Fleischmann	Kaptur
Carter (GA)	Fletcher	Katko
Carter (TX)	Flores	Keating
Cartwright	Fortenberry	Kelly (IL)
Case	Foster	Kelly (MS)
Casten (IL)	Fox (NC)	Kelly (PA)
Castor (FL)	Frankel	Khanna
Castro (TX)	Fudge	Kildee
Chabot	Fulcher	Kilmer
Cheney	Gabbard	Kim
Chu, Judy	Gallagher	Kind
Ciilline	Gallego	King (IA)
Cisneros	Garamendi	King (NY)
Clark (MA)	Garcia (IL)	Kinzinger
Clarke (NY)	Garcia (TX)	Kirkpatrick
Clay	Gianforte	Krishnamoorthi
Cleaver	Gibbs	Kuster (NH)
Clyburn	Gohmert	Kustoff (TN)
Cohen	Golden	LaHood
Cole	Gomez	LaMalfa
Collins (GA)	Gonzalez (OH)	Lamb
Collins (NY)	Gonzalez (TX)	Lamborn
Comer	Gooden	Langevin
Conaway	Gottheimer	Larsen (WA)
Connolly	Granger	Larson (CT)

Latta	Panetta	Soto
Lawrence	Pappas	Spanberger
Lawson (FL)	Pascarell	Spano
Lee (CA)	Payne	Stanton
Lee (NV)	Pence	Stauber
Lesko	Perlmutter	Stefanik
Levin (CA)	Peters	Steil
Levin (MI)	Peterson	Stevens
Lewis	Phillips	Stewart
Lieu, Ted	Pingree	Stivers
Lipinski	Pocan	Suozi
Loebsock	Posey	Swalwell (CA)
Lofgren	Pressley	Takano
Long	Price (NC)	Taylor
Lowenthal	Quigley	Thompson (CA)
Lowey	Raskin	Thompson (MS)
Lucas	Ratcliffe	Thompson (PA)
Luetkemeyer	Reed	Thornberry
Lujan	Reschenthaler	Timmons
Luria	Rice (NY)	Tipton
Lynch	Richmond	Titus
Malinowski	Riggleman	Tlaib
Maloney,	Roby	Tonko
Carolyn B.	Rodgers (WA)	Torres (CA)
Maloney, Sean	Roe, David P.	Torres Small
Marchant	Rogers (AL)	(NM)
Marshall	Rogers (KY)	Trahan
Mast	Rooney (FL)	Trone
Matsui	Rose (NY)	Turner
McAdams	Rose, John W.	Underwood
McBath	Rouda	Upton
McCarthy	Rouzer	Van Drew
McCaull	Roybal-Allard	Vargas
McCollum	Ruiz	Veasey
McEachin	Ruppersberger	Vela
McGovern	Rutherford	Visclosky
McHenry	Ryan	Wagner
McKinley	Sánchez	Walberg
McNerney	Scalise	Walden
Meeks	Scanlon	Walker
Meng	Schakowsky	Walorski
Meuser	Schiff	Waltz
Miller	Schneider	Wasserman
Mitchell	Schrader	Schultz
Moolenaar	Schrier	Waters
Mooney (WV)	Schweikert	Watkins
Moore	Scott (VA)	Watson Coleman
Morelle	Scott, Austin	Weber (TX)
Moulton	Scott, David	Webster (FL)
Mucarsel-Powell	Sensenbrenner	Welch
Murphy	Serrano	Wenstrup
Nadler	Sewell (AL)	Westerman
Napolitano	Shalala	Wexton
Neal	Sherman	Wild
Neguse	Sherrill	Williams
Newhouse	Shimkus	Wilson (FL)
Norcross	Simpson	Wittman
Norman	Sires	Womack
Nunes	Slotkin	Woodall
O'Halleran	Smith (MO)	Wright
Ocasio-Cortez	Smith (NE)	Yarmuth
Olson	Smith (NJ)	Yoho
Palazzo	Smith (WA)	Young
Pallone	Smucker	Zeldin

NAYS—24

Allen	Duncan	Massie
Amash	Ferguson	McClintock
Biggs	Gaetz	Meadows
Brooks (AL)	Gosar	Palmer
Buck	Griffith	Perry
Burchett	Harris	Rice (SC)
Cline	Jordan	Roy
Cloud	Loudermilk	Steube

NOT VOTING—16

Abraham	Johnson (LA)	Sarbanes
Bilirakis	Kennedy	Speier
Davis, Danny K.	Mullin	Velázquez
Dunn	Omar	Wilson (SC)
Finkenauer	Porter	
Grijalva	Rush	

□ 1859

Messrs. CLINE, BUCK, FERGUSON, MEADOWS, DUNCAN, and BURCHETT changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. OLSON, WRIGHT, and YOHO changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage countries in Europe and Eurasia to diversify their energy sources and supply routes, increase energy security in the region, and help the United States reach its global energy security goals, and for other purposes.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. FINKENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as a result of a cancelled flight and circumstances out of my control, I was unable to cast a vote on March 25, 2019 on a bill under suspension of the rules. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on H.R. 1616.

MEDICAID SERVICES INVESTMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 1839) to amend title XIX to extend protection for Medicaid recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment, establish a State Medicaid option to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through health homes, prevent the misclassification of drugs for purposes of the Medicaid drug rebate program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7, PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 124, OPPOSING BAN ON TRANSGENDER MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

Mrs. TORRES of California, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-19) on the resolution (H. Res. 252) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 124) expressing opposition to banning service in the Armed Forces by openly transgender individuals.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CASTEN of Illinois). Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, if this unanimous consent request cannot be entertained, I urge the Speaker and the Majority Leader to immediately schedule the Born-Alive bill so we can stand up and protect the sanctity of human life, and I would ask all of us to join in that request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not been recognized for debate.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

RUSSIAN-VENEZUELAN THREAT MITIGATION ACT

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1477) to require a threat assessment and strategy to counter Russian influence in Venezuela, an assessment of foreign acquisition of CITGO assets in the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1477

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 “Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Russian Federation’s increased presence in the Western Hemisphere is of concern to the United States and our allies in the region.

(2) In December 2018, the Russian Federation sent two Tu-160 nuclear-capable bombers to Venezuela for joint exercises with the Venezuelan military. The Tu-160 can carry conventional or nuclear-tipped cruise missiles with an estimated maximum range of around 3,000 miles.

(3) Russian and Venezuelan forces took part in a joint 10-hour exercise across the

Caribbean in December 2018 with the Tu-160 nuclear-capable bombers.

(4) Nicolas Maduro and his regime have turned to the Russian Federation, one of its strongest political allies, for financial support during its current economic crisis and to counter international support for Juan Guaido.

(5) In January 2018, Russia sent contractors linked to the Wagner Group to provide security for Nicolas Maduro.

(6) Nicolas Maduro secured loans from the Russian Federation to be repaid through future oil exports, but fell behind on those payments in 2017. News reports in December 2018 suggest that Russian State oil company Rosneft has lent Venezuelan state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela (PdVSA) \$6.5 billion partly as prepayment for crude oil, \$3.1 billion of which remained outstanding as of the end of September 2018.

(7) In 2016, PdVSA secured a \$1.5 billion loan from Rosneft, and PdVSA used 49.9 percent of its shares in United States-based and Venezuelan-owned company CITGO as collateral. A Venezuelan default could lead to potential Russian ownership of United States energy infrastructure.

(8) At the conclusion of a 3-day visit to Moscow in December 2018, Maduro announced \$6 billion worth of Russian investment pledges focused on the oil and mining sectors as well as the export of 600,000 tons of Russian wheat to Venezuela to cover its 2019 needs.

SEC. 3. THREAT ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY TO COUNTER RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN VENEZUELA.

(a) **THREAT ASSESSMENT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an assessment on Russian-Venezuelan security cooperation and the potential threat such cooperation poses to the United States and countries in the Western Hemisphere.

(b) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 30 days after the submission of the threat assessment required under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to counter threats identified in such assessment from Russian-Venezuelan cooperation.

(c) **FORM.**—The threat assessment required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(d) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 4. ASSESSMENT OF FOREIGN ACQUISITION OF CITGO ASSETS IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees an assessment of the national security risks posed by potential Russian acquisition of CITGO's United States energy infrastructure holdings.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Banking of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking of the Senate.

SEC. 5. ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland

Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to believe, is an alien who is acting or has acted on behalf of the Russian Government in direct support of the Venezuelan security forces is—

- (1) inadmissible to the United States;
- (2) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and
- (3) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(b) **CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien described in subsection (a) regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is issued.

(2) **EFFECT OF REVOCATION.**—A revocation under paragraph (1) shall—

- (A) take effect immediately; and
- (B) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(c) **EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT OR FOR NATIONAL SECURITY REASONS.**—

(1) **INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.**—This section shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with—

(A) the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States; or

(B) other applicable international obligations of the United States.

(2) **NATIONAL SECURITY.**—The President may waive the application of this section to an alien if the President—

(A) determines that such a waiver is in the national interest of the United States; and

(B) transmits to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations a notice of and justification for such waiver.

(d) **TERMINATION.**—This section shall terminate on the earlier of—

(1) the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) the date on which the President certifies to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that the Government of Venezuela has returned to a democratic form of government with respect for the essential elements of representative democracy as set forth in Article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

(e) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term “Venezuelan security forces” includes the following:

- (1) The Bolivarian National Armed Forces, including the Bolivarian National Guard.
- (2) The Bolivarian National Intelligence Service.
- (3) The Bolivarian National Police.
- (4) The Bureau for Scientific, Criminal and Forensic Investigations of the Ministry of Interior, Justice, and Peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 1477, the Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1477.

I thank Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for authoring this bipartisan bill, and I am proud to bring it to the floor. I appreciate the Congresswoman's tireless leadership on Venezuela day in and day out, particularly at such a difficult moment for that country.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ has the largest Venezuelan American constituency in the country and works nonstop on behalf of her constituents in supporting the Venezuelan people.

Russia's unwavering commitment to Nicolas Maduro should not come as a surprise to any of us. This is part of Putin's larger aspirations for global reach and influence and Putin knows the importance of having a loyal Russian ally in South America.

In recent years, Russia has increased its support for the Venezuelan security forces. Just a few months ago, Russia sent two nuclear capable bombers to Venezuela for a training exercise.

Just yesterday, two Russian military aircraft landed near Caracas reportedly carrying 100 Russian troops.

This legislation responds to the increasing security relationship between the Maduro regime and the Kremlin. Specifically, it requires the State Department to provide a threat assessment of Russian influence in Venezuela and its impact on the United States and our allies in the region and a strategy for the United States to counter this threat. It also requires the President to monitor the risk of any foreign acquisition of CITGO assets in the United States.

Finally, it puts into place visa bans on individuals working on behalf of the Russian Government in direct support of the Venezuelan security forces. In short, this legislation takes a crucial step in restricting Maduro's access to financial, political, and military support from Vladimir Putin.

Congress must pass this legislation to continue to squeeze Nicolas Maduro and his repressive regime.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 14, 2019.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 1477, Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. I acknowledge that the Committee will not seek a referral of or formally consider H.R. 1477 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in H.R. 1477 which fall within your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 1477, the "Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act of 2019," that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to waive sequential referral, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act introduced by our colleagues from Florida, Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Congressman DIAZ-BALART. I also want to thank Congressman MALINOWSKI for his leadership in bringing this to the floor right now.

I am also deeply concerned about Russia's continued support for the Socialist and criminal dictatorship of Nicolas Maduro and the threat that this relationship poses to the national security of the United States and the rest of the countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Russia has invested over \$16 billion in Venezuela and has provided billions in military equipment to that murderous regime.

In December of last year Russia sent two nuclear-capable bombers to con-

duct joint exercises with the Venezuelan military. In January of this year, he sent mercenaries to help protect Maduro—this is Mr. Putin doing that. Just this last weekend, as Congressman MALINOWSKI referred to, we saw a report of about 100 additional Russian troops landing in Venezuela.

Russia continues to finance the regime through billions of dollars in investments and is directly aiding the Maduro regime's efforts to bypass U.S. sanctions. There is also a great concern over the potential acquisition of a U.S.-based oil company, CITGO, which has refineries in Corpus Christi and Lake Charles by the Russian oil company, Rosneft, which has a collateral position of about half of its equity.

The bill requires that the State Department provide Congress with an assessment of the threat that the Russia-Venezuela relationship poses to U.S. national security and a strategy to combat that threat.

The bill also requires the specific assessment of the threat posed by a potential acquisition of the oil infrastructure I referred to, CITGO, by their debtor, Russian state oil company Rosneft.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I urge all of our colleagues to join us in standing against Russia's continued support for the Maduro regime and the threat it poses to U.S. national security.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the author of this bill.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding and for his leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee. His expertise, having been elected to Congress in November, is welcomed.

It is really wonderful to be able to join him on the floor of the House of Representatives to make sure that we continue to voice our support for democracy to be restored in Venezuela and mitigate the threat that Maduro's regime poses to all of us in the Western Hemisphere.

I also extend my thanks to Mr. ENGEL, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and Mr. MCCAUL, the ranking member, both of whom have really come together with the bills that were adopted earlier, and with this one, to make sure that it is demonstrated very clearly that there is no daylight in the United States when it comes to the issue of making sure that we can restore democracy to Venezuela.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Venezuela are suffering right now under the rule of a brutal despot, Nicolas Maduro. The widespread starvation, economic devastation, and public health crisis he has inflicted on his own people has been absolutely heartbreaking to witness. I

saw this tragedy up close when my colleague, Representative DONNA SHALALA, and I traveled to the Colombian-Venezuelan border earlier this month.

The stories we heard and what we saw was gut-wrenching: easily avoidable medical tragedies; blockaded humanitarian aid; and because of a lack of access to vaccines, the rampant spread of disease cured long ago. We witnessed these tragic realities firsthand.

I also hear these horrific experiences from my own friends and neighbors when I return to my hometown of Weston, affectionately known in south Florida and around the world, quite frankly, as Westonzuela.

It is no surprise that this cruel regime has very few friends. Not surprisingly, one of them is the Kremlin. That is why the Russia-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act is so urgently needed. This bill would require the State Department to provide a crucial threat assessment of Russia's influence in Venezuela.

Just this weekend, we saw media reports that more Russian military officials continue to arrive in Venezuela. According to the latest reports, planes brought in Russian cargo, advisers, and officials to train the same Venezuelan military apparatus that is keeping Maduro in power. This is just the latest attempt in a long-running push by Vladimir Putin to prop up this brutal autocrat.

In December, the Russian Federation sent two Tu-160 nuclear-capable bombers to Venezuela for joint exercises. The Tu-160 can carry conventional or nuclear-tipped cruise missiles with an estimated maximum range of around 3,000 miles. That same month, Russian and Venezuelan forces took part in a joint 10-hour exercise across the Caribbean with these Tu-160 nuclear-capable bombers.

This menacing Kremlin influence creates not only a hurdle to restoring a functioning, legitimate democracy to the people of Venezuela, but it also poses an imminent military threat to the entire Western Hemisphere. We not only need a detailed assessment of what kind of threat this poses but a strategy for dealing with it. Under this bill, the State Department would be required to deliver both essential diplomatic tools to Congress.

Our goal, regardless of party, is to allow for the peaceful transition to Venezuela's rightful leader, interim President Juan Guaido, and for the peaceful execution of free and fair elections. That will not happen soon enough, so long as Putin troops are helping prop up Maduro's bloody regime.

Another invaluable crutch the Kremlin has handed Maduro is pipelined through the embattled nation's oil supply. As his people suffer and protest all around him, Maduro survives inside an oil-soaked cocoon that the Russian Federation provides to his regime.

Maduro secures these lifeline loans by promising to repay the Russians with future oil exports. But amid Venezuela's economic crisis, Maduro, not surprisingly, fell behind on those payments, reports indicate, beginning in 2017. News reports suggest that the Russian state oil company Rosneft lent the Venezuelan state oil company billions of dollars, partly as a prepayment for its crude oil.

Those oily tentacles are another reason why the Russia-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act is so vital. This bill would also require the President to give Congress an assessment of the security risks posed by any potential Russian acquisition of the U.S. energy infrastructure holdings of CITGO, which is owned by Venezuela. By monitoring the CITGO acquisition risks, we monitor one of Maduro's vital veins of sustenance.

Finally, what this bill would also do is allow the United States to use the diplomatic tools of travel to discourage further Russian-Venezuelan military entanglements. It would block travel to the United States by anyone who is acting or has acted on behalf of the Russian Government in direct support of the Venezuelan security forces.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, except in rare circumstances, this bill would allow for a ban and immediate revocation of visas from anyone working on behalf of the Russian Government to directly bolster the Venezuelan security forces.

Right now, the people of Venezuela are enduring an unimaginable onslaught of hunger, preventable medical dangers, and dire escalating economic pain. We cannot stand idly by while Putin assists Maduro in carrying out this inhumane and barbaric tragedy.

The Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act will make it harder for the Kremlin to outfit Maduro with weapons of oppression. This bill will also allow the United States to monitor and minimize the threat that Russia poses to the entire region.

Restoring democracy to Venezuela will not happen overnight. No single action alone could bring it about. But combined with the strong humanitarian aid and military export bills my colleagues have crafted that have passed on the floor tonight, the Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act will provide part of the comprehensive solution this all-encompassing tragedy needs.

The Venezuelan people, including my friends and neighbors back home, desperately need this relief.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard real stories of neighbors and friends standing in front of me, describing the Maduro regime's confiscation of their businesses, just coming in one day and taking over everything. They have wrought devastation

across that land. Venezuela was once a vibrant, rich, successful democracy that he has driven into the ground for his own enrichment.

We can help bring this to an end through bills like the Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their support of this critical legislation.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would once again like to thank my colleagues for the three bipartisan bills on Venezuela that have been considered by this House today.

This is one issue where all Members of Congress, regardless of party or background, should stand together with the people of Venezuela and support interim President Guaido's efforts to bring free and fair elections to the country.

The criminal socialist dictatorship of Nicolas Maduro has driven Venezuela to ruin. He is clinging to power by repressing the people of Venezuela while surrounding himself with foreign forces from Cuba and Russia.

Millions of Venezuelans have fled the dangerous and deteriorating circumstances at home, as Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ mentioned about Weston. We also know about other places in west Miami where the Venezuelans, fortunately, are adding value to our economy now.

They have created burdens and instability far beyond Venezuela's border. The average Venezuelan has lost 20 kilos in the last 2 years. These people are starving to death under a repression that hasn't been seen since Ceausescu's Romania or Stalin's Russia.

Congress should support the administration's efforts to bring democracy and prosperity back to Venezuela, and these bills demonstrate our support for the values of freedom and liberty that the Venezuelan people desire and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 1477, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to thank Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for authoring this important legislation and for her leadership on behalf of the Venezuelan people.

As we all know, Vladimir Putin is seeking to expand Russia's nefarious influence in many parts of the world, always against democracy, always in opposition to the idea that ordinary people have the right to stand up for human rights and against corruption, including in Venezuela.

This is the struggle of our time. This legislation makes it clear that we stand united with our allies in Latin America and across the world in rejecting the Kremlin's support for the corrupt Maduro regime.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1477, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE WORK OF TUBERCULOSIS SURVIVOR KATE O'BRIEN

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great work of tuberculosis survivor Kate O'Brien.

Kate visited my office in Newark earlier this month, along with the staff from the Global Tuberculosis Institute of Rutgers University. She shared with me her inspiring story about surviving TB and the need for global and domestic TB funding.

Tuberculosis is a curable, airborne infection that kills more people worldwide than any other infectious disease. It is the leading killer of people with HIV worldwide.

Tuberculosis is also a problem here in the United States. In 2016, the disease was reported in each of the 50 States, with more than 9,000 cases reported across the country that year.

Though it is curable, TB has a huge economic impact. In my State of New Jersey, TB costs the economy \$5.7 million a year.

We have made tremendous progress to combat TB here in the United States. Because of the work of advocates and survivors like Kate O'Brien, we can raise awareness about tuberculosis, increase funding for research and treatment, and save lives at home and abroad.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST ROSS MCGINNIS ON NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR 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. Mr. Speaker, today is National Medal of Honor Day, when this Nation recalls the sacrifice and heroics of all Medal of Honor recipients.

Over 150 years ago, on March 25, 1863, the first Medals of Honor were presented. In 1990, Congress designated March 25 as National Medal of Honor Day. The Medal of Honor is the highest military honor our Nation can bestow.

In 2016, I was able to recognize one of Pennsylvania's very own Medal of

Honor recipients, the late Army Specialist Ross McGinnis. The post office in Knox, Clarion County, is named for Specialist McGinnis, who died in December 2006 in Iraq.

While on patrol in eastern Baghdad on December 4, 2006, an unidentified insurgent positioned on a nearby rooftop threw a grenade into a Humvee carrying McGinnis and other troops. Specialist McGinnis threw his body on top of the grenade, saving the lives of his fellow soldiers.

He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I salute all our Medal of Honor recipients.

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HONORING ROBERT McDANIEL

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the city of Fort Worth said good-bye to its last surviving member of the World War II Tuskegee Airmen, Robert T. McDaniel.

Born in Fort Worth, Mr. McDaniel was a proud graduate of Fort Worth ISD, where he excelled as a student. In 1940, he finished as class president and valedictorian at the venerable I.M. Terrell High School.

At a time when the military was still segregated and Black men were not welcomed in the service, Mr. McDaniel became a member of the first class of African American bombardiers in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was part of a group of skilled Black airmen who flew combat aircraft in World War II.

After serving his country, Mr. McDaniel returned to Fort Worth to teach at I.M. Terrell and later became a principal and a counselor. In this role, he worked to inspire a generation of leaders in Fort Worth's Black community that is countless.

As many of his friends will tell you, Mr. McDaniel never boasted about his military service, and only a few people knew about his service to the Nation as a Tuskegee Airman.

I know that we are going to miss Mr. McDaniel.

I also wanted to touch on the fact that I will never forget when his wife, Hester, died. They were married for 55 years, and they were an institution in the Black community in Fort Worth. Everybody knew them. They were just a lovely couple. He was so sad when she passed away. They were always at each other's side.

While we will miss Mr. McDaniel, we know that he is happy to be reunited with his wife, Hester McDaniel.

My deepest condolences go out to his family and his friends as we reflect on the trails that he blazed and his deep commitment to our country.

RECOGNIZING BEN DAVIS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the Boy Scout motto is "Be Prepared." All Scouts say it, but very few live it. A young Scout from Sugar Land, Texas, lived it. His name is Ben Davis.

On July 2, 2018, Ben hears faint cries. He is horrified when he finds the source: an 87-year-old neighbor lying in her yard. She had fallen doing yard work. She had been lying in the hot Texas July sun for hours. She was dying.

Being a prepared Boy Scout, Ben knew exactly what to do: go into the woman's house, call 911. And that is exactly what Ben did. Ben stayed with his neighbor until help arrived.

Ben Davis is the best in Sugar Land, in Fort Bend County, in Texas, and in America. He is a prepared Boy Scout hero.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month, where we recognize women who are living today, making a difference in America.

I want to recognize a Detroit woman, Adrienne Bennett, who was the first Black female master plumber in the United States of America. She had already broken barriers and made history, and her impact only continues to soar in her position as the CEO of her own company.

This month and every month, we must stand up and lift up women all across this country, ensuring our laws and policies empower and protect all women.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as co-chair of the Women's Caucus and join women all over this country as we step up and ensure that this country, for the girls and young women coming behind us, is one of respect, one of equality, and one of opportunities.

HONORING NATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS AWARD

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, Jessica and Brandon Batten of Johnston County, North Carolina, have received the distinct honor of being selected as the 2019 National Outstanding Young Farmers of the Year. No couple is more deserving of this award than Jessica and Brandon.

Brandon has been farming his entire life. He is a sixth-generation farmer and the third generation of his family's operation Triple B Farms, Incorporated, where he and his family

produce tobacco, wheat, rye, soybeans, corn, and hay, along with beef cattle. His wife, Jessica, is an environmental engineer, providing innovative conservation plans to help increase farm productivity.

Not only are the Battens helping to produce our food supply, they are also very active members of their community. Brandon is a first responder for Strickland's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, and both are active in their church.

During a time when North Carolina's farm families have been facing a great deal of uncertainty, Brandon has been a strong advocate for his occupation through various farm organizations as well as the promotion of research and technological advancements in agriculture to help the industry remain strong.

Mr. Speaker, these are two great young Americans who deserve to have their hard work and efforts rewarded, and I congratulate them on being selected for this very distinguished recognition.

WHEN WOMEN SUCCEED, AMERICA SUCCEEDS

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I come today to the floor to salute women, living legends, women who are focused and determined and hopeful and empowered—not just one, but a roll call from my district:

Karen Morrison, Ohio Health; Trudy Bartley, The Ohio State University; Stephanie Hightower, the Urban League; Kathy Espy, Mount Carmel; Yvette McGee Brown, Jones Day law firm; the Women's Fund; the YWCA, with Christie Angel; Go Red for Women; Delta Sigma Theta; The Links, Incorporated; the Matriarch; Barbara Benham, Huntington Bank; Dawn Tyler Lee, the mayor's office; Emilia Sykes, Ohio House Democratic leader;

Our judges, African American women elected to the courts: Jaiza Page, Laurel Beatty Blunt, Monica Hawkins, Kimberly Browne, Terri Jamison. And the list goes on and on: Jennifer Brunner, judge; and, yes, the Ohio Supreme Court, Melody Stewart.

Today I stand here and I say thank you to Jo Ann Davidson, the first female Speaker in Ohio; Colleen Marshall, reporting it every day on the news; and so many more.

Today I join women on this floor because we salute women. Women make a difference. But most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we know when women succeed, America succeeds.

MOTORCYCLE PROFILING

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Motorcycle

Caucus, I am committed to advocating for riders both on and off the road.

This week, Congressman TIM WALBERG and I will reintroduce a resolution highlighting motorcycle profiling. This resolution recognizes motorcyclists' importance to their communities and promotes collaboration between motorcyclists and law enforcement.

We introduced this resolution in a previous Congress, and its Senate companion was passed in December of last year.

Mr. Speaker, more than 27 million Americans are estimated to operate a motorcycle, annually, representing 9 percent of the population, yet motorcyclists account for a significant portion of road accidents and road injuries. That is why I co-chair the Congressional Motorcycle Caucus: to support riders through education and awareness.

Together, we can make travel safer for all motorists in general and motorcyclists in particular. This first week of spring, I look forward to continued engagement on motorcycle safety and awareness.

Remember: Share the road.

NATO'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during this Women's History Month, I rise to recognize the life of Madeleine Jana Korbel Albright, the first female U.S. Secretary of State, serving from 1997 to 2001, who has dedicated the best years of her life to defending liberty.

Concurrently, it is my honor to commemorate the 70th anniversary of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This historic alliance emerged out of the ashes of the bloodiest conflict humankind has ever known: World War II.

It is thanks to NATO that the free world defeated Soviet Russia's tyrannical grip over Europe and expanded democracy eastward. Seventy years later, NATO remains as vital as ever to national security.

Today, Russia seeks to undermine democratic values enshrined by NATO and its member nations as Russia leads a deadly war against the freedom-loving people of Ukraine, seeks to spread corruption across Europe, and undermines democratic institutions around the world, including in our own elections.

For this reason, Congress welcomes Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General of NATO, to address a joint meeting here on April 3 to invoke the importance of America's commitment to this abiding relationship.

On the 70th anniversary, on behalf of grateful millions of Ohioans and Americans, we send a message of reassurance to our European allies: We stand together in liberty's cause.

Onward, NATO.

74TH EXPEDITIONARY FIGHTER SQUADRON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron for being awarded the Gallant Unit Citation on March 14.

An extraordinarily high honor for these pilots based at Moody Air Force Base in the First Congressional District of Georgia, this is only the fifth time ever the Gallant Unit Citation has been awarded, and the first since 2001. It was created to honor remarkable acts of heroism while engaged with an opposing foreign force on or since 9/11.

The 74th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron earned the award while they were deployed in Turkey, flying for over 10,000 hours in Syria, targeting objectives controlled by ISIS. Their efforts were critical to the elimination of ISIS from 99 percent of Iraq and Syria.

I want to thank the 74th Fighter Squadron for their hard work and sacrifices to make the entire world a safer place to live. I am also very proud to see this work recognized.

Congratulations.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month and the important role that New Hampshire has played in our proud tradition of women breaking barriers.

In 1870, 50 years before passage of the 19th Amendment, Marilla Ricker attempted to vote in New Hampshire. She was denied the ballot, but she refused to stand by and continued to attempt to vote over the coming decades.

Ms. Ricker was denied admittance to the New Hampshire Bar, but fought all the way to the State supreme court, and in 1890 became the first woman admitted to our State bar.

Women hold many firsts in elected office in New Hampshire. Dudley Dudley, the first woman on the New Hampshire Executive Council; JEANNE SHAHEEN, Governor; Beverly Hollingworth, Senate President; and Donna Sytek, Speaker of the New Hampshire House, all served together in 1999. Linda Dalianis became our first Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

In 2012, I was honored to be a member of the first ever all-female congressional delegation with Senators JEANNE SHAHEEN, Kelly Ayotte, and Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter. Now, JEANNE SHAHEEN and MAGGIE HASSAN are the only women ever in American history to serve as Governor and U.S. Senator.

For Women's History Month, I am proud of New Hampshire's contribution to advancing women.

THE MUELLER INVESTIGATION IS OVER

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my relief that this political witch hunt into the President's alleged and now disproven ties with Russia is finally over.

Most of us knew all along there was no smoking gun, including the majority of my Democrat colleagues who have been parroting these lies for more than 2 years. Now, Special Counsel Robert Mueller has all but confirmed the President's innocence, his report finding there was no evidence of collusion with Russia.

This whole thing started because the left couldn't accept that they had lost an election, and the American people have suffered through this divisive investigation as a result.

Those in Congress or in the media who perpetrated this false narrative for 2 years should be ashamed of themselves. Believe me, the American people know who you are, and they will not soon forget.

Even worse, still now the response by some—the lack of acceptance of Mr. Mueller's findings, the need to dig deeper and deeper—shows they still haven't learned a thing.

But I believe Americans will accept this truth, as most have all along. I pray that we as a people can now finally begin to move on from this disgraceful chapter in American history.

□ 1945

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues on the Women's Caucus in celebrating Women's History Month.

I am very fortunate to come from New York State, the birthplace of the women's rights movement in Seneca Falls, and a State that has given many great women leaders to this country, such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Bella Abzug, Geraldine Ferraro, and Shirley Chisholm.

But the truth is that many women who have made extraordinary contributions to our country are largely left out of the telling of our Nation's history. That is why I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation this week to establish a Smithsonian Women's History Museum in Washington, D.C., and I hope that all my colleagues will join me in this goal.

It comes down to a basic question: How can we empower women if we do not even recognize them? There is not one comprehensive women's museum anywhere in the United States of America. The U.S. needs and deserves a women's history museum that will inspire men and women of all ages for future generations during Women's History Month and all through the year. It

is important. I hope we can make it happen in this Congress.

OPPOSING GREEN NEW DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include materials on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lead a Western Caucus Special Order to voice our vehement opposition to the Green New Deal before it is put out of its misery by a vote in the U.S. Senate later this week.

With an estimated price tag of \$93 trillion over the first 10 years, the Green New Deal costs more than four times the U.S. public debt. The Green New Deal is a Soviet-style takeover of our entire economy that will radically transform America into a country that will be very bleak and unrecognizable from the country that we know and love today.

The proponents of the Green New Deal like to make it out to be a program to improve our environment, but in reality, it is just a socialist experiment on a grand scale.

Included in the Green New Deal is a job guarantee, even if you don't want to work; a housing guarantee; a healthcare guarantee; and an education guarantee. The cost of these guarantees will put a major burden on the American taxpayer, with the healthcare guarantee alone costing taxpayers \$32 trillion in the first 10 years.

None of these guarantees have anything to do with improving our environment but, rather, are socialist talking points dating back centuries. In fact, only 15 percent of the estimated cost of the Green New Deal applies to the environment.

Pair this additional tax burden with the cost of complying with all the new one-size-fits-all regulations included in the Green New Deal, which is estimated to cost \$650,000 per household over 10 years, and the annually disposable income for an average household just vanishes.

In total, Americans will have to spend \$155.5 billion to replace furnaces, \$11.9 billion to replace gas dryers, \$50 billion to replace water heaters, and \$26 billion to replace stoves.

In the words of Michael Zehr from the Consumer Energy Alliance: "American consumers need practical energy solutions that come from our Nation's existing mix of affordable energy re-

sources. As it stands, the Green New Deal does not offer cost-efficient or sustainable solutions for hardworking families and businesses across our country."

The Green New Deal is a job killer. The Green New Deal would eliminate 10.3 million jobs in the oil and gas industry, 600,000 jobs in the aviation industry, 1.4 million hydroelectric jobs, 100,000 jobs in nuclear energy, and 50,000 jobs in coal.

Mr. Speaker, while it is important to point out the most obvious and radical policies of the Green New Deal, such as the elimination of conventional energy sources and industries, there are several other policy consequences that should be highlighted.

Mr. Speaker, did you know that, according to the think tank Data Progress, the Green New Deal will reinstate the Obama administration's WOTUS, the waters of the U.S., and the so-called Clean Power Plan rules as part of this terrible policy? These two burdensome regulations in and of themselves did more to strip Americans of their property rights and shackle baseload power than any other regulations before them. Data Progress also reports that the Green New Deal will ban plastic straws and ban hydraulic fracturing.

The democratic socialists pushing the Green New Deal want to get rid of all energy sources except wind, solar, and batteries by 2030. How are we going to do that when wind and solar only produced 7.6 percent of our electricity in 2017? How are we going to domestically produce the critical minerals needed for this endeavor and renewables when democratic socialists and extreme environmentalists vehemently oppose mining?

As for America's farmers, the Green New Deal would also reduce current farming practices and land use by 70 percent by 2050 and ban groundwater irrigation by large-scale agribusiness. For many of my colleagues, that means unemployment for many and a significantly decreased standard of living for all. How are we going to feed ourselves? How are we going to feed the world?

When it comes to the Green New Deal, I think all of us must ask ourselves a simple question: Are we so arrogant to think that Washington, D.C., should control and dictate every aspect of the lives of the American people? My answer to that question is emphatically no. No, we should not. And, no, we will not allow the flawed policies of the Green New Deal to be adopted.

Renewables are playing, and will continue to play, an important role in our energy future, but they cannot exclusively be relied upon to provide all our energy and electrical needs.

Let's deal in reality and put an end to the socialist Green New Deal once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Arizona for yielding.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in strong opposition to H. Res. 109, the Green New Deal. This resolution is nothing short of a socialistic takeover of our energy, our transportation, and our agricultural industries that aims to change every single aspect of our lives, including how Americans eat, travel, stay warm, build their homes, and even what jobs we take.

As a fiscal conservative, I believe that the Green New Deal is entirely irresponsible. Recently, our national debt exceeded \$22 trillion, and we have no realistic plan for paying that off. The Green New Deal would add trillions more to our debt, while simultaneously destroying the American economy.

It would also transfer tremendous costs onto the taxpayers, a total of \$93 trillion over 10 years. For example, every home and every building would need to be retrofitted at the cost of \$2.5 trillion over the next decade.

Additionally, the Green New Deal's stated goal is to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in that same timeframe, which will cost the taxpayer \$11 trillion. Our current tax base could not support this catastrophic level of new spending. Therefore, taxes will need to be raised on every single American and business, inflicting massive damage on our economy due to the loss in take-home pay for the average family and resulting in job losses in the private sector.

Proponents of the Green New Deal also want to see all our American power come from wind or solar or batteries. This is completely unsustainable, currently, and will lead to blackouts, a dwindling food supply, and an all-out assault on private property rights.

The Green New Deal also contains no plan on what we will do with all the refuse and the trash that will be resulting from the millions of appliances, batteries, and buildings that need to be replaced or retrofitted.

This proposal, as grand in its scope as it is absent in its specifics, betrays a shocking naivete and a total absence of understanding of basic economic principles or even of our electric grid and infrastructure.

Most importantly, the authors of this proposal fail to appreciate the love of liberty and freedom that the American people share. Americans will never stand for such a radical, socialistic restructuring of our economy, and it must be strongly and emphatically rejected.

Over the last century, we have seen socialist governments around the world make the same empty promises of unlimited peace and prosperity if only their citizens would just relinquish control of their affairs and give up their freedoms and liberty to an overbearing government. The result has inevitably been the same: barren fields, crumbling infrastructure, broken economies, oppressed peoples, and, eventually, fleeing populations, as we

have seen firsthand in Venezuela, Cuba, the Soviet Union, and many other failed socialistic states.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL). The gentleman represents many agricultural producers whose livelihoods are greatly threatened by this legislation.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I had a young family in my office this morning, a wonderful, nice-looking 11-year-old boy who was in my office today with his dad, his mom, and several other people from southwest Kansas. He looked at me and he said: Congressman MARSHALL, will I be able to run cattle when I get older? My great-grandfather ran cattle; my grandfather ran cattle; my daddy ran cattle; and I would like to run cattle someday, but this Green New Deal scares me.

He said: Will the Green New Deal keep me from running cattle?

I had to say: Unfortunately, yes, it would.

The Green New Deal would be the end of agriculture as we know it in Kansas. Agriculture makes up 40 percent of the economy of Kansas. For all practical purposes, it would be the end of the Kansas economy.

Another large part of our economy is oil and gas, and the Green New Deal would be the end of that.

I always try to think about the impact of something like the Green New Deal. First of all, it would triple your taxes. I think that would be well proven. But I always am especially concerned for that young family, maybe that family that I delivered 5 or 10 or 15 years ago, and they have two or three kids at home. How would the new Green New Deal impact them? First of all, their grocery bill is going to double or triple, I suppose. They would have to replace all the appliances in their home. Their utility bill is going to go up.

Then I think about the price of gas. I always noticed in my obstetrical practice that whenever the price of gasoline got about \$3 a gallon, women would suddenly ask: Do we have to come back this often? Quite a few of my patients live 60 or 90 miles from me, and it was quite a challenge to come visit us. When the price of gasoline got about \$3 a gallon, they didn't want to come quite as often.

I can't help but think what the Green New Deal would do to the cost of gasoline, if there is such a thing. I suppose we would all be driving electric cars.

Where I am from, I only wish that we could hop on a train and take public transportation, but there are just not enough trains to go around in Kansas. We are lucky to have roads in most places where we live, so public transportation just isn't an option.

All that being said, Mr. Speaker, I think, like the gentleman from Arizona, I want to leave this country and I want to leave the State of Kansas

cleaner than I found it. I am so proud that Kansas waters and Kansas air are cleaner today than when I was growing up. I am very proud of that. I want to keep going in that direction.

I am very proud that the carbon imprint from the United States is less today than it was in 2004, and I want to keep going in that direction. But it is my belief that innovation is what is going to drive this and keep us going in that direction.

I am so proud of what the American entrepreneurs have done in Kansas and across this country, our ability to get more natural gas and to make all of our refineries cleaner. Where we produce electricity, so many of them are 97 percent cleaner.

The issue of ecology is a worldwide problem. It is a problem that the United States cannot cure by itself. We need to be a leader and keep going in the direction we are going.

I look forward to working with folks across the aisle to come up with real solutions that will really work for this country. I think that the American innovator will do great things and that better days are ahead for America.

□ 2000

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to recognize the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP is the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee and has been a steadfast leader in opposing the Green New Deal.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) taking the lead this evening and talking about this important issue.

Look, one of the things we always need to do is learn the lessons of history, so we simply do not repeat them.

In the late 1800–1900s, communism was the new government concept that excited the elites of that particular era to the point that it was such an expansive idea, that part of the reason that Woodrow Wilson wrote his 14 points was to intellectually challenge communism and restate the significance of democracy and republican forms of government.

When communism did obviously take root in the Soviet Union and China, it was not a philosophical statement, it was simply an excuse for the good, old-fashioned dictators to tell people how to live their lives.

So as Lenin called it, it was important to have the vanguard of the proletariat, so the government would tell people how to think until people realized that the government was right in the first place.

Those are some of the parts of history that we never want to repeat again.

Now, if the Green New Deal, this toothless wish, was merely a one-and-done manifesto, then maybe that would be one thing, but my fear is, it becomes an opening salvo into the dangers that are stated when we decide that the gov-

ernment must find the solutions, the government must tell people what to think and what to do, that elites are the ones who have all the ideas; when in reality, history has shown us that solutions always come from people who were empowered to find and make decisions for themselves, and find solutions for themselves.

People need to be given options. People need to be given choices, people need to be able to chart their own destiny.

My fear is elitism enriches and empowers would-be autocrats, denigrates the roles of individuals, and those are dangerous attitudes that must be discussed and must be understood in some way.

And let's face it, some of the people—the cheerleaders for the Green New Deal—they simply don't get it.

When they live in areas where commutes, family errands are measured in blocks and subway stops, that is different from other people in America who, when they take a drive into town to buy school clothes that is going to take the entire afternoon.

It is different than people who realize that they have to make a choice between healthcare and heating their home; and that is a real responsibility for them, and a real problem.

The burdens imposed by the Green New Deal, which have been outlined by several speakers already, are those that land squarely on the shoulders of humble, hardworking Americans while the elites pat themselves on the back.

For the rural west, my State of Utah, it is not really a Green New Deal; it is, rather, a green raw deal for them to live.

Now, recently in my committee where I am the ranking member, we had an amendment that Mr. GRAVES made to one of the rules that would request an analysis of economics before any bill was considered.

Now, one of the freshmen Democrats spoke to that issue, and I want to just restate what he said. I thought what he said was profound.

He stated, I think we have to be very mindful of the people, their jobs, their ability to pay their bills, because of the changes that we make.

And this is a discussion that should always be had. We shouldn't just be speaking in the theoretical.

Now, ironically, even though I thought his words were spot on, that motion to have that policy was defeated.

Nonetheless, I recently joined other ranking members in asking Speaker PELOSI that if there was serious discussion, that unlike H.R. 1, this is going to be heard by many committees, many voices will have a chance at talking about what will actually happen.

These hearings ought to ask how this Green New Deal might impact energy prices and home prices and jobs and healthcare.

So far, those who have done the series of studies—so far they're from the

outside—the outlook looks pretty bleak on what the potential could indeed be.

There are already many complex examples of negative impacts that would happen if this was actually to become a reality.

So as stated in our plea to Speaker PELOSI, I do fear that this Green New Deal would hurt Americans struggling to make ends meet, the very people it purports to help. And worst of all, it could permanently put the American Dream out of reach for millions of people.

We need to really look very carefully at this and not just assume statements that are being made taking place. We need to learn from history and not repeat those same mistakes.

Mr. Speaker, I am appreciative of having the opportunity of being here as part of this Special Order to try and talk about some of the realities of this purported deal.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's response, and thank him.

I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH).

Mr. GRIFFITH represents the heart of Virginia coal country, an industry that would be eliminated if the Green New Deal would become law.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, you know I would like to engage in colloquies and talk about issues.

Mr. GOSAR. Sure.

Mr. GRIFFITH. And you know what is interesting about this is, I do represent a coal district, but if we shut down all of this, as we have discussed in the Green New Deal, are the Indians going to stop using coal?

Of course not.

Are the Chinese going to stop using coal?

Mr. GOSAR. No.

Mr. GRIFFITH. No. The rest of the world will continue to use these sources.

And, in fact, industries that are dependent upon our natural resources—coal, oil, natural gas—well, they will just move to the countries that will let them use it, and it will not have any effect on the environment.

But this really is not a proposal that should be taken seriously. It was clearly thrown together quickly in an attempt to get some press; and, unfortunately, 100 Members of the body decided to sign on to it.

But when you read it, you know it is not there. We have heard all the things that could happen if we take a watered-down version of the Green New Deal. But if we pass the Green New Deal and we actually do what it says, and you read the words, it says, remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. It doesn't say, reduce. It doesn't say, remove hazardous greenhouse gases.

So, I would ask my friend who holds a degree in the science field, and with whom we have lots of discussion about

science on the floor and at various meetings; what happens if we eliminate the greenhouse gases of water vapor and carbon dioxide; eliminate them, remove them, as the Green New Deal calls for?

What happens if that occurs?

Mr. GOSAR. Well, photosynthesis; this is the key component of cellular growth in plants. They take carbon dioxide; they take dirty water; they have sunlight, and it produces oxygen and clean water. That is what we actually get with photosynthesis.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, and if you eliminate carbon dioxide—the gentleman is correct—we won't have any plants. If we don't have any plants, oxygen plummets in the atmosphere.

And as I told a group of high school students recently, and you know what that means for us?

And all, if not most, life forms that currently rely on either carbon dioxide or oxygen will die and all that will be left are the life forms, the microbial life forms that live near hot vents in the ocean or the edges of volcanoes, because they don't rely on that. The rest of life would be wiped out.

Now, I know that is not what the Democrats meant when they introduced this, but isn't that the scientific conclusion of removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere; not reducing, removing? Isn't that correct?

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, it absolutely would be correct.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, and so while I know they weren't thinking about it or they probably didn't mean to go that far, it shows you that even if we modified it, it won't work for the people.

Jobs would be eliminated, jobs will be cut, and we really won't have any impact on the environment unless we go the full bore, in which case, we no longer have air to breathe and we won't have to worry about the global temperature in 20 years or 30 years or 40 years, because none of us will be here.

And it is just fascinating to me how they can get the science so messed up and, yet, lecture to us about the science.

Mr. GOSAR. Absolutely.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. In fact, the gentleman brings up a great point.

There is an article by Michael Shellenberger and it is, "Why Renewables Can't Save the Planet." In this discussion—it is a wonderful article; it is in Quillette—he talks about renewable energy, particularly solar and wind.

They are low density. They don't have what they call basal power. They only produce when the sun is shining and when the wind is blowing. So you need batteries. And as he states so eloquently here, the new renaissance for batteries isn't coming any time soon.

In fact, we see many of the same people who propose the Green New Deal are obstinate in trying to allow mining

for these critical and rare earths that are required for battery development.

In fact, over 90 percent of the world's market for critical minerals—or these rare earths—are dictated by China. So they are not going to come any time soon.

And then, let's talk about the ecological damage.

In fact, wind is the largest destroyer of large birds.

Now, small, little birds, cats will take care of, but what ends up happening, raptors—like condors and eagles and hawks—are the ones who are killed most often by these big rotary blades or turbines that turn. These are the birds that are most at peril right now in our world.

So once again, we are dooming the future because we are predominating selection to the government, and that is a sad thing.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Will the gentleman yield for a second?

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman may recall, I am a bird-watcher.

Mr. GOSAR. Yes, the gentleman is.

Mr. GRIFFITH. So when the gentleman started talking about birds, I came back to the mike.

We hope science will solve these problems, and that is why we need to have more research and development on all of this.

Instead of saying, stop everything, we need to do research and development. But isn't there also a problem today with solar and some of the larger solar arrays that they actually fry birds as they fly; whether it be large birds or small birds?

Mr. GOSAR. Absolutely.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Because the birds don't see the heat, and they fly into it, and they are fried to a crackly crunch.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, that is exactly right.

Mr. GRIFFITH. And so there are lots of things we need to worry about in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman bringing that up today, because what we want to do is have a balanced approach.

We want renewables. We want all of the above. But we also have to make sure that we are not throwing the baby out with the bathwater, and in the end, killing off our large predator birds or killing birds with technologies that are not quite ready for prime time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is absolutely right. The renewables are very important, because what it allows us to do is take this wonderful wealth that we have of coal and nuclear and oil and gas and hydro, and really extend it into the future, where the best way that we can have an impact on this world is our democracy, our republic, our way of entrepreneurially changing things; not having dictations coming by the Federal Government. It is the entrepreneurial spirit of individuals.

So it is a wonderful aspect to use all the above. And I think that is what everybody would like to see.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Hear, hear, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that we are working on some technology right now that allows us to extract rare earth minerals out of some of our coal deposits to the United States and be able to take some of that business away from the Chinese and bring it back to the United States.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is exactly right.

Mr. Speaker, in fact, the gentleman is very astute in regard to the overburden area, where many of these rare earths can be extracted; so we are not dependent upon the whims and wiles of the Chinese Government.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I just have to bring this up: I was meeting with some folks at Virginia Tech recently who are working on this very area. And as a part of the spinoff of the research and the technology they are doing to refine it and to try to get the other minerals out, they have also found a way of using that same technology to improve the steel industry. And they are now licensing some steel companies in India, which would lower their carbon footprint.

So we have the research into coal that is now going to help the steel industry in an area that doesn't have anywhere near the regulations we have to lower their carbon footprint.

This is the way we should be going in the United States: Use our entrepreneurial spirit; use our research; put some Federal money behind that research, but use our research to find ways to make the environment, worldwide, better instead of proclaiming broad edicts that we are not going to have cows in 10 years, or we are not going to do this in 10 years.

Instead, let's let our research and our entrepreneurial spirit and our ingenuity solve these problems for us and the world.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman also brings to my mind another opportunity that we actually see where the pulverization of coal is then injected into spaces within oil; we get a 50 percent additional better burn and a cleaner burn at that.

So once again, the technology is there for all these abundances of wealth that we have in the energy sector.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Absolutely.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

You know, when the gentleman talks about rare earths, they sit all over our western frontier.

□ 2015

In fact, in Arizona, they line our deserts.

These are geos, and typically, in the past, to extract those rare earths that are required for these batteries for solar and wind, it is very caustic by

utilizing high concentrations of sulfuric acid. But we have got the entrepreneurial spirit of people back in Arizona who are using high concentrations of citric acids, like from limes and lemons, and actually extracting the same rare earths in that aspect.

Once again, the power of those entrepreneurial individuals out there in America are the ones who are changing the dynamics of the way our energy portfolio looks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) for some additional comments.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity of speaking one more time here especially because this is such a significant issue that you are addressing to the people and because, as leader of the Congressional Western Caucus, you have held a whole lot of forums to discuss the implications of what could be there.

So in one of the last forums, we had policy think tanks and industry and conservation groups that were there testifying. I was struck by the comments of Thomas Pyle, president of the American Energy Alliance, when he said: "For nearly a decade now, the United States, long blessed with vast natural resources, has benefited from the greatest energy expansion in the history of the world. Our energy producers have delivered the low-cost, affordable, and reliable energy that has fueled economic growth and opportunity for all Americans, no matter their race, sex, creed, or color."

Now, it is interesting, as we talk about this concept, that, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, by 2020 the United States will become a net exporter of energy for the first time since 1953. That means no longer are we going to be reliant upon questionable foreign powers like Russia or Saudi Arabia for our energy.

Even the concepts that we have developed, the fracking and horizontal drilling, those concepts have allowed us not only to expand what we are doing, but also have allowed us to have a carbon emission reduction at the same time. We were the world leader in carbon reduction in 2015, 2016, and 2017, and we are still on that same track again.

In fact, one of the things I find unique about the Green New Deal is it fails to realize that, because of what we have been able to do in oil and natural gas, energy prices are down for those who are most vulnerable in our society. We can afford to cook our food and heat our homes better than ever before.

And while this production has risen significantly, methane emissions have decreased at the same time. In fact, the EPA reported that U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are already down 10 percent in the last 10 years.

So while the Green New Deal has every potential of destroying jobs for millions of people, it still also ignores other alternatives for green energy. For example, it says absolutely nothing about nuclear or hydropower.

Let's face it, 10 percent of our energy today stills comes from hydropower, and hydropower is clean. It leaves behind no waste. It is considered one of the most effective ways of producing electricity. And yet it is absurd to believe that we can achieve zero net carbon emissions without dealing with nuclear or without dealing with hydropower as part of the mix. That is part of the reality that needs to be brought out here.

We have grown our economics. We have cleaned our environment. We have lowered the cost of living for so many people.

We should not denigrate everything that the current system is already doing that for some people, for some elitists, they simply want to try to ignore that and ignore the fact that, if we want to continue on this path, what we need to do is empower people to be able to come up with solutions on their own. It is not going to happen by the government telling people how to live and what to think. We need to empower people, not empower the government.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the opportunity of expressing that idea again.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I want to engage the gentleman in a colloquy.

The gentleman and I went on a codel over to Europe. We saw Germany, Lithuania, and Norway. We saw the power of the influence that our energy can actually provide, particularly in Lithuania.

Can the gentleman highlight that for us?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, one of the problems that Baltic countries have—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—is they are right next-door to the monolith Russia, that has used its energy potential to blackmail and intimidate these other countries. Even today, they have finally broken away from their oil and gas dependency on Russia. Their electrical grid is still tied to Russia.

What Lithuania was able to do is import a natural gas mobile station. They were able to get off of the Russian dependency so they could, once again, have their own resources coming in there.

Estonia does the same thing with their oil shale. They have been able to produce their own energy, which allows them to have independence and not be bullied by large countries, in this case, by Russia.

That is one of the things we are doing in what we are already doing. That is one of the futures that we are having. In fact, it is interesting that some of the countries we visited that were very proud of what they were doing with alternative energy, they always have to have a backup system.

Mr. GOSAR. That is right.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. And that backup system is based on coal. Without that, they could not guarantee baseloads that they have to have just to keep their countries going.

Mr. GOSAR. Well, the first country we visited was Germany, and they were very proud of what they were getting rid of in coal and nuclear; and yet their baseload was going to be dependent upon Russia, on Nord Stream 1 and 2—absolutely crazy. We want to be less dependent on Russia.

This whole country has gone through this whole Russia this and Russiagate that. So we want to see that dependency being more entrepreneurial, and the United States is perfectly suited for that.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I guess what the gentleman is saying is, if you want the economy to grow, if you want people to be empowered, if you want to find solutions not only to environmental issues but also energy issues, empower people to come up with that. We are actually doing that.

America's history is a history that is positive. Empower that to go forward. Don't try and stop it with some other elitist idea from the top-down theories.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I agree, absolutely.

It also extends even far into our agricultural aspects. Never before in the world have we seen less aspects of poverty. Today the lowest aspects around the world are poverty; and at the same time, we see the lowest incidence of hunger. How is that possible? It is the entrepreneurial farmer. We reproduce more than we can supply around the world.

And what do they need? They need abundant energy. They need abundant water. All of these things are plausible because, once again, it is the entrepreneur who actually solves these problems, not the government.

If the government can give all, it can take all; and it has done so, whether it be the Soviet Union, whether it be Mao's China, or whether it be the Venezuela experiment that is going dramatically wrong today. It never works because you eventually run out of everybody else's money.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, that is true.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, once again, a lot of our proponents backstab us by saying: Listen, we lack a vision.

America's energy renaissance is the backbone of our economy. We just talked about it. It is a story of freedom, prosperity, and opportunity.

After decades of reliance on other countries to meet our energy needs, the U.S. Energy Information Administration projects that America will export more energy than it imports, starting in 2020. We are no longer dependent on foreign sources like Russia and Saudi Arabia.

The innovations of technology improvements associated with fracking and horizontal drilling have allowed shale resources, previously deemed uneconomical, to be developed and are the main reason the U.S. was the world leader in carbon emissions reductions.

We have got to say it again. As Ranking Member BISHOP said, reduc-

tions in 2015, 2016, and 2017—that is right, fracking that is demonized by environmental extremists without justification, has proven to be the best energy solution for our environment.

Abundant oil and natural gas has reduced electricity bills, kept prices low, and provided the largest share of U.S. electric power generation in recent years. The oil and gas industry supports more than 10.3 million jobs and nearly 8 percent of our economy.

The United States is now the top energy producer, and the American Dream is thriving. January 2019 saw the 100th consecutive month of positive job growth in America, the longest period of continuous job growth on record. The U.S. job market is strong, and in December, employers posted 7.3 million open jobs—once again, a new record.

Members of the Congressional Western Caucus support personal responsibility and less government intervention in our daily lives and freedoms. They defend property rights and believe that private ownership of property is a fundamental right in America. Our vision encourages innovation and less burdensome mandates.

People want clean water. People want clean air, and they are striving for that. The people who depend on the land to provide security for their families and communities understand their resources the best. States and municipalities are better suited to deal with the local issues than distant, out-of-touch Washington bureaucrats.

The caucus seeks to promote access to our Nation's energy and resources potential, while pursuing a true all-of-the-above energy approach that aims to ensure that the U.S. is the global energy leader. We know how to do this best. We ought to be doing it right.

Our vision utilizes the current energy renaissance and the American energy dominance policy currently being implemented by the Trump administration in the State of Texas. Texas leads the country in wind production.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, Texas had more generating capacity than any other State last year and more installed wind power capacity than all but five countries in the world.

Once again, think that through. Texas was the fifth largest in the world in power production by wind. The country's only large clean-capture coal facility is found in Texas. The Petra Nova facility is the only carbon capture and storage coal-fired plant in the United States, and it is only one of two facilities that utilizes that technology in the world.

Once again, American entrepreneurs are at it again, making things better, making things more achievable. Coal generates baseload power that prevents rolling blackouts when renewables fall short in extreme weather. Most people don't understand that.

Alternative or intermittent power is when the wind doesn't blow and the

Sun doesn't shine. In fact, you heard President Trump at one of his speeches talk about: Hey, honey, I would like to watch television. Is the wind blowing?

If you didn't have baseload power and the wind wasn't blowing, you couldn't watch television. So what baseload is, it runs 24/7. That is called hydroelectric. That is called natural gas. That is called oil and coal. That is also nuclear, one of the largest density energy productions all around, and we, once again, could not do it without it.

According to the third quarter 2018 report from the Solar Energy Industries Association, Texas is poised to become a nationwide leader in solar energy, with more than 4 gigawatts of capacity expected to be installed over the next 5 years.

Now, think about this. Texas is the fifth largest in both solar and wind, once again, having a plethora of our baseload energy in oil and gas and coal. There are two operating nuclear power plants in Texas, and my home State of Arizona has the largest nuclear power plant.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration previously reported that Texas is among the top 10 States with the greatest nuclear power generation capacity in the country.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Western Caucus' alternative vision to the vision currently being pursued by the Trump administration and the great State of Texas are concurrent. They are opposite of the Green New Deal. That is a pipe dream. If we go down this Green New Deal path, the United States will be walking in its own green mile.

Now, Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents continue to ask me: What is actually in the Green New Deal?

Confusion has arisen, given that it is light on details and Members ran from the summary document put out by Congresswoman OCASIO-CORTEZ' office.

One significant piece of information that my constituents asked me about is whether the Green New Deal includes a jobs guarantee for everyone in the United States, including those who are unwilling to work.

As part of the frequently asked questions document that was released with legislation, it was stated that economic security would be provided for those who "are unwilling to work." Many of my constituents just can't believe that that is actually in there and an objective of the people pushing the Green New Deal.

Staff have since retracted Representative OCASIO-CORTEZ' frequently asked questions document.

But the message I hope the American people hear is: We know the motives behind the Green New Deal and we know how its proponents plan to carry out its objectives. From ending airplane travel to shuttering down all nuclear power, hydropower, and even getting rid of all natural gas, some people, unfortunately, on the other side of the aisle are threatening our way of life and the American economy.

□ 2030

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the links for the two most frequently asked questions documents, which I have in my hand, that were released by Congresswoman OCASIO-CORTEZ's office to the press and posted on her website.

The first link is: https://westerncaucus.house.gov/uploadedfiles/green-new-deal-faq_provided_to_npr_v2.pdf

The second link is: <https://web.archive.org/web/20190207191119/https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/media/blog-posts/green-new-deal-faq>

Mr. Speaker, I want to focus on how the Green New Deal will affect our agriculture industry. It has been the lifeblood of our rural communities the Western Caucus represents, and the Green New Deal stands to decimate it. The Green New Deal is nothing short of an all-out attack on agriculture by the socialist left.

Reading directly from the text of the bill, the Green New Deal seeks to eliminate "pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector as much as is technologically feasible."

We had a nice conversation with my friend from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH). The agriculture industry supports more than 21 million jobs, 11 percent of the U.S. jobs, according to the Farm Bureau. Representative OCASIO-CORTEZ has attacked agriculture, cows, hamburgers, and factory farming in pushing the Green New Deal. In fact, in the fact sheet released by her office, it mentions a desire to get rid of farting cows.

OCASIO-CORTEZ doubled down on agriculture, cows, hamburgers, and factory farming in an interview, stating, in the Green New Deal, "what we talk about is . . . that we need to take a look at factory farming, period. It is wild. . . . Maybe we shouldn't be eating a hamburger for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. . . . We have to take a look at everything."

Well, Mr. Speaker, the last time I checked, this is a common bodily function of nearly every animal, and eliminating animals for this reason would mean an end to livestock in agriculture.

Land needed for agriculture is also under assault under the Green New Deal. In fact, when it comes to land needed for agriculture, the agriculture, energy, and transportation industries are linked because of land needed to build high-speed rail and solar wind farms.

Farmland will likely need to be seized by the Federal Government in order to build tracks for the high-speed rail and to build wind and solar farms. How does that work going across an ocean, I wonder? Sailboats. That would be fun for those in Guam and Hawaii.

The elimination of farmland in order to build these projects will cost us jobs and put our food supply in jeopardy. As I highlighted, in the world today is the lowest poverty rate, the lowest rate

ever of people going unfed. It is unbelievable.

The Green New Deal also aims to ban groundwater mining by large-scale agribusinesses, making irrigation needed to sustain this form of agriculture truly impossible.

According to the think tank Data Progress, the Green New Deal will reinstate the Obama administration's WOTUS rule. This WOTUS rule by the previous administration expanded the definition of navigable waters beyond any reasonable interpretation intended by the Clean Water Act. It attempted to assert national regulatory jurisdiction over areas with even the least of connections to water resources, including man-made conveyances.

Farmers, ranchers, and property owners suffer under this overreaching land and water grab.

WOTUS contradicts the prior Supreme Court rulings and seeks to expand agency control over 60 percent of our country's streams and millions of acres of wetlands that were previously nonjurisdictional, once again empowering the government, not the entrepreneur and not the individual.

Mr. Speaker, clearly, the Green New Deal would impose disastrous consequences on our agricultural sector. Ranchers and farmers would suffer significant harm, and private property rights would become a thing of the past. America's rural communities, where I am from, and agricultural economies, where I am also from, can't afford the Green New Deal. It should be rejected on that basis.

Mr. Speaker, many Democrats are supporting the Green New Deal, so let's take a look. While many of us laugh at some of the policies in the Green New Deal and think they are just ridiculous, we must take them seriously, given the large amount of Democratic support for the Green New Deal. In fact, the Green New Deal currently has 90 House cosponsors and 11 Senate cosponsors, including BERNIE SANDERS, KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, KAMALA HARRIS, ELIZABETH WARREN, CORY BOOKER, and AMY KLOBUCHAR.

There are 14 Democratic Presidential candidates—14 of the current—who have endorsed the Green New Deal, including Senators SANDERS, GILLIBRAND, HARRIS, WARREN, BOOKER, and KLOBUCHAR; former Representative Beto O'Rourke; Washington Governor Jay Inslee; Representative ERIC SWALWELL; Representative TULSI GABBARD; former Representative John Delaney; author Marianne Williamson; former HUD Secretary Julio Castro; and South Bend mayor Pete Buttigieg. Once again, everybody is supporting something that is not possible.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to now focus on the Green New Deal's effect and how it would affect our transportation system. The Green New Deal calls for the abolition of all gas and diesel engine vehicles and replacing them with electric vehicles, mass transit, and high-speed trains.

Once again, this would require batteries, something that is not coming very soon, particularly with the other side's obstinance in trying to stop mining for these rare earths that are required for these batteries.

In the forum that the Western Caucus held last month, we heard from several witnesses who spoke about the effects of the Green New Deal and how they would have an effect on our transportation infrastructure.

To quote Thomas Pyle: "The Green New Deal also envisions a massive build-out of high-speed rail across the country. High-speed rail, in order to reach said high speeds, must travel in a virtually straight line. In a wealthy, developed society like the United States, carving these straight lines means taking the homes and land in the path. There is just no way to even contemplate high-speed rail without sweeping use of eminent domain."

Sweeping eminent domain will be a complete infringement of the property rights of every American citizen and could easily be abused. As we have seen, certain existing high-speed light rail projects such as the bullet train project in California have turned into quagmires that have cost the taxpayers billions of dollars with no return.

One of the main modes of shipping products into our country is by boat. In fact, most of the bulk commodities imported into this country are transported by ship. The large shipping vessels are powered by—you guessed it—diesel-burning engines, which there are currently no replacements for.

Are we just going to scrap one of the main modes of transporting products into this country? If so, what are we going to replace it with?

Along the same lines of ship transportation, what implications does the Green New Deal have for air travel? One would assume it would suffer the same fate.

How would we see our colleagues from Hawaii, Mr. Speaker? For example, the dean of the House, Mr. YOUNG from Alaska, would he have to take a train all the way to Washington, D.C., from Alaska? How would that affect the water, the air, and also the critters along the way?

The airline industry employs 600,000 people. The Green New Deal would destroy these very jobs. The Green New Deal aims to get rid of all combustion engines. This means getting rid of all hotrods, classic cars, big trucks, tractors, large SUVs, and, yes, even mom's van.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. was the world leader in emissions reductions in 2015, 2016, and 2017. We discussed this earlier. This was the renaissance of oil and gas production and the clean use of that. If we allow American innovation to continue to flourish and to continue to embrace a truly all-of-the-above energy strategy, we will continue to lead the world in emissions reductions without radically changing our way of life, being provocative on how we change

the rest of the world, and we won't get rid of our classic cars.

Mr. Speaker, the Green New Deal is a proposal that should not be taken lightly. The Green New Deal would codify into law a one-size-fits-all government healthcare system, offer free college for all, and create a Federal job guarantee.

According to figures released by the American Action Forum, the Green New Deal would cost every household \$600,000 over 10 years.

The Green New Deal will implement the radical socialist utopian idea of Medicare for All, which would cost American taxpayers \$36 trillion over a 10-year period. That means it would be Medicare for no one. The cost it would impose on the taxpayers would be so unsustainable that the Medicare for All proposal, once again, would be blamed and be renamed Medicare for None.

The Green New Deal would cause harm to the American worker. This fact is even recognized by the AFL-CIO, which has come out strongly against the Green New Deal. They recognize that the only outcome of this bill is to take away good-paying jobs from their members and cause harm to their families.

The United States is currently undergoing an energy renaissance, as we talked about earlier, with natural gas leading the way. The natural gas industry has brought millions of jobs to this country and helped us reduce our carbon footprint in 3 straight years, starting in 2015.

Science shows that the Green New Deal will have a negligible impact on its stated goal of fighting climate change. In fact, the Green New Deal would actually cause climate change and emissions to worsen as energy production would leave the United States and go to countries like China and India that don't have the same environmental regulations and standards as the United States, producing more emissions in the process than if we did so cleanly and responsibly like we do here in the United States.

This legislation only stands to lower temperatures by 0.137 degrees Celsius by 2100, according to the same metrics used by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

This bill completely ignores the reality that the biggest sources of carbon dioxide are developing countries. The sponsors of the Green New Deal may say that the U.S. can become a leader

in exporting new renewable technologies in the developing world, but would a developing nation give up cheap and abundant energy in return for a more expensive form of energy, Mr. Speaker?

In fact, I quoted this Quillette article about how renewables can't fight climate change. Everyone who is engaged in a renewable-type energy sector has seen their energy portfolios go up three times—much more expensive—three times.

Mr. Speaker, the Western Caucus looks forward to contributing to the debate on this important subject, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1477, the Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act, would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 1839, the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 1839

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—													2019–2024	2010–2029
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029				
NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (–) IN THE DEFICIT															
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	32	15	16	2	5	2	–2	–6	–15	–21	–28	71	–1		
Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.															

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

434. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's interim final rule — Margin and Capital Requirements for Covered Swap Entities (RIN: 2590-AB02) received March 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

435. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption; Extension of Compliance Dates for Subpart E [Docket No.: FDA-2011-N-0921] (RIN: 0910-AH93) received March 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public

Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

436. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(i) Post Transition Table of DTV Allotments (Cookeville and Franklin, Tennessee) [MB Docket No.: 18-383] (RM-11822) received March 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

437. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period of June 1, 2018, through July 31, 2018, pursuant to Sec. 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with Sec. 1(a)(6) of Executive Order 13313; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

438. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's

temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Cumberland River, Kentucky [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0127] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

439. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Security Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0128] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received March 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

440. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of Regulated Navigation Areas, Safety Zones, Security Zones, and Special Local Regulations within District 7 [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0231] received March 15, 2019, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

441. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Navigation and Navigable Waters; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments [Docket No.: USCG-2018-1049] received March 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

442. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, Port Gibson, MS [Docket Number: USCG-2019-0126] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

443. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Oregon Inlet, Dare County, NC [Docket Number: USCG-2018-1065] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received March 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

444. A letter from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Mill Basin, Brooklyn, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2018-1032] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received March 15, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

445. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0905; Product Identifier 2018-NM-115-AD; Amendment 39-19573; AD 2019-03-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

446. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0643; Product Identifier 2018-NM-084-AD; Amendment 39-19572; AD 2019-03-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

447. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0957; Product Identifier 2018-NM-102-AD; Amendment 39-19570; AD 2019-03-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

448. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0336; Product Identifier 2017-SW-130-AD; Amendment 39-19588; AD 2019-05-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

449. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0092; Product Identifier 2019-SW-022-AD; Amendment 39-19585; AD 2019-05-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

450. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc. (MDHI), Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0991; Product Identifier 2017-SW-050-AD; Amendment 39-19586; AD 2019-05-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

451. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-1003; Product Identifier 2018-NM-133-AD; Amendment 39-19567; AD 2019-03-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

452. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0904; Product Identifier 2018-NM-108-AD; Amendment 39-19575; AD 2019-03-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

453. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Carrizo Springs, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0940; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ASW-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

454. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics (Formerly Known as Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0964; Product Identifier 2018-NM-127-AD; Amendment 39-19571; AD 2019-03-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

455. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Auburn, AL [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0987; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ASO-19] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

456. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Coushatta, LA [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0787; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ASW-12]

(RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

457. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0056; Product Identifier 2017-NE-29-AD; Amendment 39-19584; AD 2019-05-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

458. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0624; Product Identifier 2013-NE-24-AD; Amendment 39-19583; AD 2019-05-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

459. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0806; Product Identifier 2018-NM-056-AD; Amendment 39-19590; AD 2019-05-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

460. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (Embraer) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2019-0118; Product Identifier 2018-NM-143-AD; Amendment 39-19582; AD 2019-03-30] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

461. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0710; Product Identifier 2018-NM-079-AD; Amendment 39-19574; AD 2019-03-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

462. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the Secretary (OOREG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fertility Counseling and Treatment for Certain Veterans and Spouses (RIN: 2900-AP94) received March 19, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

463. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Major final regulations — Qualified Business Income Deduction [TD 9847] (RIN: 1545-B071) received March 21, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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:

Mrs. TORRES of California: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 252. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 124) expressing opposition to banning service in the Armed Forces by openly transgender individuals (Rept. 116-19). 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 Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. POSEY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. EMMER, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. MAST, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. TURNER, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. HAGEDORN):

H.R. 1854. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing, and distribution of traditional and premium cigars; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Ms. FOX of North Carolina, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. COMER, Mr. WALKER, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 1855. A bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CRIST, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HECK, Mr. CASE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. OMAR, Mr. HIMES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. DEAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WELCH, Ms. TLAI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CLAY, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 1856. A bill to provide a path to end homelessness in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in

each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MOORE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MENG, Mr. RYAN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. OMAR, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TONKO, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. WILD, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. MURPHY, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. HIMES, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. MCEACHIN):

H.R. 1857. A bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Peoples, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 1858. A bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself and Mr. BRINDISI):

H.R. 1859. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for parent savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KINZINGER (for himself, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. LONG, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H.R. 1860. A bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from regulating the rates charged for broadband internet access service; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 1861. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to conduct a study to determine the relationship between school start times and adolescent health, well-being, and performance; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. MEADOWS, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. WALKER):

H.R. 1862. A bill to abolish the Federal Insurance Office of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. KIM, Mrs.

LURIA, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Ms. DEAN, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 1863. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to provide blood testing for firefighters of the Department of Defense to determine potential exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SPEIER, and Ms. DELAURO):

H.R. 1864. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit certain practices by employers relating to restrictions on discussion of employees' and prospective employees' salary and benefit history, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr.

RUTHERFORD, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RYAN, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. COOK, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BACON, Mr. SIRES, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. EMMER, Mr. GAETZ, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KATKO, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MITCHELL, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KIND, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. BOST, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VELA, Mr. GHANFORTE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BERA, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. COMER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. POSEY, Mr. LATTI, Mr. COLE, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. STEWART, Mr. MAST, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. SABLAN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. NUNES, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. HILL of California, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. SPANO, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. BRINDISI, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mrs. MILLER, and Mr. HARDER of California):

H.R. 1865. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the opening of the National Law Enforcement Museum in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H.R. 1866. A bill to amend section 3606 of title 18, United States Code, to grant probation officers authority to arrest hostile third parties who obstruct or impede a probation officer in the performance of official duties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WILD (for herself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. HASTINGS):
H.R. 1867. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow miscellaneous itemized deductions subject to a 2-percent floor and to reinstate the overall limitation on itemized deductions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Mr. NORMAN):

H.J. Res. 53. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court be composed of not more than nine justices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. PERRY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H. Res. 253. A resolution recognizing that it is the sense of the United States House of Representatives that Socialism poses a significant threat to the freedom, liberty, and economic prosperity; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. POCAN (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. DEAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WILD, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SOTO, Mr. COLE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. BRADY, Mr. BOST, Ms. MENG, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SABLON, Mr. GUEST, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SIRE, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. HIMES, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COHEN, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. MAST, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BACON, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COMER, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. BRINDISI, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. CROW, Ms. MOORE, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. STAUBER, and Ms. LEE of California):

H. Res. 254. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of March 25 through March 29, 2019, as "Public Schools Week"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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 Ms. CASTOR of Florida:
H.R. 1854.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee:
H.R. 1855.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: the authority enumerated in Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Ms. WATERS:
H.R. 1856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 5 and Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:
H.R. 1857.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution

"The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state."

By Mr. BUDD:
H.R. 1858.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. KATKO:
H.R. 1859.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution: The Congress shall have the Power To law and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. KINZINGER:
H.R. 1860.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause) and Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Ms. LOFGREN:
H.R. 1861.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clauses 1 and 3.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:
H.R. 1862.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. NORCROSS:
H.R. 1863.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight

By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 1864.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PASCRELL:
H.R. 1865.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. PASCRELL:
H.R. 1866.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. WILD:
H.R. 1867.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sections 1, 7, and 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.J. Res. 53.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 5 of the Constitution authorizes Congress to propose amendments to the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SPEIER, and Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 33: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 35: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 40: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 55: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 94: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 101: Mr. GAETZ, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 129: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 141: Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. CROW, Ms. DEAN, Mr. CRIST, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. CLOUD, and Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 155: Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 194: Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 203: Mr. BALDERSON and Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee.

H.R. 230: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 285: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 303: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. KIM.

H.R. 306: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 307: Mr. POSEY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 372: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 397: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 400: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 446: Mr. WATKINS.

H.R. 473: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 500: Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 510: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 530: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 535: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 541: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 553: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GOMERT, Mr. FERGUSON, and Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 555: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 576: Ms. KAPTUR and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 582: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 585: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 605: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 609: Mr. BUDD.

H.R. 628: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.

H.R. 641: Mr. MCNERNEY and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 663: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LAMB, and Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.

H.R. 674: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 677: Mrs. CRAIG, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 712: Ms. HAALAND and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 716: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 717: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 719: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 721: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. ROSE of New York.

H.R. 724: Mrs. CRAIG and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 728: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 737: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. HUNTER, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. HAGEDORN.

H.R. 748: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. COMER, and Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 763: Mr. ROUDA and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 788: Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 810: Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 827: Mr. FERGUSON.

H.R. 832: Mr. DELGADO and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 847: Mr. KILMER and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 872: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 877: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. HICE of Georgia.

H.R. 908: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 915: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 916: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 919: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 920: Mr. WALTZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 935: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 936: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 938: Mrs. CRAIG.

H.R. 943: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 945: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 949: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 1001: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1004: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 1005: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1007: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 1010: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1024: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1030: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 1044: Mr. STEIL, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. STANTON, Mr. WOMACK, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1046: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 1050: Ms. GABBARD and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1076: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1078: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 1098: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1108: Mrs. AXNE, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FLORES, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. LURIA, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. STEWART, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1114: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PORTER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 1115: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 1116: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 1126: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 1134: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 1135: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1140: Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LAMB, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1149: Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1154: Ms. DEAN, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GALLEGU,

Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1163: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1168: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1175: Ms. TITUS, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mrs. CRAIG.

H.R. 1223: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1225: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. EMMER, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 1226: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. RYAN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. BOST, and Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 1228: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SEN-SENRENNER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 1240: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1244: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 1251: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 1257: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 1265: Mr. WATKINS and Ms. CHENEY.

H.R. 1266: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 1306: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1307: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1309: Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1314: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 1327: Ms. BASS, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. BOST.

H.R. 1328: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1339: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1346: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 1364: Mr. TRONE, Mr. SIRE, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1366: Mrs. LESKO and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 1374: Mr. BANKS.

H.R. 1379: Mr. EMMER, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1380: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1386: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1393: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1394: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1406: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. LAMBOURN, and Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1412: Mr. RATCLIFFE.

H.R. 1423: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1425: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. SCHRIER, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. HILL of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. TRONE, Mr. BERA, and Mr. ROSE of New York.

H.R. 1426: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1437: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1452: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 1469: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 1477: Mr. SIRE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 1495: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 1502: Mr. BUCHSHON.

H.R. 1507: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. DEAN.

H.R. 1528: Mr. COLE and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 1534: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 1545: Mr. BANKS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 1549: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1572: Mr. DELGADO and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1587: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 1588: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1592: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1595: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 1596: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 1601: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 1605: Mrs. MILLER, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 1616: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 1622: Mr. ENGEL, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. LAMB, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1629: Mr. BUDD.

H.R. 1638: Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 1641: Mr. KIM, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WALDEN, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 1643: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 1644: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. KIND, Mr. CROW, Mrs. CRAIG, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. HIMES, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GALLEGU, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H.R. 1646: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. WELCH, Ms. DEAN, and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 1678: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1682: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 1687: Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 1688: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1695: Ms. MOORE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. COSTA, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. COMER, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. REED, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. WILD, and Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 1702: Mr. SPANO.

H.R. 1705: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.

H.R. 1706: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1707: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.

H.R. 1709: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BEYER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.

H.R. 1711: Ms. HILL of California and Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 1712: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1714: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 1717: Ms. MOORE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 1730: Mr. GIANFORTE, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. STEFANIK, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. COOK, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1734: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1735: Mr. ROSE of New York and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 1741: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 1748: Mr. LAMB, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1753: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. WALKER, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. RIGGLEMAN.

H.R. 1766: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 1767: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1770: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. RUSH, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 1784: Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1792: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1817: Mr. HICE of Georgia and Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 1830: Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 1834: Mr. CASE and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1837: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCCAUL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr.

MEADOWS, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. FRANKEL.

H.R. 1839: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 1850: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. ZELDIN.

H.J. Res. 7: Ms. ESHOO.

H.J. Res. 23: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.J. Res. 35: Ms. STEVENS.

H.J. Res. 38: Mr. MALINOWSKI and Ms. SHALALA.

H.J. Res. 48: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.J. Res. 52: Mr. NORMAN and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.

H. Con. Res. 20: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 60: Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KHANNA, and Ms. LEE of California.

H. Res. 107: Mr. TURNER.

H. Res. 109: Mr. PASCRELL.

H. Res. 110: Mr. SHIMKUS.

H. Res. 114: Ms. WATERS.

H. Res. 124: Mrs. LURIA, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H. Res. 141: Mr. FLORES.

H. Res. 152: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. WELCH.

H. Res. 160: Mr. BALDERSON.

H. Res. 171: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H. Res. 173: Mr. COOK.

H. Res. 197: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H. Res. 219: Mr. VELA.

H. Res. 220: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SIRES, Ms. BASS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H. Res. 221: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SIRES, Ms. BASS, and Mr. MEEKS.

H. Res. 222: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SIRES, Ms. BASS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. VELA, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. TRONE.

H. Res. 230: Mr. HIMES and Ms. BASS.

H. Res. 231: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. HIMES.

H. Res. 238: Ms. OMAR, Mr. HIMES, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H. Res. 246: Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. BONAMICI, Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. BERA, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. MENG, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. BALDERSON.



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Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019

No. 51

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.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.

O Lord God, the almighty and the all-wise, Your judgments and ways are past finding out.

Bless our Senators with strength sufficient for today's challenges, illuminating their paths with Your light. May they walk in the way of integrity and sacrifice. Lord, let Your power purify their thoughts as Your truth guides their words. Teach them to cheerfully do Your will, surrounding them with the shield of Your providential love. Use them to fulfill Your purposes for our Nation and humanity.

We pray in Your powerful 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. HAWLEY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Bridget S. Bade, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

MIDWESTERN FLOODS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to share a message from Iowa's heartland.

As you know, millions of Americans in the middle of the country are experiencing catastrophic flooding. My home State of Iowa and our neighbors in Nebraska are particularly hard hit, and it will affect others downriver of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

I want to thank the Trump administration for its swift response on Saturday to approve the expedited requests for a major disaster declaration made by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds Thursday evening. The flooding has caused tremendous damage, impacting more than two-thirds of Iowa's 99 counties. The Federal disaster proclamation will trigger emergency assistance to 56 of those counties so far. Those would be the counties in blue on the map here.

Governor Reynolds' team has been in the trenches, working hand in hand with local officials and county emergency coordinators. They estimated damages so far across our entire State to be \$1.6 billion. The damages estimated for agriculture are \$214 million; damages to homes, \$481 million; and levee repairs, \$525 million.

By all accounts and every possible metric, the damages and devastation are overwhelming. Yet, at the very same time, the legendary mythology of America's heartland and its people is rooted in truth. The road to recovery will be long, grueling, and at times gruesome, but I am confident that the grit and resilience of Iowans and their fellow midwesterners will prevail.

Over the last week, we have heard remarkable stories of neighbor helping

neighbor and neighbors helping total strangers. Residents of all ages and differing abilities rubbed elbows to bag sand to save a water treatment facility in their small town. First responders and Good Samaritans rescued people stranded in their homes. Farmers moved their neighbor's grain and livestock to higher ground. Volunteers rolled up their sleeves to serve hot meals and deliver water. Generous Americans across our country opened their wallets to donate money, food, water, hygiene products, and medical supplies. Iowa farmers who were not wiped out by the floods are sending truckloads of much needed hay to livestock producers and ranchers in Nebraska.

These stories offer a glimmer of sunshine in the darkest hours of the 2019 floods. You might say that we are experiencing an unwelcome twist of March Madness along the Missouri River. Despite being mired in muck and mud, it is reassuring to see the full-court press and gritty resilience of midwesterners.

Make no mistake—the catastrophic damages to private property, farmland, Main Street businesses, public utilities, and critical infrastructure, including wells, roads, bridges, and railways, have extended beyond the capability of local and State government.

Aerial footage of our State makes entire communities and farmsteads look like an island surrounded by an ocean. You can see some of that here in this photo that was taken just last week. You see here a small community along the Missouri River. This is the town of Pacific Junction, which is located in the southwestern corner of the State in Mills County. Its entire population was forced to evacuate. As you can see from this photo, the rooftops of homes appear to be floating in the muddy waters of a Monopoly board.

I ask my colleagues here in the Senate and I ask Americans listening at home to put yourselves in the shoes of those evacuated from their homes.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Imagine if this were your home soaking in unsanitary water for days on end. Consider for a moment the damages to your furniture, clothes, appliances, and your most prized possessions. Think how much it would cost to replace those items. Now add up the countless hours of hard work it would take to clean up the mess, mud, muck, and mold once the water finally recedes.

I have another photo here I want you to look at. Let's now turn to a photo taken near Pacific Junction.

I thank Larry Winum of Glenwood, IA, a constituent and a friend, for sharing these photos.

Just think of the small businesses impacted by the floods. The photo here of a motel illustrates how flooding can wash away the livelihoods of business owners and their employees. This particular business will indefinitely have zero occupancy. Even if the roads were open, this business would need a floor-to-ceiling refurbishment to replace beds, linens, carpets, and towels, and most likely even significant plumbing and electrical work.

I want to show a photo of Main Street in Hamburg, IA. This community was hard hit in 2011. I was there in 2011. It is worse now. You can see it is underwater in 2019.

Let's examine how the flooding has affected our farmers. As a lifelong farmer, I know exactly what farmers across my State are feeling at this time of the year. They get very antsy and keep constant watch on the weather, soil temperatures, and planting conditions for their seed. They have ordered seeds and fertilizers. These farmers are chomping at the bit to get started on field work.

Now imagine the farmers along the Missouri River. Tens of thousands of acres of farmland are underwater. For sure, these acres may never be ready for planting this season.

Now consider the farmers who were storing grain in the bins along the Missouri. Millions of bushels of flood-soaked grain have spilled into murky floodwaters.

This picture says it all. This is grain that farmers were counting on to pay the bills to put this year's crop in the ground. This photo was shared courtesy of State Representative David Sieck, whose legislative district is almost completely impacted by the flood damages. I thank David for sharing.

My State staff tells me that some farmers in the flooded areas didn't get last fall's crop fully harvested, and of course that is destroyed.

Since March 12, my staff has been crisscrossing scores of Iowa counties to visit affected communities and meet directly with Iowans. They are sharing directly with me the feedback from Iowans. I am making plans to visit affected areas as soon as I can as well. I am anxious to measure recovery and cleanup efforts to inform my decisions on tax and spending policies that are needed to help with recovery efforts going forward.

As my speech and these photos suggest to all and I hope will suggest to each of my colleagues here in the Senate, we have a long road to recovery from the floods of 2019. In fact, it could be worse. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a wake-up call last week. We are not yet out of the woods—not by a long shot. With more precipitation, snowmelt, saturated soils, frozen ground, and massive ice jams, we are in store for significant spring flooding that may reach 200 million Americans.

Today, I have talked largely about the extent of damages and the recovery efforts that are just getting started. It is also important to talk about flood mitigation. Breached, overtopped, or compromised levees span hundreds of miles on the Missouri River along the States of Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri.

It took a long time for these communities to recover from flooding that took place 8 years ago. It is no wonder an awful lot of Iowans are feeling like they are way back to square one again.

Iowans, especially those who live along the Missouri River, want and deserve answers. Southwest Iowa communities have raised grave concern about the unresponsive Corps of Engineers—specifically, about the lack of communication and about not enough river dredging, water release, and about ordering the town of Hamburg, back in 2011, to remove reinforcements of the now-breached levee that left the town under water.

I, too, share the concerns that have been expressed to the Corps of Engineers. I have had a chance to talk to the Corps headquarters in Omaha. For years I have worked with several of my midwestern colleagues along the Missouri River to make flood control the No. 1 priority of the Corps.

It seems to me that misguided decisions and misplaced priorities have eclipsed common sense. As I told you, I talked last week with the commander of the Corps in Omaha and shared my concerns about the lack of communication and coordination with local communities. Perhaps a good scrubbing of the Master Manual of the Corps of Engineers for the Missouri River may help to clear the wax out of bureaucratic ears that haven't gotten the message.

The No. 1 priority of the Corps should be flood control—flood control, period. I started out today by saying that I wanted to share a message from America's heartland. I close my remarks by sending a message to that American heartland.

As Iowa's senior Senator, I will stand with you every step of the way. My staff and I are working very closely with Iowa and midwestern congressional delegations, the Trump administration, and State agencies to make sure disaster relief programs are working effectively for homeowners, small businesses, farmers, and our local communities.

The best I thing I can say to any Federal Agency and their employees, the Corps of Engineers, FEMA, and many others is to use a little common sense and cut out a lot of the redtape, but here is where it ends.

When the going gets tough, Iowans get tougher. So hang tough, keep fighting, and know that help is on the way.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MUELLER REPORT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as the world now knows, yesterday evening Attorney General Barr sent a letter to Congress on the investigation by the special counsel. In his letter, Attorney General Barr confirmed the intelligence community's assessment that through a coordinated disinformation campaign and hacking operations, Russia sought to interfere with the 2016 election. Any attempts by a foreign government to interfere with our Democratic processes, successful or unsuccessful, must not be taken lightly.

Though the special counsel's investigation was very targeted and specific, Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee, on which I serve, continue our work to more closely examine the matter as well as the broader threats posed by foreign interference as part of our oversight responsibilities. Although this was the major focus of the special counsel's investigation, it was not the most anticipated portion of Mr. Mueller's report.

After reviewing the special counsel's findings, the Attorney General concluded that the Trump campaign did not coordinate with the Russian Government in their efforts to influence the election. Based on their reaction since General Barr released his letter, it is clear the partisans who will never be satisfied with any results of an investigation will not be appeased by this report from the special counsel or General Barr's summary of Mr. Mueller's conclusions.

I hope our colleagues will trust the dedicated team of public servants who investigated this matter for the special counsel and now allow Congress to move on so we can deal with other challenges facing the American people. The worst thing we can do is get bogged down in a relitigation of all these issues over which we have no real authority because Congress's role is to conduct oversight for purposes of determining whether the laws have been faithfully executed or whether changes in the law need to occur. Obviously, the special counsel's role is entirely different. It is a criminal investigation

to determine whether there is sufficient evidence of a violation of a criminal law that would warrant presentation to a grand jury, charging, and then a trial. Congress's role is demonstrably and decidedly different.

I would like to thank Mr. Mueller for conducting his investigation with the utmost professionalism. For those of us who have seen him in action over many years, we expected nothing different. I would also like to thank Attorney General Barr for promptly communicating his conclusions with both Congress and the American people. Throughout Attorney General Barr's confirmation hearings, he stressed his intent to release as much information as possible, and he is now in the process of delivering on his word.

I agree with those on both sides of the aisle, as well as the President, who want the Mueller report to be released publicly. As much of the report as can be released, and consistent with existing law, should be made public so the American people can read it for themselves, but I also agree with the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator GRAHAM, that we also need to understand better how we got to this place.

We need to look at the decisions made by the leadership in the Department of Justice, the FBI, the intelligence community, and the Obama White House during the time in which this counterintelligence investigation was initiated against President Trump while he was still a candidate, and why, contrary to the practice as testified to by Attorney General Loretta Lynch, a defensive briefing was not given to the Trump campaign so they could know that the Russians were trying the doors and the windows and trying to get into the organization.

We know now, from Mr. Mueller's report, they were unsuccessful in establishing a connection and collusion, as the word has been used, but we know the investigation that initially was started, ultimately, came up empty-handed and resulted in this narrative, which prompted the appointment of a special counsel and this long investigation that Mr. Mueller has now completed. So we need to understand that better as part of our oversight responsibilities, particularly those of us, such as the Presiding Officer and I, who are on the Judiciary Committee who have explicit oversight responsibility for the Department of Justice as well as the FBI.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Mr. President, on another matter, we will soon have an opportunity to vote on the Green New Deal. Since this resolution was introduced last month, there has been a lot of confusion about exactly what is in it and how much it would cost. Generally, those aren't great questions to leave unanswered when you are trying to pass something in the Senate. We need more information, to be sure.

When the resolution was released, it made some lofty promises: achieving

net zero greenhouse gas emissions, renovating or replacing all buildings to achieve maximum energy efficiency, and providing higher education, healthcare, and housing for everybody. Missing, of course, were some of the details about how these goals would be either feasible or affordable: no plans on how to incentivize the research and development of new, cleaner energy technologies; no specifics on how much it would cost to retrofit every existing building in the country; no estimates about how the long list of new entitlement programs would be funded. The confusion only grew stronger when one of the authors of the resolution released a background summary that made even more promises, again, with no assurance of any plan that would actually be feasible or could be implemented. The Congresswoman from New York claimed that the Green New Deal would even include a government-subsidized life for those who are unwilling to work. She said we will build high-speed rail that will make airline travel unnecessary, which came as a surprise to our colleagues from Hawaii, and she said we will replace every internal combustion engine in every vehicle. As you might imagine, there was a long list of unanswered questions.

The one thing we know about the Green New Deal is, it would be a bad deal for Texas. Our State has always embraced an "all of the above" attitude when it comes to energy. Our people don't expect handouts, but they do expect opportunities that only come with economic and individual freedom. They don't want to be told what the government will permit them to do or force them to do, and they certainly don't want to be taxed to death to support people who aren't willing to work. We believe the government that governs least governs best in a nation of laws, especially when it comes to our economy.

Texas keeps its taxes, government spending, and regulations at a rational minimum to give people and small businesses that create jobs the freedom to dream big and let the free market provide. We know it works. Lower taxes and less burdensome regulation draw businesses to our State. We are one of the fastest growing States in the Nation because people are literally voting with their feet. It is because we have seen jobs created and opportunities for everyone willing to work.

Our unemployment rate is at or below the national average. I believe, in Midland, TX, in the Permian Basin, it is 2.1 percent. They can't find enough able-bodied people to perform the good, well-paying jobs that exist. We know we lead the Nation in exports, fueling both the State's economy as well as that for the entire country.

As I just alluded, the major part of our State's success is our thriving energy industry. Something that will not come as a surprise to most people is the fact that Texas leads the country in both oil and natural gas production,

but what may surprise you is the fact that we are the No. 1 producer of electricity from wind energy. One-fourth of all U.S. wind energy comes from Texas. There is no doubt that Texas's position as the largest energy-producing State has secured our position as an economic powerhouse, but if the authors of the Green New Deal get their way, oil, gas, and all hydrocarbons will all be off-limits, and the results will be disastrous without anywhere else to turn for an alternative because renewables simply aren't prepared to fill that gap. Hundreds of thousands of people will lose their jobs, exports will decline, and without a reliable alternative power source, you can expect to spend most of your day in the dark. Instead of talking about plans that would hurt my constituents in Texas and bankrupt the entire country, let's have a serious conversation about real solutions.

A few weeks ago, our friend and colleague from Maine, Senator COLLINS, joined me on a tour of the NET Power demonstration plant in La Porte, TX. NET Power has developed a first-of-its-kind system that generates affordable energy from natural gas while producing zero emissions. These innovative carbon capture technologies are what our future should look like. If American companies don't produce them first, well, we know somebody else will. So in America we need to invest in new technologies that can take our most reliable and affordable energy sources and make them cleaner.

When Senator McCONNELL announced his intent to bring this bill to the floor, things got a little strange in the Senate. In my experience, if the majority leader says he will bring something you authored to the floor, you are thrilled—but not with the Green New Deal. The junior Senator from Massachusetts who introduced the resolution in the first place referred to this announcement as "sabotage."

Well, clearly something is wrong. I believe it is important for us to have a discussion about smart ways to reduce emissions and lessen our environmental footprint, but the way to do that is not through heavyhanded regulations or unrealistic goals to eliminate the fuel sources we need, nor is it about throwing in socialist government power grabs that only appeal to a radical wing of the other party, which is basically a distraction from the real issues we should be discussing.

The Green New Deal is bad for America, bad for Texas, and I urge my Democratic colleagues to stop this ideological race to the left and start working with us on practical solutions that actually have a chance to become law. I will vote no on the Green New Deal resolution, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

FIX NICS ACT

Mr. President, this last Saturday marked 1 year since the Fix NICS Act was signed into law. This legislation meant a lot to me personally because it

fulfilled a promise I made to the members of the Sutherland Springs community after the deadliest shooting in Texas history.

On November 5, 2017, a deranged gunman opened fire in the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, killing 26 people and rocking our entire State to its core.

The gunman had a criminal record, a record of violence and mental illness. He had been convicted of domestic violence while serving in the military and by law should not have been able to purchase or possess a firearm, but the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, known as NICS, did not have a record of his crimes because they had not been transmitted by the U.S. Air Force to the FBI. In the wake of that tragedy, it is hard to rid your mind of the what-ifs. What if his criminal record had been uploaded to the NICS database? What if he had not been able to purchase a gun? For the friends and family of those lost that day, those questions are almost too tough to ask because they know the answer: Their loved ones might still be alive today.

Sadly, there is nothing we can do to bring back the loved ones they lost that day, but I knew there was something we could do to prevent other families and communities from experiencing that sort of pain, grief, and loss. Less than 2 weeks after the tragedy, Senator MURPHY from Connecticut and I introduced the Fix NICS Act to prevent these systemic failures from happening again. This legislation penalizes Federal Agencies that fail to properly report relevant crimes and incentivizes States to improve their reporting.

These sorts of commonsense reforms gained broad bipartisan support. In fact, there were 77 cosponsors here in the Senate alone, including both the majority and minority leaders, something of a rarity in my experience. It also gained the support of a diverse group of national organizations, from the National Rifle Association to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Fraternal Order of Police, and the National Shooting Sports Foundation. When President Trump signed this bill 1 year ago, it marked the strongest update to the background check system in a decade.

I appreciate the support of my colleagues for this legislation. What we were able to demonstrate is that Congress can work in a bipartisan way to address a problem if we just put our minds to it. I appreciate the support of the Sutherland Springs community in the wake of the tragedy, something they are still feeling even today. I am confident that this legislation will help to save lives and make our communities safer.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

NEW MANHATTAN PROJECT FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I believe climate change is real. I believe

that human emissions of greenhouse gases are a major cause of climate change, and I believe the Democratic plan for climate change, which the Senator from Texas just spoke about—the Green New Deal—is so far out in left field that not many are going to take it seriously.

So as one Republican, I am here today to propose this response to climate change, which is that the United States should launch a New Manhattan Project for Clean Energy, a 5-year project with 10 grand challenges that will use American research and technology to put our country and our world firmly on the path for cleaner, cheaper energy.

Meeting these grand challenges would create breakthroughs in advanced nuclear reactors, natural gas, carbon recapture, better batteries, greener buildings, electric vehicles, cheaper solar power, and fusion. To provide the tools to create these breakthroughs, the Federal Government should double its funding for energy research and keep the United States No. 1 in advanced computing. This strategy takes advantage of the United States' secret weapon—our extraordinary capacity for basic research and especially in our 17 National Laboratories. It will strengthen our economy. It will raise family incomes.

This strategy also recognizes that when it comes to climate change, China, India, and other developing countries are the problem. American innovation is the answer. According to the Global Carbon Project, over the last 13 years the United States has reduced production of greenhouse gases more than any other major country. Let me say that again. According to the Global Carbon Project, over the last 13 years the United States has reduced production of greenhouse gases more than any other major country. But over the last 5 years, China and its carbon emissions have risen. The U.S. reduction is largely thanks to conservation and switching from coal to natural gas in the production of electricity.

This is the way a California physicist explains it: Our mothers told us as children to clean our plates because children in India were starving. Now, cleaning our plates was a good thing for us to do, but it didn't do much for starving children in India. In the same way, reducing carbon emissions in the United States is a good thing to do, but it doesn't do much to address climate change because most of the increase in greenhouse gases is in developing countries. If we want to do something about climate change, we should use American research and technology to provide the rest of the world with tools to create low-cost energy that emits fewer greenhouse gases.

The purpose of the original Manhattan Project during World War II was to find a way to split the atom and build a bomb before Germany could. The New York Times described this as the

“most concentrated intellectual effort in history.” Instead of ending a war, the goal of the New Manhattan Project will be to minimize the disruption on our lives and our economies caused by climate change, to clean the air, and to raise family incomes, both in our country and in the rest of the world, by creating large amounts of reliable, clean, inexpensive energy.

Can a New Manhattan Project accomplish such bold breakthroughs in just 5 years? Well, take a look at the last 5 years. Carbon emissions from energy consumption are down by 230 million metric tons. The number of electric vehicles has doubled and so has the median driving range per charge. The utility scale cost of solar power has been nearly cut in half. The number of homes has risen by 4 percent, but household energy usage has decreased by 10 percent. We lost and then we reclaimed the No. 1 spot in supercomputing. The cost of natural gas has been cut in half, and the percent of electricity provided by natural gas has increased from 27 percent to 35 percent. And that is all in the last 5 years.

I will not spend time in these remarks debunking the Green New Deal because so many others have so effectively already done that. Basically, the Green New Deal is an assault on cars, cows, and combustion. With nuclear power available, its strategy for fighting climate change with windmills makes as much sense as going to war in sailboats. As a bonus, and as the Senator from Texas outlined, it throws in free college, a guaranteed job with a government-set wage, and it would take away private health insurance on the job from 170 million Americans, and no one has any earthly idea what it will cost taxpayers.

You don't have to believe that humans cause climate change to believe in the New Manhattan Project for Clean Energy, and you don't have to be a Republican. Hopefully, the New Manhattan Project for Clean Energy can become a bipartisan proposal. Many of its 10 grand challenges have been proposed by the National Institute of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences. At different times, Barack Obama, John McCain, Newt Gingrich, and Howard Dean have all called for a Manhattan Project for new energy sources.

These are the 10 grand challenges:

First is advanced nuclear. Ninety-eight nuclear reactors produce 60 percent of all carbon-free electricity in the United States. There has never been a death as a result of an accident at one of these reactors. The problem is that in competition with natural gas and coal, these reactors cost too much to build and some of them cost too much to operate. According to the Energy Information Administration, 11 reactors may shut down over the next 5 years. Building the Vogtle nuclear plant in Georgia—the only two new reactors being built in the United States—could cost as much as \$27.5 billion. Building two natural gas plants to

create the same amount of electricity would cost less than \$2 billion. We need to stop talking about advanced reactors and actually build something. Within the next 5 years, we need to build one or more advanced reactors to demonstrate the capabilities they may bring—lower costs, increased safety, and less nuclear waste.

Natural gas. During the 1980s, American enterprise and technology created a new, cheaper way to produce natural gas in the United States. This helped our country lead the world in reducing carbon emissions because natural gas has about half the carbon emissions as a typical coal plant. Continuing to develop new combustion technologies will make natural gas-fired electric generation more efficient and further reduce carbon emissions.

Next is carbon capture. This is really the holy grail of clean energy. Coal is cheap. There is a lot of it. Already we know how to capture sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury from coal plants to clean the air. We have seen that happen in Tennessee. If we can figure out a way also to capture carbon at a cheaper cost and find large-scale uses for its by-product—for example, CO₂ to ethanol—coal could be used everywhere in the world. The Natural Resources Defense Council has argued that after conservation, coal with carbon capture is the best option for clean energy.

Next is better batteries. The all-electric Nissan Leaf that I bought in 2011 had a hard time getting me from the Capitol to Dulles airport and back. Its range was about 70 miles. Today, the Nissan Leaf can travel 226 miles on one charge. A Tesla Model S can travel 335 miles on one charge. The price of lithium-ion batteries should fall another 45 percent during the next 5 years. Better batteries can also one day allow utilities and their customers to store large amounts of electricity during nonpeak hours.

Greener buildings. Despite considerable recent progress, this is still the real low-hanging fruit. Residential and commercial buildings still consume 39 percent of U.S. energy.

The next grand challenge is electric vehicles. Ten years ago there were no mass-produced electric cars on United States highways. Today there are 1 million, and you read in the paper almost every day about a major automaker making a large investment to make millions more.

Cheaper solar. Solar power has grown by 1,500 percent since 2011, but it still accounts for only about 2 percent of U.S. electricity. The new goal for the Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative is to lower the cost of solar another 50 percent to 3 cents per kilowatt hour for utility scale solar.

Then there is fusion. This is the ultimate green energy dream—to make electricity on Earth the way the Sun makes it. Instead of splitting elements, combine them and make clean, almost limitless energy without waste. This is still a dream, but there can be meaningful progress in the next 5 years.

Advanced computing. China, Japan, the United States, and the European Union—all want to be first in advanced computing. The stakes are high because the winner has an advantage in such things as advanced manufacturing, simulating advanced reactors and weapons before they are built, finding terrorists, saving billions of Medicaid waste, and simulating the electric grid in a natural disaster.

The United States regained the No. 1 spot last year in advanced computing, thanks to sustained funding by Congress during both the Obama and Trump administrations, and we need to keep that position.

The final grand challenge is to double energy research funding. Advanced computing is the first tool the New Manhattan Project needs to meet its grand challenges. The second tool is money. It would take \$6 billion annually to double funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science and its 17 National Laboratories, which is where most of our Nation's basic energy research is done. By comparison, many estimate the cost of the Green New Deal in the trillions.

This is a bold agenda and, hopefully, a bipartisan agenda. It is an agenda that can, over the next 5 years, place Americans firmly on the path toward dealing with climate change and at the same time produce large amounts of reliable, clean energy that lifts family incomes in our country and around the world.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a 2012 op-ed in the *New York Times*, entitled "The Conversion of a Climate-Change Skeptic," authored by Richard Muller, a professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley, and, second, an address I made in Oak Ridge, TN, in 2008, which called for a New Manhattan Project for Clean Energy Independence, be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the *New York Times*, July 28, 2012]

THE CONVERSION OF A CLIMATE-CHANGE SKEPTIC

(By Richard A. Muller)

Call me a converted skeptic. Three years ago I identified problems in previous climate studies that, in my mind, threw doubt on the very existence of global warming. Last year, following an intensive research effort involving a dozen scientists, I concluded that global warming was real and that the prior estimates of the rate of warming were correct. I'm now going a step further: Humans are almost entirely the cause.

My total turnaround, in such a short time, is the result of careful and objective analysis by the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature project, which I founded with my daughter Elizabeth. Our results show that the average temperature of the earth's land has risen by two and a half degrees Fahrenheit over the past 250 years, including an increase of one and a half degrees over the most recent 50 years. Moreover, it appears likely that essentially all of this increase results from the human emission of greenhouse gases.

These findings are stronger than those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate

Change, the United Nations group that defines the scientific and diplomatic consensus on global warming. In its 2007 report, the I.P.C.C. concluded only that most of the warming of the prior 50 years could be attributed to humans. It was possible, according to the I.P.C.C. consensus statement, that the warming before 1956 could be because of changes in solar activity, and that even a substantial part of the more recent warming could be natural.

Our Berkeley Earth approach used sophisticated statistical methods developed largely by our lead scientist, Robert Rohde, which allowed us to determine earth land temperature much further back in time. We carefully studied issues raised by skeptics: biases from urban heating (we duplicated our results using rural data alone), from data selection (prior groups selected fewer than 20 percent of the available temperature stations; we used virtually 100 percent), from poor station quality (we separately analyzed good stations and poor ones) and from human intervention and data adjustment (our work is completely automated and hands-off). In our papers we demonstrate that none of these potentially troublesome effects unduly biased our conclusions.

The historic temperature pattern we observed has abrupt dips that match the emissions of known explosive volcanic eruptions; the particulates from such events reflect sunlight, make for beautiful sunsets and cool the earth's surface for a few years. There are small, rapid variations attributable to El Niño and other ocean currents such as the Gulf Stream; because of such oscillations, the "flattening" of the recent temperature rise that some people claim is not, in our view, statistically significant. What has caused the gradual but systematic rise of two and a half degrees? We tried fitting the shape to simple math functions (exponentials, polynomials), to solar activity and even to rising functions like world population. By far the best match was to the record of atmospheric carbon dioxide, measured from atmospheric samples and air trapped in polar ice.

Just as important, our record is long enough that we could search for the fingerprint of solar variability, based on the historical record of sunspots. That fingerprint is absent. Although the I.P.C.C. allowed for the possibility that variations in sunlight could have ended the "Little Ice Age," a period of cooling from the 14th century to about 1850, our data argues strongly that the temperature rise of the past 250 years cannot be attributed to solar changes. This conclusion is, in retrospect, not too surprising; we've learned from satellite measurements that solar activity changes the brightness of the sun very little.

How definite is the attribution to humans? The carbon dioxide curve gives a better match than anything else we've tried. Its magnitude is consistent with the calculated greenhouse effect—extra warming from trapped heat radiation. These facts don't prove causality and they shouldn't end skepticism, but they raise the bar: to be considered seriously, an alternative explanation must match the data at least as well as carbon dioxide does. Adding methane, a second greenhouse gas, to our analysis doesn't change the results. Moreover, our analysis does not depend on large, complex global climate models, the huge computer programs that are notorious for their hidden assumptions and adjustable parameters. Our result is based simply on the close agreement between the shape of the observed temperature rise and the known greenhouse gas increase.

It's a scientist's duty to be properly skeptical. I still find that much, if not most, of what is attributed to climate change is speculative, exaggerated or just plain wrong. I've

analyzed some of the most alarmist claims, and my skepticism about them hasn't changed.

Hurricane Katrina cannot be attributed to global warming. The number of hurricanes hitting the United States has been going down, not up; likewise for intense tornadoes. Polar bears aren't dying from receding ice, and the Himalayan glaciers aren't going to melt by 2035. And it's possible that we are currently no warmer than we were a thousand years ago, during the "Medieval Warm Period" or "Medieval Optimum," an interval of warm conditions known from historical records and indirect evidence like tree rings. And the recent warm spell in the United States happens to be more than offset by cooling elsewhere in the world, so its link to "global" warming is weaker than tenuous.

The careful analysis by our team is laid out in five scientific papers now online at BerkeleyEarth.org. That site also shows our chart of temperature from 1753 to the present, with its clear fingerprint of volcanoes and carbon dioxide, but containing no component that matches solar activity. Four of our papers have undergone extensive scrutiny by the scientific community, and the newest, a paper with the analysis of the human component, is now posted, along with the data and computer programs used. Such transparency is the heart of the scientific method; if you find our conclusions implausible, tell us of any errors of data or analysis.

What about the future? As carbon dioxide emissions increase, the temperature should continue to rise. I expect the rate of warming to proceed at a steady pace, about one and a half degrees over land in the next 50 years, less if the oceans are included. But if China continues its rapid economic growth (it has averaged 10 percent per year over the last 20 years) and its vast use of coal (it typically adds one new gigawatt per month), then that same warming could take place in less than 20 years.

Science is that narrow realm of knowledge that, in principle, is universally accepted. I embarked on this analysis to answer questions that, to my mind, had not been answered. I hope that the Berkeley Earth analysis will help settle the scientific debate regarding global warming and its human causes. Then comes the difficult part: agreeing across the political and diplomatic spectrum about what can and should be done.

A NEW MANHATTAN PROJECT FOR CLEAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

SEVEN "GRAND CHALLENGES" FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS: PLUG-IN ELECTRIC CARS AND TRUCKS, CARBON CAPTURE, SOLAR POWER, NUCLEAR WASTE, ADVANCED BIOFUELS, GREEN BUILDINGS, FUSION

MAY 9TH, 2008

History

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Sen. Kenneth McKellar, the Tennessee who chaired the Appropriations Committee, to hide \$2 billion in the appropriations bill for a secret project to win World War II.

Sen. McKellar replied, "Mr. President, I have just one question: where in Tennessee do you want me to hide it?"

That place in Tennessee turned out to be Oak Ridge, one of three secret cities that became the principal sites for the Manhattan Project.

The purpose of the Manhattan Project was to find a way to split the atom and build a bomb before Germany could. Nearly 200,000 people worked secretly in 30 different sites in three countries. President Roosevelt's \$2 billion appropriation would be \$24 billion today.

According to New York Times science reporter William Laurence, "Into [the bomb's]

design went millions of man-hours of what is without doubt the most concentrated intellectual effort in history."

The goal: victory over blackmail

I am in Oak Ridge today to propose that the United States launch a new Manhattan project: a 5-year project to put America firmly on the path to clean energy independence.

Instead of ending a war, the goal will be clean energy independence—so that we can deal with rising gasoline prices, electricity prices, clean air, climate change and national security—for our country first, and—because other countries have the same urgent needs and therefore will adopt our ideas—for the rest of the world.

By independence I do not mean that the United States would never buy oil from Mexico or Canada or Saudi Arabia. By independence I do mean that the United States could never be held hostage by any country for our energy needs.

In 1942, many were afraid that the first country to build an atomic bomb could blackmail the rest of the world. Today, countries that supply oil and natural gas can blackmail the rest of the world.

Not a new idea

A new Manhattan Project is not a new idea—but it is a good idea and fits the goal of clean energy independence.

The Apollo Program to send men to the moon in the 1960s was a kind of Manhattan Project. Presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama have called for a Manhattan Project for new energy sources. So have former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine and Sen. Kit Bond of Missouri—among others.

And, throughout the two years of discussion that led to the passage in 2007 of the America COMPETES Act, several participants suggested that focusing on energy independence would force the kind of investments in the physical sciences and research that the United States needs to maintain its competitiveness.

A new overwhelming challenge

The overwhelming challenge in 1942 was the prospect that Germany would build the bomb and win the war before America did.

The overwhelming challenge today, according to National Academy of Sciences president Ralph Cicerone, in his address last week to the Academy's annual meeting, is to discover ways to satisfy the human demand for and use of energy in an environmentally satisfactory and affordable way so that we are not overly dependent on overseas sources.

Cicerone estimates that this year Americans will pay \$500 billion overseas for oil—that's \$1,600 for each one of us—some of it to nations that are hostile or even trying to kill us by bankrolling terrorists. Sending \$500 billion abroad weakens our dollar. It is half our trade deficit. It is forcing gasoline prices toward \$4 a gallon and crushing family budgets.

Then there are the environmental consequences. If worldwide energy usage continues to grow as it has, humans will inject as much CO₂ into the air from fossil fuel burning between 2000 and 2030 as they did between 1850 and 2000. There is plenty of coal to help achieve our energy independence, but there is no commercial way (yet) to capture and store the carbon from so much coal burning—and we have not finished the job of controlling sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury emissions.

The Manhattan Project model fits today

In addition to the need to meet an overwhelming challenge, other characteristics of

the original Manhattan Project are suited to this new challenge:

It needs to proceed as fast as possible along several tracks to reach the goal. According to Don Gillespie, a young engineer at Los Alamos during World War II, the "entire project was being conducted using a shotgun approach, trying all possible approaches simultaneously, without regard to cost, to speed toward a conclusion."

It needs presidential focus and bipartisan support in Congress.

It needs the kind of centralized, gruff leadership that Gen. Leslie R. Groves of the Army Corps of Engineers gave the first Manhattan Project.

It needs to "break the mold." To borrow the words of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer in a speech to Los Alamos scientists in November of 1945, the challenge of clean energy independence is "too revolutionary to consider in the framework of old ideas."

Most important, in the words of George Cowan as reported in the excellent book edited by Cynthia C. Kelly, ". . . The Manhattan Project model starts with a small, diverse group of great minds."

I said to the National Academies when we first asked for their help on the America COMPETES Act in 2005, "In Washington, D.C., most ideas fail for lack of the idea."

The America COMPETES model fits, too

There are some lessons, too, from America COMPETES.

Remember how it happened. Just three years ago—in May 2005—a bipartisan group of us asked the National Academies to tell Congress in priority order the 10 most important steps we could take to help America keep its brainpower advantage.

By October, the Academies had assembled a "small diverse group of great minds" chaired by Norm Augustine which presented to Congress and to the President 20 specific recommendations in a report called "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." We considered proposals by other competitiveness commissions.

Then, in January 2006, President Bush outlined his American Competitiveness Initiative to double over 10 years basic research budgets for the physical sciences and engineering. The Republican and Democratic Senate leaders and 68 other senators sponsored the legislation. It became law by August 2007, with strong support from Speaker Pelosi and the President.

Not elected to take a vacation this year

Combining the model of the Manhattan Project with the process of the America COMPETES Act has already begun. The National Academies have underway an "America's Energy Future" project that will be completed in 2010. Ralph Cicerone has welcomed sitting down with a bipartisan group to discuss what concrete proposals we might offer earlier than that to the new president and the new Congress. Energy Secretary Sam Bodman and Ray Orbach, the Energy Department's Under Secretary for Science, have said the same.

The presidential candidates seem ready. There is bipartisan interest in Congress. Congressman Bart Gordon, Democratic Chairman of the Science Committee in the House of Representatives—and one of the original four signers of the 2005 request to the National Academies that led to the America COMPETES Act—is here today to offer his ideas. Congressman Zach Wamp, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee who played a key role in the America COMPETES Act, is co-host for this meeting.

I have talked with Sens. Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici, the chairman and senior Republican on the Energy Committee who

played such a critical role in America COM-PETES, and to Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who likely will succeed Sen. Domenici as the senior Republican on the Energy Committee.

Some say a presidential election year is no time for bipartisan action. I can't think of a better time. Voters expect presidential candidates and candidates for Congress to come up with solutions for \$4 gasoline, clean air and climate change, and the national security implications of our dependence on foreign oil. The people didn't elect us to take a vacation this year just because there is a presidential election.

So, how to proceed?

A few grand challenges—Sen. Bingaman's first reaction to the idea of a new Manhattan Project was that instead we need several mini-Manhattan Projects. He suggested as an example the "14 Grand Challenges for Engineering in the 21st Century" laid out by former MIT President Chuck Vest, the president of the National Institute of Engineering—three of which involve energy. I agree with Sen. Bingaman and Chuck Vest.

Congress doesn't do "comprehensive" well, as was demonstrated by the collapse of the comprehensive immigration bill. Step-by-step solutions or different tracks toward one goal are easier to digest and have fewer surprises. And, of course, the original Manhattan Project itself proceeded along several tracks toward one goal.

Here are my criteria for choosing several grand challenges:

Grand consequences, too—The United States uses 25 percent of all the energy in the world. Interesting solutions for small problems producing small results should be a part of some other project.

Real scientific breakthroughs—This is not about drilling offshore for oil or natural gas in an environmentally clean way or building a new generation of nuclear power plants, both of which we already know how to do—and, in my opinion, should be doing.

Five years—Grand challenges should put the United States within five years firmly on a path to clean energy independence so that goal can be achieved within a generation.

Family Budget—Solutions need to fit the family budget, and costs of different solutions need to be compared.

Consensus—The Augustine panel that drafted the "Gathering Storm" report wisely avoided some germane topics, such as excessive litigation, upon which they could not agree, figuring that Congress might not be able to agree either.

Seven grand challenges:

Here is where I invite your help. Rather than having members of Congress proclaim these challenges, or asking scientists alone to suggest them, I believe there needs to be preliminary discussion—including about whether the criteria are correct. Then, Congress can pose to scientists questions about the steps to take to achieve the grand challenges.

To begin the discussion, I suggest asking what steps Congress and the federal government should take during the next five years toward these seven grand challenges so that the United States would be firmly on the path toward clean energy independence within a generation:

1. Make plug-in electric cars and trucks commonplace. In the 1960s, H. Ross Perot noticed that when banks in Texas locked their doors at 5 p.m., they also turned off their new computers. Perot bought the idle nighttime bank computer capacity and made a deal with states to manage Medicare and Medicaid data. Banks made money, states saved money, and Perot made a billion dollars.

Idle nighttime bank computer capacity in the 1960s reminds me of idle nighttime power plant capacity in 2008. This is why:

The Tennessee Valley Authority has 7,000–8,000 megawatts—the equivalent of seven or eight nuclear power plants or 15 coal plants—of unused electric capacity most nights.

Beginning in 2010 Nissan, Toyota, General Motors and Ford will sell electric cars that can be plugged into wall sockets. FedEx is already using hybrid delivery trucks.

TVA could offer "smart meters" that would allow its 8.7 million customers to plug in their vehicles to "fill up" at night for only a few dollars, in exchange for the customer paying more for electricity between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. when the grid is busy.

Sixty percent of Americans drive less than 30 miles each day. Those Americans could drive a plug-in electric car or truck without using a drop of gasoline. By some estimates, there is so much idle electric capacity in power plants at night that over time we could replace three-fourths of our light vehicles with plug-ins. That could reduce our overseas oil bill from \$500 billion to \$250 billion—and do it all without building one new power plant.

In other words, we have the plug. The cars are coming. All we need is the cord.

Too good to be true? Haven't U.S. presidents back to Nixon promised revolutionary vehicles? Yes, but times have changed. Batteries are better. Gas is \$4. We are angry about sending so many dollars overseas, worried about climate change and clean air. And, consumers have already bought one million hybrid vehicles and are waiting in line to buy more—even without the plug-in. Down the road is the prospect of a hydrogen fuel-cell hybrid vehicle, with two engines—neither of which uses a drop of gasoline. Oak Ridge is evaluating these opportunities.

Still, there are obstacles. Expensive batteries make the additional cost per electric car \$8,000–\$11,000. Smart metering is not widespread. There will be increased pollution from the operation of coal plants at night. We know how to get rid of those sulfur, nitrogen, and mercury pollutants (and should do it), but haven't yet found a way to get rid of the carbon produced by widespread use in coal burning power plants. Which brings us to the second grand challenge:

2. Make carbon capture and storage a reality for coal-burning power plants. This was one of the National Institute of Engineering's grand challenges. And there may be solutions other than underground storage, such as using algae to capture carbon. Interestingly, the Natural Resources Defense Council argues that, after conservation, coal with carbon capture is the best option for clean energy independence because it provides for the growing power needs of the U.S. and will be easily adopted by other countries.

3. Make solar power cost competitive with power from fossil fuels. This is a second of the National Institute's grand challenges. Solar power, despite 50 years of trying, produces one one-hundredth of one percent of America's electricity. The cost of putting solar panels on homes averages \$25,000–\$30,000 and the electricity produced, for the most part, can't be stored. Now, there is new photovoltaic research as well as promising solar thermal power plants, which capture the sunlight using mirrors, turn heat into steam, and store it underground until the customer needs it.

4. Safely reprocess and store nuclear waste. Nuclear plants produce 20 percent of America's electricity, but 70 percent of America's clean electricity—that is, electricity that does not pollute the air with mercury, nitrogen, sulfur, or carbon. The most important

breakthrough needed during the next five years to build more nuclear power plants is solving the problem of what to do with nuclear waste. A political stalemate has stopped nuclear waste from going to Yucca Mountain in Nevada, and \$15 billion collected from ratepayers for that purpose is sitting in a bank. Recycling waste could reduce its mass by 90 percent, creating less stuff to store temporarily while long-term storage is resolved.

5. Make advanced biofuels cost-competitive with gasoline. The backlash toward ethanol made from corn because of its effect on food prices is a reminder to beware of the great law of unintended consequences when issuing grand challenges. Ethanol from cellulosic materials shows great promise, but there are a limited number of cars capable of using alternative fuels and of places for drivers to buy it. Turning coal into liquid fuel is an established technology, but expensive and a producer of much carbon.

6. Make new buildings green buildings. Japan believes it may miss its 2012 Kyoto goals for greenhouse gas reductions primarily because of energy wasted by inefficient buildings. Many of the technologies needed to do this are known. Figuring out how to accelerate their use in a decentralized society is most of this grand challenge.

7. Provide energy from fusion. The idea of recreating on Earth the way the sun creates energy and using it for commercial power is the third grand challenge suggested by the National Institute of Engineering. The promise of sustaining a controlled fusion reaction for commercial power generation is so fantastic that the five-year goal should be to do everything possible to reach the long-term goal. The failure of Congress to approve the President's budget request for U.S. participation in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor—the ITER Project—is embarrassing.

Anything is possible

This country of ours is a remarkable place. Even during an economic slowdown, we will produce this year about 30 percent of all the wealth in the world for the 5 percent of us who live in the United States.

Despite "the gathering storm" of concern about American competitiveness, no other country approaches our brainpower advantage—the collection of research universities, national laboratories and private-sector companies we have.

And this is still the only country where people say with a straight face that anything is possible—and really believe it.

These are precisely the ingredients that America needs during the next five years to place ourselves firmly on a path to clean energy independence within a generation—and in doing so, to make our jobs more secure, to help balance the family budget, to make our air cleaner and our planet safer and healthier—and to lead the world to do the same.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

MUELLER REPORT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday, Attorney General Barr

transmitted to Congress his summary of the special counsel's principal conclusions from his investigation into Russia's efforts to interfere in the 2016 election.

The result of that investigation is being hailed as good news for the President, and it certainly is that. But, really, it is good news for our entire country. It is good news that our law enforcement professionals know much more about Russia's malevolent attempts to interfere in American elections, and it is good news that we can conclusively set aside the notion that the President and his team had somehow participated in those attacks on our democracy.

According to the Attorney General, the special counsel's indepth investigation "did not find that the Trump campaign or anyone associated with it conspired or coordinated with Russia in its efforts to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election." That really says it all.

Further, Attorney General Barr and Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein concluded the investigation did not—did not—establish that the President engaged in obstruction of justice.

So after 2 years, thousands of subpoenas, hundreds of search warrants, hundreds of witnesses, millions of taxpayer dollars, these are the findings: no collusion, no conspiracy, no obstruction.

What the investigation did produce, it seems, is a deep examination of Russia's efforts to interfere in the 2016 election. The Attorney General reports that Russia carried out online disinformation campaigns and computer hacking efforts designed to sow discord in our Nation and interfere in American politics.

It is deeply disturbing that the Obama administration was apparently insufficiently prepared to anticipate and counter these Russian threats. It was hardly a secret prior to November 2016 that Putin's Russia was not, and is not, our friend. Yet, for years, the previous administration ignored, excused, and failed to confront Putin's malign activities both at home and abroad.

I am glad the special counsel's report will contribute new insight and new understanding to our awareness of Russian activities. I look forward to the release of more information in the coming days, as the Attorney General has said he intends to do, in consultation with Special Counsel Mueller.

I look forward, as well, to the continuing parallel work of our Senate colleagues on the Select Committee on Intelligence to study the threats that foreign interference pose to our institutions.

As I said, in any sane political moment, all of this would be very welcome news to all Americans—in a normal time. But we know that, amazingly, the reaction in some corners of the far left has seemed not to be celebration but, rather, disappointment.

Huge components of the Democratic Party and their media allies have spent

literally years spinning intricate theories about this Presidency and trying to sell the American people on their wild claims. It is as if many of our Democratic colleagues are still just unable to process the simple fact that, yes, the American people elected this Republican President over his Democratic opponent.

We are faced with new evidence every day that our Republican policies are delivering exactly the change that middle-class families voted for back in 2016. Yet, even still, many on the left remain convinced that only conspiracy and corruption could possibly explain why they might actually lose an election.

Well, here in the real world, the American people hired this President to clean up the mess of the preceding 8 years. That is exactly what we set about doing, and the results are clear. The Nation is clearly better off than it was 2 years ago.

I sincerely hope that now, at last, our friends on the left will be able to put aside their fixation on permanently relitigating their loss in 2016 and actually join in the productive work that the rest of us have been proudly engaged in for the past 2 years and counting.

Unfortunately, the events over the last few months have not exactly indicated that productive, practical cooperation is what our Democratic colleagues have in mind. To the contrary, the Nation has watched as the Democratic Party has engaged in a collective headlong sprint—a headlong sprint—toward the left, as far to the left as possible, as fast as possible.

They have proposed a massive rewriting of the rules of American politics. They have proposed scrapping Medicare, slapping its name on a brandnew, one-size-fits-all government insurance plan, and then making American families' existing private insurance policies illegal. And, of course, they have proposed what the Senate will be voting on later this week—the famous Green New Deal.

My colleagues and I will have plenty more to say on this subject in the coming days. Today, I just want to say that I could not be more glad that the American people will have the opportunity to learn precisely where each one of their Senators stands on this radical, top-down, and socialist makeover of the entire U.S. economy.

Middle-class families will get to see if their Senators have been wooed by the disjointed contents of leftist daydreams.

Hard-working Americans in Kentucky and around the country who are employed in the energy and manufacturing industries will get to see if their Senators support eliminating all fossil fuels and suffocating their livelihoods.

Homeowners who take pride in their hard-earned investment will get to see if their Senators are in favor of forcible, DC-directed remodeling of every building in America.

Working-class Americans who have benefited from our growing economy and historic job market will learn whether their Senators support turning away from free enterprise and implementing a new government-driven employment system.

Families who have to budget for household expenses will see which Senators vote to increase their electricity bills by what one analysis pegs at—listen to this—\$300 a month.

Of course, every American taxpayer will get to learn whether their Senator supports saddling our Nation with the astronomical cost of this socialist fantasy—tens and tens of trillions of dollars—a tax burden that would be certain to hurt not just wealthy Americans but the middle class as well.

On all of these questions, on this whole Democratic effort to rebrand all the failed ideas of 20th-century socialism with a little green paint, every Member of this body will have the opportunity to cast a clear vote this very week. The American people deserve to know which Senators can reject this crippling proposal right away and which Senators find themselves unable to do that. That is exactly what they will learn later this week.

NOMINATION OF BRIDGET S. BADE

Madam President, later today, the Senate will vote to advance the nomination of yet another of President Trump's qualified choices to the Federal bench.

Bridget Bade of Arizona has been tapped to serve on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She brings with her well-rounded experience as a legal professional. She is a two-time graduate of Arizona State University and has served with distinction at the Department of Justice, the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, as a special counsel in private practice, and most recently as a magistrate judge.

Our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee saw fit to forward Ms. Bade's nomination with bipartisan support, and I hope all Senators will join me in voting to advance it later today.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, all of us heard the sad news today—nice for him but sad for us—that TOM UDALL will not seek reelection.

He is one of the most principled, hardest working Senators we have. He is bright, he is dedicated, and he has such integrity, which runs in the Udall family. When he gets up to speak, every Senator, Democratic and Republican, always knows how well thought out his remarks will be and how sincere they are. He is not doing this for some angle or political purpose. He is just the kind of person the Founding Fathers wanted to serve in the U.S. Senate.

TOM's leadership on reforming the campaign finance system, on protecting the environment, on advocating on behalf of Native American communities, shepherding legislation to protect America from harmful chemicals, and so much more, has been invaluable.

We will all be saying more about TOM in a little while. We will miss him. He has been a wonderful Senator, a great friend, and a wonderful member of this caucus.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Madam President, I am going to speak briefly on the matter of climate change, and then I will address matters relating to the special counsel's investigation.

During the last month, this Chamber has been the forum for debate on a topic I never thought I would see Republicans raise on their own—climate change. They have long been the party of climate change denial, with President Trump as the climate change denier-in-chief. It is an awfully difficult position to defend. It becomes more difficult every week and every month, and it is directly at odds with strong consensus views of scientists in the United States and around the globe.

As our weather changes and as we face disasters, the average American is saying more and more: Uh-oh. Climate change. I wonder what the people in Nebraska and Iowa think. They have had these huge floods that have been so devastating to them.

It is long past time for Republicans to take these issues seriously. This Chamber is supposed to debate the most serious issues of our day. Climate change is at the top of the list and shouldn't be an exception. That is why for a month all 47 Democrats have asked our Republican colleagues three simple questions, which none of them will answer. They are going to have to answer them sooner or later. One, do you agree that climate change is real? Two, do you agree that it is caused by human action? Three, do you believe that Congress should take immediate action to combat its effects?

We are not prescribing one part or another; we are saying, let's debate it. Let's not have a sham vote that is meant to embarrass one person or another. This is too serious of an issue for that. Republicans owe the American people some real answers, not games.

As I mentioned, just over the last week in the plains of Iowa, we saw the devastating effects of climate change with devastating clarity. The kind of weather we saw in the Iowa plains has no precedent. It was the equivalent of a category 2 hurricane lambasting the heart of the Midwest. Our hearts are with the people whose homes were destroyed or damaged, whose farms were decimated, and the animals that were lost.

The science is clear: A changing climate and warmer air make these freakish weather incidents more likely and more intense.

Republicans may want to keep their heads in the sand. I think that is a loser for them, especially among younger and younger voters. Like on so many other issues, Republicans are clinging to the past and not looking at what has happened, but Republicans do so at their own peril. With each passing year, their climate change denial is increasingly out of step with the American people. A majority of Americans—two-thirds, including a large percentage of Republicans—believe climate change is real and believe human action has accelerated its pace. They know it for a very simple reason—they can see it themselves.

On the South Shore of Long Island, all of a sudden after Sandy, very Republican areas understood the need to address climate change. That is happening all over the country. The American people see the effects of climate change every time a fire devastates California, another hurricane strikes the Gulf States, or Biblical flooding strikes some part of the country or another. They see them personally, not theoretically. That is what is happening. Indeed, scientists in the United States and Canada now say that the evidence for climate change has reached a "gold standard" of certainty.

What have Republicans done about it? Rather than take these warnings seriously, they choose to play games with our planet's future. Rather than get serious about the world our children will inherit, Leader MCCONNELL has elected to push a sham vote on their version of the Green New Deal. They will play that game right before voting on funding for natural disaster relief. Let there be no doubt—these disasters are magnified precisely because of climate change. I cannot fathom the level of cognitive dissonance required to schedule these two votes one right after the other.

No one is fooled by the Republican attempts to posture and politicize climate change. If they really want to debate the issue, let's debate it. Let's bring different views to the floor. Let's see how people vote. Let's not put something on the floor for the first time—a serious proposal on climate change, which the leader has never before put on the floor. Let's debate them all. We are not getting that to happen. Oh no. It is just a game—politics, politics, politics—that the American people, on this issue and so many others, dislike.

Let Republicans come at us with all they have. The facts are on the people who understand that climate change is real. It is no wonder our Republican colleagues don't want a real debate but a game. But the American people are not going to be fooled by the Republicans' stunt vote.

Democrats are prepared to take bold action to address the climate crisis head-on. That is why we are pushing for the creation of a bipartisan committee on climate change so we can examine this issue with the level of ur-

gency and depth it deserves. I urge my colleagues on the other side who know the truth to speak out and join us as we try to put a halt to the greatest threat of our time.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H. CON. RES. 24

Madam President, now on another matter, last night, Attorney General Barr delivered a brief letter to Congress that included his summary of Special Counsel Mueller's investigation. We have all seen the Attorney General's letter, but none of us—neither the Congress nor the public—have seen the report itself. The Justice Department has declined to even say how many pages the report includes, as if that were some sort of State secret.

After all, let's not forget why we are here in the first place. Two years ago, a hostile power attacked our democracy. As Mr. Barr's letter says, Russian actors, with the backing of Mr. Putin, waged a sophisticated and malicious campaign of disinformation and falsehood in order to influence the outcome of our elections. That has never happened before.

The American people deserve to see the documentation. What did they do? Whom did they approach? What happened? To sweep an issue like this under the rug, when the security of our wellspring elections—fair and not interfered with by foreign power—is at stake?

It is overwhelmingly self-evident in the public interest for the Mueller report to be released to the people. The American people simply want the truth. Each American, if he or she chooses, could read the report for themselves and draw their own conclusions. Whether or not you are a supporter of President Trump, whatever you feel, there is no good reason not to make the report public.

On March 14, just prior to the recess, the House of Representatives surprised a lot of our Republicans friends here in the Senate by passing a resolution calling for the report to be made public. Guess what the vote was. It was 420 to nothing. Even the most vociferous defenders of President Trump—Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. JORDAN—voted yes.

When the resolution arrived here in the Senate, I asked unanimous consent that it be adopted. I thought it would be. Regrettably, one Senator objected. The Senator from South Carolina—my friend, Senator GRAHAM—said he wouldn't agree to the resolution unless it was amended to call for a special prosecutor to investigate Hillary Clinton. The Senate was unable to pass the resolution that passed the House unanimously without controversy.

In fact, President Trump had said, even before the report came out and repeatedly afterward several times, that he supported passage of the House resolution and he supports making it public, and so did a good number of my Republican colleagues—a whole bunch today.

So, in a moment, I am going to renew my request of March 14 that the Senate

adopt H. Con. Res. 24, calling for public release of the Mueller report. Now that President Trump supports public release of the report, there is no good reason for anyone to object to this request.

It is a simple request for transparency, nothing more, nothing less—not to make a decision as to what you believe, not to say what we ought to do about it, but just to make it public. Transparency is a great American virtue that we have tried to uphold through the centuries.

So I hope I will not hear a request from the other side to amend the resolution to call for a different special counsel investigation. If there is going to be an objection, the American people deserve to know why—why should this report not be made public—not why something else shouldn't be done, not some extraneous issue. Why shouldn't this report be made public?

I ask my friend, the leader—I see him rising, and I imagine he is going to object—to give a reason why this report should not be made public, not that something else should be done at the same time. This is serious stuff. If there is an objection raised, it will only serve to frustrate the compelling public interest that is made in the special counsel's report in making it public.

Therefore, I will now give the Senate another opportunity to join every one of their colleagues in calling for the public release of this important report.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 24, expressing the sense of Congress that the report of Special Counsel Mueller should be made available to the public and to Congress, which is at the desk; further, that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as I said just a few moments ago, it is certainly good news for the country that the special counsel concluded that there is no evidence that the Trump campaign collaborated or conspired with the Russian Government to influence the last Presidential election. It is also good news for the country that due to the special counsel's work, we now have more insight into Russia's efforts to interfere with our democratic institution.

Now, I have consistently supported the proposition that the special counsel should be allowed to finish his work without interference. The work of the special counsel, however, is not yet complete. Neither is the work of the Department of Justice. The Attorney General told us yesterday that he is working with the special counsel to determine how much of the special coun-

sel's report can be produced without violating the law and without jeopardizing other ongoing matters, including other matters initiated by the special counsel. The special counsel and the Justice Department ought to be allowed to finish their work in a professional manner.

Now, my good friend, the Democratic leader, was all for allowing the special counsel to conduct his work without political interference when it might be politically advantageous to him, but, apparently, my friend from New York is not for allowing the special counsel to complete his work with the Justice Department, according to his best professional and legal judgment, when that might be inconvenient to my friend's own current political purposes.

To date, the Attorney General has followed through on his commitment to the Congress. One of those commitments is that he intends to release as much information as possible. I certainly welcome that commitment to transparency, as do others, but to the extent that the Attorney General, in consulting with the special counsel, believes it is important to protect sensitive sources and methods, protect material that could affect ongoing investigations and prosecutions, and is legally protected, then he deserves the time to work through these issues.

I am going to object in order to allow the special counsel and the Justice Department to finish their careful and professional review of a, no doubt, voluminous record—a record that likely contains sensitive, classified, and legally protected material.

For all of those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I will be brief. The resolution does not say it has to be done immediately. The resolution certainly allows for the Attorney General to make sure that nothing is released that violates the law. All it says is that it ought to be released. It is hard to understand why the majority leader wouldn't be for that resolution.

None of his objections—none—are in the words of the report. In fact, the words of the report are very simple. It shows a sense of the Congress that it should be released—not when, not in violation of the law, not in a hurried matter, just to be released.

So I am sort of befuddled by at least the majority leader's reasoning in this regard because it is not in the words of this resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the country and the President had to wait 2 years. It has been going on for 2 years. This very expensive investigation took 2 years to be concluded. Look, it is not unreasonable to give the special counsel and the Justice Department just a little time to complete their review in a professional and responsible manner.

Remember, as I said earlier, we are likely dealing here with other potential prosecutions, classified information, and damaging people's reputations. There is no evidence that the Attorney General is not going to produce as much information as possible for all of us, and that is why I objected.

I think it is a reasonable thing to do. We have been waiting for a long time for this report to wrap up. It is largely good news, not just for the President but for the country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, again, this language was good enough for every Republican in the Senate, as well as every Democrat. The President himself says it should be released. It is hard to understand why the majority leader should stand alone in objections no one else found to be reasonable or sustainable and oppose this resolution. The report should be made public, and the Senate should resolve that it should be.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, revolution is deeply embedded in the character of this Nation.

More than two centuries ago, delegates from across the American colonies gathered in Philadelphia to take what was audacious action. They risked everything, including their lives, by declaring independence from the greatest and strongest power in the world at that time, the British Empire.

I am proud to say that my forefather served in George Washington's army, and he was called to risk his life and serve in the Continental Army to fight for an idea—that freedom and liberty would reign in this country.

As Americans, throughout history, we have been called to service. Sometimes we are called to service by clear and present danger, such as the bombing at Pearl Harbor. Sometimes we are called to greatness by stretching our imagination like, when we went to the Moon, and sometimes we are called to unity by necessity because the stakes of inaction are simply too high.

Today the United States faces such a challenge, and I believe we can once again prove our greatness. It is an undeniable fact that climate change, caused in large part by humans, is a threat to Michigan, our Great Lakes, our country, and our planet. Climate change poses a threat not only to the lands and waters that we all depend on but also to our health, our economy, and even our national security.

It is also undeniable that the United States, unified in purpose, can meet the challenges and defeat the threats caused by climate change, but we need to take action now. Time is simply not on our side.

Without question, taking action involves political risk, but doing nothing is simply not an option. The longer we

wait, the risks to our planet only grow more challenging and difficult to solve.

Our planet is showing clear, unequivocal evidence of climate change, according to an overwhelming scientific consensus. Our ice caps are melting. Our oceans are warming. Severe weather is becoming the new normal. Land temperatures are rising.

Just last week, an alarming new report found that the Great Lakes are warming more quickly than other parts of the country. This change will negatively impact fish species, lead to more algal blooms, cause flood damage to communities, homes, and businesses, and irreversibly alter a sensitive ecosystem that provides drinking water for 40 million Americans. I represent the Great Lakes State, and climate change threatens our economy and our way of life.

I am disappointed that instead of working together on commonsense efforts and treating climate change with the seriousness that it deserves, the Republican Senate majority leader has chosen to waste limited floor time on a political stunt.

What we should be doing is having a thoughtful debate on the need to address a significant threat to our country. Rather than playing partisan games, it is time to find unity and take bold action.

The Senate must come together to pass real, concrete policies that will help to mitigate climate change and to wean us from our dependence on fossil fuels. I know it is possible because I have worked on bipartisan efforts with my colleagues to advance clean energy and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Together, we have advanced technology innovation, fueled our Nation's transportation with cleaner energy, bolstered our Nation's infrastructure to be more resilient to climate impacts, offered incentives for carbon capture sequestration, and boosted energy efficiency. These are all accomplishments that we have done together, but more needs to be done.

This Congress, as we consider a surface transportation reauthorization package, as well as a new Water Resources Development Act, would be foolish to ignore climate impacts as we spend taxpayer dollars for infrastructure. We must seize the opportunity presented by a clean energy economy to continue driving American innovation while creating sustainable good-paying jobs.

Today our auto industry in Michigan is rapidly working to advance electrification. Just last week, General Motors announced plans to add 400 jobs and invest \$300 million to build a new electric car at their Orion plant. But despite these efforts, our State and our country have been hurt by the lack of a coherent, cohesive, and forward-looking policy that grows our economy while protecting our environment.

We need a policy that ensures that renewable energy is produced here in America and done in a way that cre-

ates jobs and strengthens our national security. I know that we can do it if only we can find the political will.

Together, we can effectively confront climate change in a way that benefits Michigan workers and families, our Great Lakes, and the entire country.

The science is clear, but time is not on our side. We must take action now to confront climate change before it is too late. I urge my colleagues to stop playing political games. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work on solving the climate change crisis together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. ISAKSON. Thank you, Mr. President. I rise for a moment to talk about a vote we will have tomorrow in this Chamber on a motion to adopt an amendment to the supplemental appropriations passed by the House, and it is a disaster amendment dealing with the States that have been afflicted by disasters over the last 2 years—most of them southern States, but not all. Some include the Territory of Puerto Rico.

I am going to go over the details in a second, but first of all, some of you may see floating around this memorandum from the chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the House and the vice chairman in the Senate. It talks about an agreement that was on the disaster money and refers to Puerto Rico being shortchanged and the fact that we need to make sure that that doesn't happen. I want to give you the facts.

Georgia, which I represent, is one of a number of States that includes Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alaska, California, and Hawaii, which have experienced significant disasters in the past 2 years. We saw the fires in California on our TVs. We saw the volcanoes in Hawaii. We saw the blueberries in Georgia fall off the vines and be destroyed. We saw what happened to these crops and Alaska's earthquake. All of these States have received nothing yet.

Puerto Rico has received \$40 billion—\$40 billion for what happened in Maria, and \$21 billion has not been spent. They have gotten a lot of money, \$40 billion, and the amendment I want to talk about in a second gives them \$600 million more.

There are a lot of places in this country that are States that we represent that have gotten nothing and have had big disasters in the last 2 years. These disasters are hurting our economy, our people, and our States.

So I want to—any of you to see this email or this flyer tomorrow or hear the debate tomorrow. What it says, the flyer says that the vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator LEAHY, is going to object to the substitute that will be offered by Senator PERDUE and myself tomorrow to the bill that will be debated unless Puerto Rico gets a better shake. The

point, Puerto Rico has gotten 40, only spent 19, they have got \$21 billion left to spend. We have \$600 million to see to it that they don't run out of SNAP money at the end of this month, which they will with everything that stands currently. Puerto Rico is being treated great. Is there CDBG money they want? No, it is not in there.

"Fair" is an interesting word. Fair is when you and I are treated fairly. We both get equal proportions, for money and things of that nature. Unfair is when somebody weights the formula—or someone takes undue advantage of a special situation.

Well, this is a special situation. A lot of people are going to go without help by the end of next month. Farm bills are going to come due, and banks are going to foreclose on them. A lot of people in agriculture will be hurt badly. People who have been hurt by the fires in California will not be helped. Those who expressed help for earthquake damage in Alaska will not be helped. A lot of people will not be helped.

We need to put off this guise of fairness and be really fair. Let's see that we put in the \$600 million, which the amendment does and see to it that people on SNAP in Puerto Rico get their money. Let's see to it that those people in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina and other States damaged by floods, hurricanes, or fires get their money.

There will be more emergencies, and we all know that. We all hate emergencies for a lot of reasons—appropriators, especially. Nobody wants to have to do that, but when our State, your State or mine, is injured dramatically in a disastrous hurricane or tornado or whatever, we as a country have always passionately dealt with the results of those storms, the losses those States have felt, and helped those States get back on their feet and those people be served.

We are not asking for a handout; we are asking for a hand up in each of those States, and they have been waiting for a long time. Those who know what I am talking about, who is from Georgia, we have farmers who have gone through a cycle and their farm financing was done through banks that, at the end of this month, will have to act on those loans and call them for payment or have a refinance schedule knowing that they got some money coming down the line. If this passes and is agreed to by the House and the banks get the message that we are trying to help them like we have always had in the past, they will have a chance to make the negotiations, pay the money back that they borrowed, and do it over time and give people jobs in the field rather than go back and tell them we can't give them money and help them and lose the farm and business and us lose a lot of jobs.

It is just not right, and it is not fair. I used the word "fair" just then because I think fair is the definition of

seeing to it that Puerto Rico, Georgia, and South Carolina get help.

If you get this argument, read it. It sounds like we agreed to something 3 weeks ago, and now, all of a sudden, we are not agreeing to the same thing. That is not true. We agreed last week when we left what this vote would be tomorrow, what the supplemental will look like, what would be included in it, and as I understood it and my sense of understanding, we agreed to all the things. Was there enough money for Puerto Rico for what they wanted? No, they wanted more. Would Florida like more? Would Georgia like more? North Carolina like more? Yes. But in fairness of equity, it is fair and equitable to those people.

I would urge you to listen to the debate and what everybody tells you what happened before you make a decision and everyone gets hurt. Instead what you are going to do, if you fall for this scenario, you are going to really hurt some people who will otherwise be helped through deliberations that have taken over the part of the last 2 or 3 months.

Mr. President, I appreciate the time and the time to come here. I wish I could talk about something other than disasters, but I can't. A lot of people lost their lives and farms and their future. I want to see that we help in an equitable fashion in those States and those Territories that we do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise to speak this afternoon on the upcoming vote on the majority leader's Green New Deal resolution, a resolution that, ironically, he apparently does not support.

First I want to say this about the Green New Deal: Even our Republican friends cannot deny that this resolution has sparked a national conversation and generated a great deal of enthusiasm among the American people, especially among younger Americans.

It reminds me of the time when I was a young naval flight officer stationed at Moffett Field Naval Air Station just south of San Francisco, waiting to be deployed to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war. I joined millions of Americans across our country that year and celebrated our Nation's very first Earth Day.

As I listen to the rising chorus of voices calling for climate action today, I hear the sounds of that day in Golden Gate Park. I remember the urgency we felt then to address the environmental challenges facing our Nation and our world, and I feel an even greater sense of urgency today. That is why it is so disappointing to me that our Republican colleagues—not all of them but a number of them—are trying to make a mockery of the very real concerns and the passionate calls for action we are hearing from people all across this country and, indeed, all around the world.

This is not a time for derision. This is not a time for division. On an issue as serious as this one, we ought to be serious about addressing it. However, it has become clear that some—not all but some—of our Republican friends would rather have some fun and talk, maybe, about hamburgers and cheeseburgers and that kind of thing. Worse, some have conflated meaningful action on climate change with socialism.

With the death of our late colleague John McCain, I am the last Vietnam veteran serving in the U.S. Senate. I served 5 years in a hot war in Southeast Asia to oppose the expansion of communism. Shortly after we celebrated that first-ever Earth Day in 1970, I was sent on the first of three deployments in Southeast Asia before eventually serving another 18 years until the end of the Cold War as a Navy P-3 aircraft mission commander in the Naval Reserve and retiring as a Navy captain after chasing Soviet submarines in all of the oceans of the world.

I am not a socialist. Like most of our colleagues here, I am an American patriot and proud to be one. I care deeply about this planet, and I know we can have cleaner air and water while creating jobs. Those two things are not mutually exclusive. Our Republican colleagues know better than that, and they owe our country better than that.

In recent weeks, our Republican colleagues have thrown around a \$93 trillion number. That wildly overestimated number primarily refers to provisions in the Green New Deal that are not directly related to climate change.

At a time when our country is looking to Congress for leadership on climate action, hiding behind political games, deception, and scare tactics is irresponsible. It is cowardly when we ought to be brave.

Right now a clear majority of Americans want us, in Congress, to address the growing climate crisis that is facing our country and our planet. We should be having a fact-based, policy-driven conversation about tackling this crisis, and we should be talking about the real costs that confront us, including the cost of inaction.

I live in Delaware, the lowest lying State in our country. Our State is sinking. The oceans around us are rising. According to our Nation's leading scientists, climate change unchecked means more sea level rise, costing coastal communities up and down the east coast—like my State—trillions of dollars in economic damages over the next 80 years.

In the Northeast we are experiencing rain events in which we are measuring rain by the foot, not the inch. Not too far from where we stand today, Ellicott City, MD, has experienced not one but two 1,000-year floods. They have withstood not one but two 1,000-year floods in less than 2 years.

Today, our hearts go out to our neighbors along the Missouri River Basin as they are suffering through

catastrophic flooding. As of Friday, the cost of damage to Nebraska alone had already surpassed \$1.3 billion, and the damage to Iowa alone was estimated at \$1.6 billion. Some cities are currently without fresh water. In Missouri, entire communities have been evacuated. In Northwestern Missouri, roughly 40,000 acres of farmland was still underwater this past Friday.

Our Nation's scientists tell us that climate change unchecked means more frequent and more intense storms, meaning bomb cyclones. I didn't even know there was such a thing as bomb cyclones, but there are. Intense rainfalls and category 5 hurricanes are becoming the new normal.

Last year, we witnessed the tragic devastation caused by wildfires fueled by drought and heat, like the California wildfires. Imagine what we could face in 2050 when, according to our Nation's scientists, wildfire seasons burn up to six times more forest area each year.

The extreme weather events we see are already taking a toll on American lives, on American livelihoods, and on our Nation's budget. According to NOAA, in 2017 alone, extreme weather cost Americans \$300 billion in economic damages—a new record. That same year, the Federal Government spent \$120 billion in Federal disaster spending for just four extreme weather events—just four.

Earlier this month, the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office released its biennial high-risk list and once again identified climate change as a significant fiscal risk to the Federal Government and, I might add, to taxpayers.

According to GAO, since 2005, Federal funding for disaster assistance has reached \$430 billion—nearly one-half trillion dollars—and those costs will continue to rise. GAO says: "Disaster costs are projected to increase as extreme weather events become more frequent and intense due to climate change."

NOAA and NASA tell us these numbers will be a drop in the bucket compared to our new climate future if we do not act on climate change. If we do not change course, just about every major economic sector in the United States will be negatively affected by climate change by the turn of this century. Some sectors could see hundreds of billions of dollars of losses every year.

Add it all up, and climate change could slash up to 10 percent of our gross domestic product, GDP, by 2100. I like to say, compared to what? Well, for context, that would be more than double the losses incurred during the great recession of the last decade. However, all of these costs are woefully underestimated. How can we put a price tag on the toll of this destruction? What is the cost of our fourth-generation farm family who loses their land and their livestock? What is the cost of a bridge inundated by water, separating a community from a hospital or

other emergency services? What is the cost of the family who loses a child to an asthma attack on a high particulate matter day?

The circumstances I have laid out are dire because that is the crisis we face, and we cannot evade it into oblivion. This poster says it all: "No matter where we live, we can't ignore the reality of climate change or its effects." We have to accept and address this crisis.

As Albert Einstein once said, in adversity lies opportunity. The opportunity before us is even greater. More than 3 million people have gone to work in the clean energy sector in the United States in recent years, and those jobs are in renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, smart grid and storage, cleaner fuels, and lower emission vehicles.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 more minutes to complete my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Nearly 500,000 of these clean energy jobs are in the solar and wind industries, and one out of every six construction workers in this country now make their living in emergency and energy efficiency. One out of every five companies involved in making motor vehicle parts makes their money from products that make our cars, trucks, and vans cleaner.

Our clean energy revolution did not happen by accident. We put smart policies in place, and we had leadership that believed climate change was a threat. During the Obama administration, starting with the Recovery Act, the Federal Government provided economic incentives and smart regulations to support market investments and clean energy. We must build on this progress and continue to support policies that reduce our Nation's carbon footprint, help create a more robust economy, and support those most vulnerable to climate change.

Yet instead of pursuing any ideas to address climate change and protect Americans from its effect, the Trump administration has sadly decided to ignore climate change, decided to defund clean energy research and roll back any meaningful climate action, decided to walk away from provisions that would help protect Americans from rising floods and other extreme weather events.

Our President's failed leadership on climate change threatens our health, our economy, U.S. competitiveness, and our future. Sadly, most of our—not all—but most of our Republican friends have been applauding the President with every action.

In conclusion, let me just say to the American people, don't be fooled or distracted by the political games. We cannot allow cynicism to win. We can reduce our Nation's carbon footprint; we can strengthen our economy; and we can support those most vulnerable among us—indeed, we must. Climate

change is real. Human activity is the dominant cause. Congress needs to act. Stop the political theater and start to address the climate change before us today while we still have time, and we do.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

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 bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Bridget S. Bade, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, John Cornyn, Joni Ernst, Lindsey Graham, John Boozman, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, John Hoeven, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Thune, Pat Roberts, Jerry Moran.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate on the nomination of Bridget S. Bade, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 77, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 50 Ex.]

YEAS—77

Alexander	Daines	King
Barrasso	Duckworth	Lankford
Bennet	Durbin	Leahy
Blackburn	Enzi	Lee
Blunt	Ernst	Manchin
Boozman	Feinstein	McConnell
Braun	Fischer	McSally
Brown	Gardner	Moran
Burr	Graham	Murkowski
Capito	Grassley	Murphy
Cardin	Hassan	Paul
Carper	Hawley	Perdue
Cassidy	Heinrich	Portman
Collins	Hoeven	Reed
Coons	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cornyn	Isakson	Roberts
Cotton	Johnson	Romney
Cramer	Jones	Rosen
Crapo	Kaine	Rounds
Cruz	Kennedy	Rubio

Sasse	Sinema
Schatz	Sullivan
Scott (FL)	Tester
Scott (SC)	Thune
Shaheen	Tillis
Shelby	Toomey

Van Hollen
Warner
Whitehouse
Wicker
Young

NAYS—20

Baldwin	Harris	Peters
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Markey	Smith
Casey	Menendez	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	

NOT VOTING—3

Inhofe	Udall	Warren
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 77, the nays are 20.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Bade nomination expire at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action. I further ask that following the disposition of the Bade nomination, the Senate proceed to legislative session and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 88, with the time until 4 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; finally, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, that the cloture motions with respect to the motions to proceed to S.J. Res. 8 and H.R. 268 ripen at 4 p.m. tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO WILLARD KINZER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today it is my honor to pay tribute to Willard Kinzer, a one-of-a-kind Kentuckian who will receive a lifetime achievement award at the beginning of April. Willard, a leading figure in Floyd County, seems to have done it all.

He is a World War II veteran, who felt compelled to join the Navy after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Willard's a nonstop worker, becoming a prominent entrepreneur in eastern Kentucky, leading Kinzer Drilling through expansions and growth. His philanthropy has helped build schools in his native Appalachia and has supported the Mountain Arts Center, and perhaps most unexpectedly Willard holds the distinction

as the first individual in history to drive a stock suspension car faster than 230 miles per hour. If that weren't impressive enough, wait until you hear that Willard was in his 80s at the time.

He certainly has a notable list of accomplishments, and Willard shows no plans to slow down any time soon. Last year, he celebrated his 90th birthday by winning a drag-racing championship at 175 miles per hour. In Willard's trophy room, which is packed with the many awards he has earned over a long career of achievement and thrill-seeking, a sign reads, "Life begins at 200 mph." It is a fitting motto for a man who never seems to take his foot off the gas pedal.

Willard's local community will continue to enjoy his many contributions and inspirational example for generations to come. I am pleased to see his incredible life be honored, and I would like to add my voice to the chorus of those praising this remarkable Kentuckian. I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in recognizing Willard Kinzer for a lifetime of achievement and to congratulate him on this honor.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL LUKE REINER

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the service of the adjutant general of the Wyoming National Guard, MG Luke Reiner, to the State of Wyoming and our Nation.

In 1982, Major General Reiner enlisted in the Army National Guard. As a born leader, Luke was commissioned as an officer in 1986 and subsequently joined the Wyoming Army National Guard in 1987. Coming to Wyoming was the best decision of his career.

Major General Reiner wore many hats and served at every level of the Wyoming Army National Guard. From his first job as the counter fire officer of the 115th Field Artillery Brigade to the executive officer of the 2-300 Field Artillery Battalion, he rose to take command of the 115th Fires Brigade. Luke's operational experience included a deployment to Kuwait where he commanded Camp New York in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Governor Matt Mead appointed Luke Reiner as adjutant general, and he took command on April 1, 2011. Luke and I got to know each other very well over years as we worked together to secure funding to modernize the C-130H fleet. Major General Reiner was the Wyoming Guard's advocate in Washington at the National Guard Bureau and the Pentagon. He frequently traveled back to Washington and served on various National Guard committees and counsels.

Every Thanksgiving, I travel overseas to visit with Wyoming servicemen and women deployed around the world. Governor Mead, Major General Reiner, and I spent Thanksgiving with the 133rd Engineering Company stationed in Bahrain in 2013. It was an honor to eat Thanksgiving dinner with these

young men and women alongside Major General Reiner.

On March 28, 2019, Luke will officially retire as Wyoming's adjutant general and hand the colors over to BG Gregory Porter. Major General Reiner will remain in Wyoming. I look forward to continue working closely with him in his role as director of the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

Luke epitomizes the "Code of the West." Live each day with courage. Take pride in your work. Do what needs to be done. We thank him for all he has done to keep Wyoming and our Nation safe.

Finally, I want to thank Luke's wife Devonna and his two daughters Heather and Holly for allowing Luke to serve Wyoming and this great Nation. We are forever thankful.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK TYRRELL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I recognize the distinguished career of Pat Tyrrell. After more than 18 years of service, Pat is retiring as Wyoming's longest serving State engineer.

A Wyoming native, Pat grew up in Cheyenne. He attended the University of Wyoming in Laramie where he obtained a B.S. in mechanical engineering and an M.S. in civil engineering. He began his time in public service in 2001 when Governor Jim Geringer appointed Pat as Wyoming's State Engineer. During his tenure, he served under four Governors and became well known in the State, region, and Nation as an expert on all matters related to water resources.

Established under Wyoming's Constitution, the State engineer serves as the chief water official in Wyoming. With Wyoming situated astride the Continental Divide, the State provides the headwaters for four major river basins in the Western United States.

Charged with the regulation and administration of the water resources in Wyoming, Pat's duties as State engineer ranged from overseeing the permitting and adjudication of water rights, regulation of the use of water under the doctrine of prior appropriation, and representing the State on numerous boards, compacts, and commissions. These included Wyoming's commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission, the North Platte Decree Committee, Western States Water Council, and the Colorado River Salinity Control Forum. He often served in leadership roles and worked in cooperation with the other 17 Western States to manage and develop water resources.

Pat is known for his balanced approach to water resource management, ensuring compliance with the law while also protecting the interests of Wyoming water users. His expertise and influence were instrumental in resolving decades-long problems, such as the Big Horn General Adjudication.

As State engineer, he waded through thousands of water rights in the Big

Horn Basin to bring clarity and certainty to Federal, Tribal, and State interests in the area and ultimately saw the end to a 37-year lawsuit. Pat's reflection on this case was emblematic of his philosophy to water management: "If we can move water without any ill effect to existing users, we can make changes. But we need everybody at the table."

Shortly after I joined the U.S. Senate, I experienced this philosophy firsthand. It was during a critical point in passing the Craig Thomas Snake Headwaters Legacy Act that Pat met in my office with key players who were negotiating the final language of the bill. With his calm demeanor and extraordinary understanding of Western water law, he was able to provide clarity to the meaning of certain text in the bill and assuage all in the room of the practicality of what the text said and what was contemplated. Shortly thereafter, agreement was reached, and the bill was signed into law. It became clear to me that one of Pat's greatest skills is he builds trust through his knowledge of the law and how it is applied and is able to accurately articulate how that application will or will not impact people's lives.

Pat has used this philosophy in interstate water negotiations. Known as the senior statesman on the river, Pat has been instrumental in many of the key decisions related to management of the Colorado River. Time after time, Pat has sought cooperation and coordination to balance the various needs and demands on the river. From hydropower production and ecosystem protection, to water storage and water delivery obligations, Pat has been instrumental in crafting creative solutions to ensure all needs are met.

In the face of nearly two decades of drought in the Colorado River basin, his expertise has been invaluable. He was instrumental in implementing the river's 2007 Guidelines and has been intimately engaged in development of the current Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan, which is currently being debated in Congress. As Wyoming's representative on the river, Pat focused on ensuring the needs met by the Colorado River today will be maintained for future generations.

In the same way Pat has looked out for Wyoming's future water needs, he has also sought to care for the development of Wyoming's future leaders. Late last year, he and his wife Barbara established a scholarship fund at the University of Wyoming to provide future students an education in engineering. Expertise and education in water management in States like Wyoming is invaluable, and we can only hope for more leaders like Pat.

Pat's service has reached every corner of the State. The history books will note his involvement in the 2001 Modified North Platte Decree, the Yellowstone River compact, which involved an 11-year Supreme Court lawsuit with the State of Montana, and many other

accomplishments, but those who worked with him will remember and hopefully carry on his gentle nature, deliberate thinking, and dedication to the law.

I invite all members of the Senate to join me in congratulating Pat in his retirement, wishing him well and his family much success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DENISE LOWERY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, along with my colleague, the ranking member on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator MURRAY, I wish to pay tribute to Denise Lowery. Ms. Lowery is a non-designated employee on the HELP Committee staff and is retiring at the end of this month after almost 16 years of distinguished service to the HELP Committee.

Ms. Lowery has served as editor for the committee since 2003, compiling and sending to print all our committee reports and materials for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Ms. Lowery is well regarded by all Members and staff of the committee, having proven her professionalism, courtesy, and substantial expertise over almost 16 years. Without the support of Ms. Lowery and the rest of the nondesignated staff, the committee could not accomplish the important work the American people expect us to get done on their behalf. I, the ranking member, and the rest of the committee's members want to recognize Ms. Lowery for that tremendous contribution to the Committee as she exits her time in the Senate.

I wish Ms. Lowery the best and hope retirement from the Senate will allow her time for hobbies such as working on home improvement projects and spending time with her friends and family.

I would like to yield now to my colleague, the ranking member, Senator MURRAY, for her remarks.

Mrs. MURRAY. I thank Chairman ALEXANDER and join him in commending Ms. Lowery for her many years of dedicated and outstanding service to the HELP Committee, the Senate, and the American people. I greatly appreciate the sacrifice that Ms. Lowery has made over the past 16 years in assisting the HELP Committee by applying her expertise in editing, printing, and memorializing our important work. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

We hope our colleagues will join us in thanking Ms. Lowery for her service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANTON ART CENTER

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Anton Art Center in Mount Clemens, MI. I appreciate the oppor-

tunity to recognize the efforts of the Anton Art Center to fulfill their mission to enrich and inspire people of all ages through the arts.

The Anton Art Center was established in 1969 by three members of the Mount Clemens Art Association: Bea Wright, Gretchen Thompson, and Phyllis Wickens. Upon its founding, they took over occupancy of the then Mount Clemens Public Library to save the historical building from demolition. The library was built by Andrew Carnegie in 1903 and opened in 1904 and was one of approximately 2,500 libraries that Carnegie funded throughout the world. The center converted the interior to include three galleries, an art studio and meeting area, a pottery studio and kiln room, and offices. In 2006, local businessman Gebran Anton led a fundraising effort to expand the building with the addition of a gift shop, an increase in gallery space, and more classroom space. It is fitting that the center should occupy a Carnegie Library, a beautifully designed building that is now listed in the State of Michigan historic register.

The goals of the Anton Art Center are to present a wide array of programming to appeal to diverse audiences, provide support for the arts, and become a focal point for arts programming and work toward inclusion, diversity, equity, and access in all they do. Through its many programs, the Anton Art Center has become a leading advocate of the arts and artists in Macomb County and throughout the surrounding area. In addition to traditional artist exhibitions, the center offers a multitude of programs for artists to showcase their work to the public. There are multiple juried statewide competitions, as well as two annual events that include the ART! Macomb Art Fair and holiday market. The center's gift shop offers yet more opportunity for the community to support local artists. The center also supports the aspiring artist inside many of us by offering adult and child classes in many mediums including clay, drawing, mixed media, photography, weaving, and watercolor.

The Anton Art Center also serves as the Region 10A Re-granting Agency for the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, MCACA. As such, they award mini-grants to nonprofit organizations, schools, municipalities, and individual professional artists in Macomb and Oakland Counties in support of arts and culture programming and professional or organizational development. They also provide technical assistance to organizations applying for funding through this program.

I am pleased to rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Anton Art Center. They have been a staple of the arts and cultural scene in Macomb County for half a century, and I wish them continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA CARAWAN

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Sandra Carawan, the Gilchrist County teacher of the year from Bell Elementary School in Bell, FL.

Sandra is dedicated to her students, working closely with them each day to help solve their problems. Her colleagues describe her as a tremendous asset and someone who will help in any way she can, whether as a teacher or with administrative duties. She was named Bell Elementary School's teacher of the year in addition to receiving the award for the district.

A fifth grade exceptional student education teacher, Sandra acts as the lead teacher for her grade level. She also serves as Bell Elementary School advisory chair, safety patrol sponsor, district 21st century evaluator/coordinator, a positive behavior support team member, and a data evaluator for the entire Gilchrist County School District. She graduated from Saint Leo University, earning her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1999 and her master of education degree in 2007.

I convey my best wishes to Sandra for her dedication to her students and school. I look forward to hearing of this continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO LILLY CHAPPELL

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Lilly Chappell, the Bradford County teacher of the year from Southside Elementary School in Starke, FL.

Lilly has enjoyed spreading her passion for learning to others throughout her whole life. She has spent 11 years with the Southside Parent Teacher Organization, helping to build a playground and sound system for students, directing musicals with more than 250 students, and making herself available for a variety of other extracurricular events throughout the school year.

Lilly has taught in Bradford County for 20 years, beginning as a writing coach. She has served at Southside Elementary School as the lead teacher in fourth and fifth grade, the K-5 county gifted instructor, 5th grade English language arts, and as a history teacher. She attended the University of Florida and University of North Florida, studying public relations and elementary 1-6 education. As a result of her teaching and mentoring over the years, several of the students she previously taught have now become her colleagues.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Lilly for her years of dedication to her student. I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO NICOLE KENNGOTT

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Nicole Kenngott, the Pinellas County teacher of the year from Plumb Elementary School in Clearwater, FL.

Nicole specializes in deaf studies and special-needs education. She uses innovative, research-based teaching methods to educate her students. She designs lesson plans to promote continuous learning in a teaching environment meant to encourage and inspire her students.

Nicole works with students to identify their fears in order to foster a better growth mindset and develop an enthusiasm for learning. Last year, 60 percent of her students earned a level three or higher on the State English test, compared to 51 percent in Pinellas County schools.

Nicole earned her master's degree from Dowling College and has taught at Plumb Elementary School for 3 years. She follows a teaching style based on a growth mindset and Conversation, Help, Activity, Movement, Participation, and Success or CHAMPS. She also uses the strategies of Advanced Via Individual Determination teaching and restorative practices.

I express my sincere gratitude to Nicole for her commitment to helping her students succeed in school. I look forward to learning of her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MELISSA PAPPAS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Melissa Pappas, the Orange County teacher of the year from Brookshire Elementary School in Winter Park, FL.

Melissa is a K-5 intensive autism teacher that works with children with severe behavioral functional and academic needs. She is motivated by her passion for her students and is responsible for one of only five intensive units districtwide, serving students with severe behavioral, functional, and academic needs. She believes teaching is not only a profession that teaches all other professions, but the one with the power to shape the future for all types of learners.

In the past year, she launched a schoolwide initiative during Autism Awareness Month to educate members of the school community to promote acceptance, love, and understanding of those with autism and special needs. As a result of the initiative, many students performed random acts of kindness and engaged students with exceptionalities.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Melissa for her devotion to helping her students succeed in life. I look forward to learning of her continued success in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO LAURA WYKOFF

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Laura Wykoff, the Alachua County teacher of the year from Fort Clarke Middle School in Gainesville, FL.

Laura keeps letters from her students to remind her of the importance of her job. After receiving this award,

she shared many of these letters with those in attendance at the award ceremony. The letters consist of humorous ones on learning about integers, algebra, and other math subjects to serious ones about how, if it was not for Laura, they would not have been successful in school. She considers these examples as an important reason for why she does her job.

Laura considers teaching her students and realizing that they understand something and that makes a student feel good about themselves as the best part of the job. At the award ceremony, one of her former students credited Laura with his success and noted that she has always been there for him.

Laura has taught for more than 10 years and is currently a seventh and eighth grade mathematics teacher at Fort Clarke Middle School, where she has been since 2015. Her family consists of a long line of academics, and Laura believes teaching is in their blood.

I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to Laura for her dedication to her students throughout her career. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING SOUTHERN CRAFT CREAMERY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the unique American entrepreneurial spirit. It is my privilege to honor a Florida small business that not only produces an amazing product, but also tirelessly serves their community. Today, I recognize Southern Craft Creamery, of Marianna, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2012, Southern Craft Creamery is owned and operated by Dale and Cindy Eade, with the help of their children. After selling their handcrafted ice cream wholesale for 6 years, the Eade family opened its first brick-and-mortar location last February.

Southern Craft Creamery is a true family-run business. While Dale and Cindy's daughter, Megan Austin, along with her husband Brad, currently manage Cindale Farms, a local dairy farm where Southern Craft Creamery sources its milk, Lauren and Zach O'Bryan, Dale and Cindy's daughter and son-in-law, initially launched the ice cream brand. Having been involved in the Florida dairy business since 1980, it is no surprise that the Eade family's ice cream is crafted to showcase the quality milk they produce and the delicious southern ingredients they grew up with.

Today, Southern Craft Creamery sells a wide variety of signature ice cream flavors including tupelo honey, salty caramel, and candied bacon, as well as seasonal flavors such as raspberry basil, bourbon butter pecan, and blackberry buttermilk.

Southern Craft Creamery has been repeatedly recognized for these deli-

cious flavors, being named the overall food winner in the 2013 Made in the South Awards by "Garden & Gun" magazine and by "Southern Living" magazine in the Best Sweets category for the magazine's 2015 food awards.

Southern Craft Creamery creates these remarkable ice cream flavors by sourcing many of their ingredients from other local, family-owned small businesses. Working with local farmers and producers has allowed Southern Craft Creamery to give back to their community while also receiving the freshest and most flavorful ingredients available. They also work with regional, family-owned retailers to sell their ice cream throughout Florida.

Southern Craft Creamery and the Eade family seek to give back to their community in any way possible. After Hurricane Michael devastated their community, they gathered supplies for victims, opened their doors to allow residents to cool off, and offered free coffee and ice cream to first responders. Prior to December 2018, Southern Craft donated all of their tips to Partners for Pets, a nonprofit animal shelter in Marianna. Since December 2018, however, all of their tips have been donated to Friends of the Florida Caverns State Park in an effort to assist in replanting trees and repair damages caused by Hurricane Michael.

The Eade family's work to grow Southern Craft Creamery, support local farmers, and aid members of their community is an excellent example of civic dedication. Companies like Southern Craft Creamery are the heartbeat of local, small-town communities across Florida. I would like to congratulate Southern Craft Creamery on their 1-year anniversary of opening their storefront and for being named the Senate Small Business of the Week. I wish them good luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of

January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona, Mr. LAHOOD of Illinois, Mr. MARCHANT of Texas, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER of Washington.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 306(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242k), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker reappoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics for a term of 4 years: Dr. Vickie M. Mays of Los Angeles, California.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-619. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "External Marking Requirement for Small Unmanned Aircraft" (RIN2120-AL32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-620. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (53); Amendment No. 3833" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-621. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (14); Amendment No. 3834" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-622. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3835" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-623. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3836" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-624. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (68); Amendment No. 3837" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-625. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (54); Amendment No. 3838" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-626. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3839" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-627. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3840" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-628. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (27); Amendment No. 3841" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-629. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (37); Amendment No. 3842" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-630. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Areas R-5502A and R-5502B; Lacarne, Ohio" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-1080) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-631. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Restricted Areas R-5502A and R-5502B; Lacarne, Ohio" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-1080) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-632. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Auburn, Nebraska" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0974) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-633. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Williston, North Dakota" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0250) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-634. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Coshatta, Louisiana" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0787) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-635. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Ephrata, Washington" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-01031) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-636. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace, Amendment of Class D Airspace, and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Tacoma, Washington" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2017-1032) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-637. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Flippin, Arkansas" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0952) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-638. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Corry, Pennsylvania" (RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0998) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-660. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0554)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate

ness Directives; Embraer S.A. Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0905)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-677. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira Aeronautica S.A. (Embraer) Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0118)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-678. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Engine Alliance Turboprop Engines” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0048)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-679. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Engine Alliance Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0050)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-680. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes” (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0956) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-681. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0042)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-682. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace LP Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-1006)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-683. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket

EC-676. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthi-

No. FAA-2018-0735)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-684. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.P.A. Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0092)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-685. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc. (MDHI) Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0991)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-686. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0385)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-687. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0047)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-688. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division (PW) Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0826)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-689. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0624)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-690. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce PLC Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0056)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-691. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Safran Helicopter Engines, S.A., Turboshift Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0949)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-692. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Saab Aeronautics Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0964)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-693. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9189)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-694. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0959)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-695. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0581)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-696. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0902)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-697. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0580)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-698. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0409)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-699. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0162)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-700. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0793)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-701. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.; Canadair Limited) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2018-0638)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-702. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Zodiac Aerotechnics Oxygen Mask Regulators" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0505)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 21, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 224. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-10).

S. 256. A bill to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages (Rept. No. 116-11).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 380. A bill to increase access to agency guidance documents (Rept. No. 116-12).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 394. A bill to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions (Rept. No. 116-13).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 395. A bill to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule (Rept. No. 116-14).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 406. A bill to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce (Rept. No. 116-15).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 504. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-16).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

Special Report entitled "Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs" (Rept. No. 116-17).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 853. A bill to amend the John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 to eliminate the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 854. A bill to require human rights certifications for arms sales, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 855. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to make it a criminal offense for individuals to engage in sexual acts while acting under color of law or with individuals in their custody, to encourage States to adopt similar laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 856. A bill to allow State manufacturing extension partnerships to award grants to small- and medium-sized manufacturers for the purpose of training new workers to replace departing experienced workers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 857. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of special pension for Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 858. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to provide blood testing for firefighters of the Department of Defense to determine potential exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 859. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 860. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify the terms of the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 861. A bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Peoples, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 862. A bill to repeal the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 863. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the grade and pay of podiatrists of the Department of Veterans Affairs; considered and passed.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 864. 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 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 865. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to establish an oil spill response and prevention grant program and provide for advances from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the application of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund financing rate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LEE, Mr. SASSE, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. DAINES):

S.J. Res. 14. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of not more than 9 justices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Res. 120. A resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 121. A resolution congratulating Israel and Egypt on the 40th anniversary of

the signing of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental services under the Medicare program.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 91, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 172

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 172, a bill to delay the reimposition of the annual fee on health insurance providers until after 2021.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 191

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals, and for other purposes.

S. 203

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 203, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime, and for other purposes.

S. 215

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 215, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 237

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 253

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to coordinate the provision of energy retrofitting assistance to schools.

S. 258

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 258, a bill to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, and for other purposes.

S. 266

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 295

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 295, a bill to establish the Rural Export Center, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 319

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 319, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S. 349

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 349, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to request nominations for, and make determinations regarding, roads to be designated under the national scenic byways program, and for other purposes.

S. 380

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 380, a bill to increase access to agency guidance documents.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 433

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 433, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program.

S. 454

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 454, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish the Office of Rural Broadband, and for other purposes.

S. 456

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residents, and for other purposes.

S. 465

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 465, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to make reforms to the benefits for Public Service Officers, and for other purposes.

S. 500

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 500, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 504

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 504, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes.

S. 506

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 506, a bill to support State, Tribal, and local efforts to remove access to firearms from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others pursuant to court orders for this purpose.

S. 546

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes.

S. 576

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 576, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S. 582

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to ensure that the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network works with Tribal law enforcement agencies, protects against all forms of terrorism, and focuses on virtual currencies.

S. 598

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 598, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase certain funeral benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 631, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 677

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 677, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide for the participation of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 684

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr.

ROBERTS) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 684, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 696

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 696, a bill to designate the same individual serving as the Chief Nurse Officer of the Public Health Service as the National Nurse for Public Health.

S. 703

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 703, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to address health, safety, and environmental hazards at private military housing units, to prohibit the payment by members of the Armed Forces of deposits or other fees relating to such housing units, and for other purposes.

S. 726

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 726, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 741

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 741, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for cost sharing for oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the cost sharing provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 758

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 758, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes.

S. 791

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 791, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for clarification regarding the children to whom entitlement to educational assistance may be transferred

under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 817

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 817, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove silencers from the definition of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 820

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to strengthen programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

S. 850

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 850, a bill to extend the authorization of appropriations to the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of awarding grants to veterans service organizations for the transportation of highly rural veterans.

S.J. RES. 11

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 11, a joint resolution to prohibit the unauthorized use of United States Armed Forces in hostilities with respect to Venezuela.

S. CON. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 59

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 59, a resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

S. RES. 74

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 74, a resolution marking the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity by honoring the bravery, determination, and sacrifice of the people of Ukraine during and since the Revolution, and condemning continued Russian aggression against Ukraine.

S. RES. 111

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 111, a resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of Latinas in the United States.

S. RES. 112

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 112, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States condemns all forms

of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 863. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the grade and pay of podiatrists of the Department of Veterans Affairs; considered and passed.

S. 863

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

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF GRADE AND PAY OF PODIATRISTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) GRADE.—The list in section 7404(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “PODIATRIC SURGEON (DPM)” and inserting “PODIATRIST”; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to “Physician and surgeon grade.” the following new item:

“Podiatrist grade.”.

(b) PAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7431 of such title is amended—

(A) by striking “physician and dentist” each place it appears and inserting “physician, podiatrist, and dentist”; and

(B) by striking “physicians and dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, and dentists”; and

(C) by striking “physician or dentist” each place it appears and inserting “physician, podiatrist, or dentist”; and

(D) by striking “physicians or dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, or dentists”; and

(E) by striking “Physician and Dentist” each place it appears and inserting “Physician, Podiatrist, and Dentist”; and

(F) in subsection (e)(1)(A), by inserting “podiatrists and” before “dentists.”.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—Section 7433 of such title is amended by striking “physicians and dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, and dentists”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of subchapter III of chapter 74 of such title is amended by inserting “, PODIATRISTS,” after “PHYSICIANS”.

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 74 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to subchapter III and inserting the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER III—PAY FOR PHYSICIANS, PODIATRISTS, AND DENTISTS”.

(5) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 7433 of such title is further amended—

(A) by striking subsection (b);

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “(1) The Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary”; and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (2) as subsection (b); and

(C) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “In prescribing” and inserting “RECOMMENDATIONS AND VIEWS.—In prescribing”; and

(ii) by striking “this paragraph” and inserting “this subsection”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 120—OPPOSING EFFORTS TO DELEGITIMIZE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE GLOBAL BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS MOVEMENT TARGETING ISRAEL

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 120

Whereas the democratic Jewish State of Israel is a key ally and strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas, since Israel's founding in 1948, Congress has repeatedly expressed our Nation's unwavering commitment to the security of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state;

Whereas United States policy has long sought to bring peace to the Middle East and recognized that both the Israeli and Palestinian people should be able to live in safe and sovereign states, free from fear and violence, with mutual recognition;

Whereas support for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians has long-standing bipartisan support in Congress;

Whereas it is the long-standing policy of the United States that a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should come through direct negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, with the support of countries in the region and around the world;

Whereas it is a hallmark of American democracy for citizens to petition the United States Government in favor of or against United States foreign policy;

Whereas cooperation between Israel and the United States is of great importance, especially in the context of rising anti-Semitism, authoritarianism, and security problems in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa;

Whereas the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) targeting Israel is a campaign that does not favor a two-state solution and that seeks to exclude the State of Israel and the Israeli people from the economic, cultural, and academic life of the rest of the world;

Whereas the BDS Movement targets not only the Government of Israel, but also academic, cultural, and civil society institutions in Israel, as well as individual Israeli citizens of all political persuasions, religions, and ethnicities, and in some cases even Jews of other nationalities who support Israel;

Whereas the BDS Movement does not recognize, and many of its supporters explicitly deny, the right of the Jewish people to national self-determination;

Whereas a founder of the BDS Movement has denied the right of the Jewish people in their homeland, saying, "We oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian, rational Palestinian, not a sell-out Palestinian, will ever accept a Jewish state in Palestine.";

Whereas university-based BDS efforts violate the core goals of the university and global cultural development, which thrive on free and open exchange and debate; and

Whereas the BDS Movement promotes principles of collective guilt, mass punishment, and group isolation, which are destructive of prospects for progress towards peace and a two-state solution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) opposes the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) targeting Israel, including efforts to target United States companies that are engaged in commercial activities that are legal under United States law and all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel;

(2) affirms that the BDS Movement undermines the possibility for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by demanding concessions of one party alone and encouraging the Palestinians to reject negotiations in favor of international pressure;

(3) urges Israelis and Palestinians to return to direct negotiations as the only way to achieve an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

(4) supports the full implementation of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-296; 128 Stat. 4075) and new efforts to enhance governmentwide, coordinated United States-Israel scientific and technological cooperation in civilian areas, such as with respect to energy, water, agriculture, alternative fuel technology, civilian space technology, and security, in order to counter the effects of actions to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel; and

(5) reaffirms its strong support for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting in two states—a democratic Jewish State of Israel and a viable democratic Palestinian state—living side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recognition.

SENATE RESOLUTION 121—CONGRATULATING ISRAEL AND EGYPT ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE EGYPT-ISRAEL PEACE TREATY

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 121

Whereas Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, met with President Jimmy Carter at Camp David, Maryland from September 5 to September 17, 1978;

Whereas these negotiations resulted in two agreements, known as the "Camp David Accords", which were signed on September 17, 1978;

Whereas those accords provided a framework for peace between Israel and Egypt that stands as a landmark, ending a generation of war and violence;

Whereas the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty was signed on March 26, 1979, at the White House in Washington, D.C., ending 31 years of war between the two nations;

Whereas the peace treaty was duly implemented, resulting in—

(1) the normalization of diplomatic and commercial ties between Egypt and Israel;

(2) the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai Peninsula and the establishment of a demilitarized zone;

(3) the free passage of Israeli ships through the Suez Canal; and

(4) Egypt becoming the first Arab state to officially recognize Israel;

Whereas President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978;

Whereas President Sadat was assassinated on October 6, 1981, by Khalid Islambouli, a member of Egyptian Islamic Jihad;

Whereas President Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002, in part for his vital contribution to the Camp David Accords and following peace process;

Whereas Congress, on December 4, 2018, passed legislation awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to President Sadat;

Whereas the Camp David Accords and resulting peace treaty have proven to be an enduring achievement, furthering the interests of peace and stability in a volatile region of the world;

Whereas the United States has proudly supported the participants of this historic agreement over the last four decades of peace; and

Whereas March 26, 2019, marks the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Governments and people of Israel and Egypt for 40 years of peace based on the Camp David Accords;

(2) encourages the Governments of Egypt and Israel to continue to serve as examples of honest statesmanship and peacebuilding;

(3) commends the example set for the world in seeking peaceful and long-lasting resolutions to conflict; and

(4) requests the President to issue a proclamation to observe the anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and programs.

AMENDING TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO CLARIFY THE GRADE AND PAY OF PODIATRISTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 863.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 863) to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the grade and pay of podiatrists of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 863) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 863

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

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF GRADE AND PAY OF PODIATRISTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) GRADE.—The list in section 7404(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "PODIATRIC SURGEON (DPM)" and inserting "PODIATRIST"; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to "Physician and surgeon grade." the following new item:

"Podiatrist grade.".

(b) PAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7431 of such title is amended—

(A) by striking "physician and dentist" each place it appears and inserting "physician, podiatrist, and dentist";

(B) by striking “physicians and dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, and dentists”;

(C) by striking “physician or dentist” each place it appears and inserting “physician, podiatrist, or dentist”;

(D) by striking “physicians or dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, or dentists”;

(E) by striking “Physician and Dentist” each place it appears and inserting “Physician, Podiatrist, and Dentist”; and

(F) in subsection (e)(1)(A), by inserting “podiatrists and” before “dentists.”.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—Section 7433 of such title is amended by striking “physicians and dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, and dentists”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of subchapter III of chapter 74 of such title is amended by inserting “, PODIATRISTS,” after “PHYSICIANS”.

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 74 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to subchapter III and inserting the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER III—PAY FOR PHYSICIANS, PODIATRISTS, AND DENTISTS”.

(5) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 7433 of such title is further amended—

(A) by striking subsection (b);

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “(1) The Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary”; and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (2) as subsection (b); and

(C) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “In prescribing” and inserting “RECOMMENDATIONS AND VIEWS.—In prescribing”; and

(ii) by striking “this paragraph” and inserting “this subsection”.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 26, 2019; 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 use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Bade nomination under the previous order; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 our Democratic colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, it is my great honor and pleasure to be joined on the floor today by my senior Senator from Rhode Island, the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator JACK REED. We are here today on the Senate floor to speak about the perils that climate change poses to America's national security.

I am going to frame my remarks around a fact and a proposition.

The fact, as reported in the 2017 climate science report, is that the oceans of the world are absorbing more than 9 zettajoules of heat energy each year.

The proposition is one that I think most of us agree with—that America is and remains the world's indispensable Nation, exceptional and exemplary.

Let's unpack that fact a little bit. More than 9 zettajoules of heat energy go into the ocean every year.

First, what is a zettajoule? A zettajoule is sextillion joules, or 10 to the 21st power joules. That is a lot of zeros. More practically, 9 zettajoules is around a dozen times humankind's total annual energy consumption.

More kinetically speaking, the added heat in our oceans is equivalent to four Hiroshima-sized nuclear bombs exploding in the oceans every second—every second. So every minute, 240 Hiroshima blasts in the ocean—in the time of my remarks, probably 3,000 Hiroshima explosions—with the oceans capturing all of that heat energy.

Let's go back to the proposition that America is the world's indispensable and exemplary Nation. Years ago, Daniel Webster probably said it best, describing the work of our Founders as having “set the world an example.” His was not a unique vision of America. From Jonathan Winthrop at the beginning to Ronald Reagan recently, we have called ourselves a city on a hill, set high for the world to witness. From President Kennedy to President Obama, inaugural addresses have noted that the glow of our ideals “light[s] the world.” President Clinton argued that “[p]eople the world over have always been more impressed by the power of our example than the example of our power.”

When Daniel Webster said that our Founding Fathers had set the world an example, he went on to say this: “The last hopes of mankind, therefore, rest with us; and if it should be proclaimed that our example had become an argument against the experiment, the knell”—meaning the death nail—“of popular liberty would be sounded throughout the earth.”

How does the fact of 9 zettajoules and the proposition of America's role relate to each other? First is the climate chaos mankind will increasingly have to bear. A recent study published by Nature found with 99.9999 percent confidence that Earth is warming due to human activity. I could give you any number of risks, such as global sea level rise or increasing wildfires and

droughts or the unprecedented CO₂ concentrations in our atmosphere. All of this affects human health, human agriculture, and human economy, and all of these risks also have national security consequences.

Through the years, America's national security experts could not have made it much plainer. Fifty-eight former military and national security leaders sent this letter this month to President Trump warning that “[c]limate change is real, it is happening now, it is driven by humans, and it is accelerating.” They went on to say that the administration's denial of climate science will “erode our national security.” They warned that the effects of climate change are already being “used by our adversaries as a weapon of war,” citing ISIS's control of water during climate change-exacerbated drought. This letter urges President Trump to “drop the politics, and allow our national security and science agencies to do their jobs.”

They are not alone. The Pentagon's 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review described climate change as a “global threat multiplier,” warning that “the pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and governance institutions around the world.”

Former admiral Samuel Locklear, as head of U.S. Pacific Command, warned in 2013 that climate change was the biggest long-term security threat in his area of operation, noting the need for the military to organize for, as he called it, “when the effects of climate change start to impact these massive populations.”

“If it goes bad,” he said, “you could have hundreds of thousands or millions of people displaced and then security will start to crumble pretty quickly.”

A recent survey of nearly 300 Active-Duty and veteran servicemembers found that 77 percent “consider it fairly or very likely that military bases in coastal or island regions will be damaged by flooding or severe storms as a result of climate change.”

In response to a provision championed by Rhode Island Congressman JIM LANGEVIN in the House and by Senator REED in the Senate, the last NDAA bill instructed the Department of Defense to provide a report examining the effects of climate change on the military. Of 79 DOD installations evaluated, 53 currently experience recurrent flooding, 43 are experiencing drought conditions, 36 are prone to wildfires, 6 are seeing desertification, and 1 is dealing with thawing permafrost. That is what is happening now. In 20 years, the DOD predicts, an additional seven installations will experience flooding, five more will see drought conditions, and seven will see wildfire risks.

Of course, all of those risks will get worse. This report failed to list the top 10 most vulnerable installations and ignores the Marine Corps, but it nevertheless warned that “[t]he effects of a

changing climate are a national security issue with potential impacts to Department of Defense missions, operational plans, and installations.”

The national security ties to climate change begin with our military.

A second point. Henry Kissinger once told me that the great revolutions of the world have always come from what he called a “confluence of resentments.” I have not forgotten that phrase since he used it, a “confluence of resentments.” The poorest on the planet, those who live closest to the land, who lead subsistence lives, will suffer most the brunt of the coming change, and they will resent it. It is human nature.

If you divide the world into three groups, you can call one group the very poorest, who will starve when, for instance, their fisheries collapse. The middle group is distressed when fisheries collapse but has the resources to find alternative food sources. At the top, the fish in our air-conditioned supermarket may cost a bit more and come from a different part of the ocean, and we may drive home in our air-conditioned SUV with a slightly larger grocery bill, but that will be it for us. The first two groups will resent it when they feel the pain caused by the SUV crowd. If you turn that pain up high enough, good luck defending with those injured people the parliamentary democracy and market capitalism system that brought this on. The injustice will amplify the resentments.

My final point. How does America fare as the exemplary Nation through all of this? Well, very badly. Democracy and capitalism are the hallmarks of our country, and the failure of those institutions to address climate change will not be a good story.

Worse than the failure is the reason for it. The climate denial apparatus that has won unseemly influence in Congress now will surely lose the test of time. The consequences of climate change are determined by laws of chemistry, of physics, and of biology. Those laws can't be repealed or wished away. Propaganda can manipulate people and passions and politics, but it has no effect on the immutable laws of nature. So the fossil fuel industry's denial apparatus will ultimately be exposed as a fraud and a scandal, and history will lament and condemn it as one of the great American frauds and scandals. History's judgment will come harshly, and it will fall harshly on an American democracy that let itself be overborne by this apparatus.

James Madison, in the *Federalist Papers*, warned of “moments in public affairs when the people [can be] misled by artful misrepresentations of interested men.” By that, of course, he meant people with a conflict of interest. He went on to say that misled people “may call for measures which they themselves will afterwards be the most ready to lament and condemn.” We have certainly been misled by artful

misrepresentations of the interested men of the fossil fuel industry.

It may be hard for us in our world of air-conditioning, SUVs, and imported fresh fish to contemplate resentment and revolution, but the harms to the oceans of 9 zettajoules of heat—4.5 Hiroshima explosions worth of heat per second that we are adding to the oceans—those harms are on a collision course with our destiny as a city on a hill. We urgently need to show the world that market capitalism and democracy don't fail when presented with big problems if we are to head off a confluence of resentments that we are now making inevitable.

With that, I yield to my distinguished senior Senator, Mr. JACK REED. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, let me commend Senator WHITEHOUSE for his consistent efforts to illuminate and discuss the problem of climate change, which affects not just the United States but the entire world. It is a pleasure to join him and once again call attention to this urgent threat.

We know that climate change impacts our health, our communities, our economy, and our infrastructure, but today I would like to focus on how climate change is affecting our national security—some of the points Senator WHITEHOUSE also made.

Beginning with the 2008 National Defense Strategy, the administration of President George W. Bush stated that “changes with existing and future resource, environmental, and climate pressures may generate new security challenges . . . These risks will require managing the divergent needs of massively increasing energy demand to maintain economic development and the need to tackle climate change.”

With increasing frequency in recent years, climate change has been commonly referred to as a threat multiplier. Simply put, climate change can and will exacerbate conditions in regions with already tenuous stability.

Numerous intelligence assessments have reached the same conclusion. Climate change will have broad impacts for U.S. national security interests over the next 30 years and beyond.

In their words, the National Intelligence Council has found that “rising sea levels, flooding, droughts, higher temperatures, and more frequent extreme weather events will increasingly threaten military capabilities and facilities on both U.S. and foreign territory, including military bases and training ranges.”

Furthermore, the National Intelligence Council identified six key pathways: threats to the stability of countries, heightened social and political tensions, adverse effects on food prices and availability, increased risks to human health, negative impacts on investments and economic competitiveness, and potential climate discontinuities and secondary surprises.

The former Secretary of Defense, Jim Mattis, has stated to the Senate Armed

Services Committee that “where climate change contributes to regional instability, the Department of Defense must be aware of any potential adverse impacts.” He also noted that “climate change is impacting stability in areas of the world where our troops are operating today.”

More recently, Gen. Joe Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was asked about climate change at an event held by Duke University's Program in American Grand Strategy. He said:

When we look at, when I look at, climate change, it's in the category of sources of conflict around the world and things we have to respond to. So it can be great devastation requiring humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, which the U.S. military certainly conducts routinely. In fact, I can't think of a year since I've been on active duty that we haven't conducted at least one operation in the Pacific along those lines due to extreme weather in the Pacific. And then, when you look at source of conflict—shortages of water and those kind of things—those are all sources of conflict. So, it is very much something that we take into account in our planning as we anticipate when, where and how we may be engaged in the future and what capabilities we should have.

The Department of Defense has already observed many negative impacts to readiness and resources due to extreme weather as a result of climate change.

The Congressional Budget Office has concluded “costs associated with hurricane damage will increase more rapidly than the economy will grow”—\$39 billion annually by 2075.

In 2017, the Government Accountability Office found that “weather effects associated with climate change pose operational and budgetary risks” to the Department of Defense.

The GAO also found that “even without knowing precisely how or when the climate will change—[DOD] knows it must build resilience into its policies, programs, and operations in a thoughtful and cost-effective way.”

Last year, the Pentagon also submitted its screening level vulnerability assessment surveys to Congress. It found that roughly half of all military installations that responded stated they had experienced adverse impacts from climate change: damage from high winds, flooding due to storm surge and non-storm surge events, extreme temperatures, droughts, and wildfires. However, that figure is likely much higher because the other half of military installations around the globe didn't even respond to the survey. Oddly enough, those military installations that said they had not experienced negative impacts from climate change were very close to other installations, which said they had. Clearly, this is a broad problem for our military.

The Department's most recent report on climate change was like an introductory primer and carried about as much value as a phonebook. It failed to provide many required elements, such as a top 10 list of the most vulnerable

installations from each military service. Instead, the report focused on 79 installations important for mission assurance and found that about two-thirds of them are—in their words—“vulnerable to current or future recurrent flooding [and] more than half are vulnerable to current or future drought, and wildfires.”

Perhaps the most recent and high-profile impacts occurred this month when a particular type of storm in the Midwest, called a bomb cyclone, left at least one-third of Offutt Air Force Base underwater from flooding.

Just a few months ago, Hurricane Michael made a direct hit on Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, which was only shortly after the astonishing 1,000-year event of Hurricane Florence in North Carolina, which caused severe damage at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. In other words, the amount of observed rain during Hurricane Florence had a 1-in-100 chance of occurring each year.

While initial reporting indicated at Tyndall that roughly 17 F-22s were destroyed or severely damaged after being left at the base during Hurricane Michael, fortunately, the actual damage to aircraft turned out to be minimal. However, the fact that over a dozen advanced fighters costing roughly \$130 million per aircraft had to be abandoned in the first place is a fundamental flaw in readiness and aircraft maintenance.

Despite the minimal damage to aircraft, the projected cost to rebuild Tyndall is still roughly \$4.1 billion. The underlying issue that must be addressed is that hangars and other facilities are not adequately designed and built to withstand an increased trend of heavy winds above 130 miles per hour or other extreme weather. Meanwhile, the estimated cost to rebuild what was at Camp Lejeune—according to the Commandant of the Marine Corps—is roughly \$3.7 billion.

Fortunately, at Camp Lejeune, several hangars survived and did not flood. This is because they were appropriately designed in the first place.

These glaring examples of Offutt Air Force Base, Tyndall Air Force Base, and Camp Lejeune clearly demonstrate that we must plan for climate adaptation now or we will pay much, much more in the future.

General Neller, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, recently wrote to the Secretary of the Navy saying that the Marine Corps “faces fiscal challenges without precedent” given that “Hurricane Florence damage is negatively impacting Marine Corps readiness.”

To put some of that in context, the Commandant said the “total recovery cost is 9 percent of our annual budget; the building repair cost is 150 percent of our total annual building repair budget; and the building replacement cost is four years’ worth of non-Guam MILCON.” The Commandant closed the letter by warning that the next hurricane season is only 3 months away.

Beyond these most recent events, climate change continues to cost DOD significant resources, measured in taxpayer funding and negative impacts on readiness.

In 2017, the trio of hurricanes—Maria, Irma, and Harvey—cost the Department over \$1.3 billion in military construction and facilities sustainment restoration and modernization alone. Hurricane Harvey was the third 500-year flood in the Houston area in the last 3 years—we are getting 500-year floods every 3 years in parts of the United States—and it left four times more than the entire flow of the Mississippi River on the city of Houston, TX.

At Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, there were 81 black flag training days. These are days where training is canceled due to heat. That was in 2012. In 2016, there were 226 black flag days.

The Marine Corps experienced 478 heat-related injuries in 2013. By comparison, there were 688 in 2017 and 744 in 2016.

In Alaska, three locations of early warning radar infrastructure have been damaged and moved due to coastal erosion that was not expected to occur until 2030.

In 2016, a 10,000-acre wildfire in California closed the south side of Vandenberg Air Force Base, stalling the launch of an Atlas V rocket. Wildfires also led to training range closures for multiple months in North Carolina, South Carolina, Idaho, Florida, and New Mexico.

In Arizona last summer, a heat wave caused 40 flights to be canceled, with clear implications for DOD aircraft, ships, and vehicles that must be able to continue to operate in extreme hot and cold temperatures. Yet current adaptation measures attempted by DOD have yet to be comprehensive or entirely successful.

In what could be the beginning of a startling trend, the Air Force recently had to cancel a fiscal year 2018 military construction project in Alaska due to “thawing permafrost under the existing facility causing significant settling” with the facility foundation.

Warming Arctic temperatures at Thule Air Force Base in Greenland have caused extensive airfield pavement repairs at a cost of over \$30 million, which is roughly the cost of one Army Combat Training Center rotation. So instead of getting brigades down to Ft. Irwin for the training exercises they need, we are going to have to repave and repave bases that are exposed to some of these climate effects.

Meanwhile, melting ice caps continue to open up new sea lanes in the Arctic—a topic that the Presiding Officer knows better than anyone else in this body—increasing commercial traffic and prompting several countries, including Russia, to vie for influence and control over the region.

Notably, the current force structure of the Navy is not adequately postured to respond and operate in the Arctic,

and the GAO recently found that even the Navy admits “significant limitations for operating surface ships in the Arctic.”

Protecting our national security requires tough decisions that are made through a careful evaluation of risks, which, as I have described, must include the real risks posed by climate change.

I am concerned by many actions coming by the current administration, not only to downplay these risks but also to actively undermine the scientific consensus on climate change. Instead of heeding the warnings of scientists, including those from the 13 Federal Agencies that worked on the “National Climate Assessment,” the administration is working to create a climate security panel led by a noted climate denier to contradict these warnings.

I will continue—and I know others will continue—fighting any efforts to cast doubt on the fact that climate change is real and that it is human-caused. We need to be able to acknowledge these basic facts so that we can quickly come together to work toward meaningful solutions.

Again, let me thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for inviting me to join him today to highlight the impacts of climate change on national security. The dangers of inaction are many, and as ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, I will be continuing to sound the alarm on this critical issue.

I have tried to emphasize the effects of climate change on our training facilities, on our bases here in the United States, and on our regions that are close by, where we prepare our forces to be sent overseas. But if you look overseas in areas that are suffering drought, in areas where agricultural land is diminishing, and in areas where farming used to be the mainstay of the population and now has disappeared and the population is unemployed, if you look at places like Pakistan, which has significant environmental problems, significant financial problems, and significant problems with terrorist organizations, if you look in thousands of places around the globe, those are real threats that are being accelerated by climate change that our military will have to adapt and adjust to.

This is a multiphase issue. We have to take steps here at home to preserve our training bases and to make sure that our airfields can operate in all types of weather so that we can have the Marine Corps facilities in Camp Lejeune in A-1 condition.

It is the major force-generating position for the Marine Corps on the Atlantic coast. We have to be able to do that. That is just part of the problem.

The other part of the problem is the potential for conflict overseas. In many countries, it is accelerating because they are losing their quality of life, their economic ability, and all these things. There is drought, severe weather, hurricanes, and storms. There was

huge cyclonic activity just reported last week in parts of Africa. That is causing disruption for families, death, and a host of problems that are causing not particularly stable governments to become less stable.

This is an issue that we must address. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues in order to provide the resources and the direction to do that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Oregon.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I understand that this week it is the intention of the majority leader to put on the floor of this Chamber a resolution that is related to taking on the enormous challenge of climate chaos. If I just heard that announced, I would say "well done" because it is way past time for us to wrestle with this calamity affecting all of our States and all countries around the globe.

Temperatures across the planet are going up. All kinds of impacts are being felt. So if the majority leader said, "Yes, we are going to rise to our responsibilities and have a serious debate on the floor; we are going to take a bill to committee; we are going to wrestle with how we in America cannot only take on carbon pollution here but show the type of leadership that mobilizes countries around the world and mobilizes leadership around the world," well, then, I would say "well done."

But, unfortunately, that is not what is about to happen. The majority leader says he doesn't want to talk about climate. So he wants to put a resolution on the floor with no debate in the committee, no serious effort to develop a series of policies to take on this calamity, and just to create a farce out of this Chamber. This Chamber, which I love, is being used in this horrific fashion, taking very serious issues that threaten our economy and threaten our natural resources and making fun of them and choosing to do nothing.

It was Henry David Thoreau who said: "What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?" But I am sure that when Henry David Thoreau spoke he had no inkling of the challenges we would be facing here in the year 2019.

The challenge in this year of 2019 is that in a single human lifetime the carbon dioxide in the air has gone up 30 percent—trapping enormous quantities of heat, raising the temperature of our oceans, where 90 percent of the heat is trapped, changing the weather that we experience in all kinds of ways, and driving a huge increase in forest fires in our country. If that alone were the impact, that would be enough to take action. In fact, if we just look at that one issue of forest fires, looking at the Fourth National Climate Assessment, it is estimated that the change in cli-

mate has doubled the acres burned by forest fires—just that one issue.

In my home State of Oregon, we really see this. In the Northwest there is a beautiful forest. The landscape, particularly west of the Cascades, has the most incredible old-growth forest and timber stands you would ever see, and it is burning at an unprecedented rate.

Why is that? Well, for one, we have summers that are hotter and dryer than before. That hot, dry period extends for about 2 months longer than before. Then, we have storms that are more likely to have lightning strikes than before. Combine this very dry forest with lightning strikes, and you have a huge problem on your hands. It isn't just some remote forest that is burning. It is our natural resources, our ecosystems, and our timber stands. It is also having an impact on the commerce of our cities and the recreational industry.

That is not the only impact that we see in my home State of Oregon. We also see that the acidification of the Pacific Ocean from carbon dioxide is starting to make it hard for shellfish to make shells. Most significantly, 10 years ago we discovered that the acidity of the Pacific Ocean was killing the newly born oysters as they tried to create a shell and to do so in more acidic water. We have to change the chemistry of the ocean water now. We have to buffer it in order to enable the oyster industry to survive. What kind of canary in the coal mine is that? What kind of warning is it that the shellfish is in trouble because the ocean is becoming too acidic?

You may say: Why does that have anything to do with carbon in the atmosphere? It has everything to do with carbon in the atmosphere, because the ocean waves absorb the carbon dioxide, it becomes carbonic acid, and that acid makes the ocean more acidic.

I stand on the beach in Oregon and look out at the Pacific Ocean. Of course, you can only look out at about 20 miles of the sea, but all you see is water. It is hard to imagine that you would have to go thousands of miles to hit another continent. Yet, that ocean, as vast as it is, has changed its chemistry in our lifetime, not just becoming more acidic but becoming warmer. In fact, we have a calamity ongoing right now off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington. The kelp is disappearing. With the kelp disappearing, that is a concern for every fisherman. The kelp forests provide a lot of shelter and food for a lot of species. How do we know what impact that will have on our fisheries, which are so important to our coastal economy?

We have the fact that the change in snowpack is affecting our winter sports. The lowered average snowpack just means warmer, smaller trout and salmon streams in the summer. People want to fish. They want healthy streams, not streams that are too tiny and too hot for the salmon and the trout. You see the impact we are hav-

ing on forests, farming, fishing, and on the cities from smoke and on human health as people inhale that smoke. It is not just an impact on the economy. It is an impact on our health and our children's health. That is just in my State.

So I would ask my colleagues across the aisle, every one of them, to say: Do you know what? We have a responsibility to take on issues that are doing great damage.

That damage isn't just wildfires. We are seeing more intense weather events across the country. This is in all kinds of places—severe weather storms, droughts, hail, tornadoes, and, probably most significantly, more powerful hurricanes, like Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Florence just last year in 2018. Of course we saw the trio of hurricanes in 2017.

You say: Are hurricanes connected to all of this? How can that be?

Hurricanes take their energy from the ocean. When the ocean is warmer, it creates a fiercer hurricane. It takes that energy, and it becomes winds that are moving faster and a hurricane that is larger and endures longer when it hits land.

It is estimated that extreme weather events cost Americans nearly a half trillion dollars over the last 3 years. In 2017 alone, between the fires and the hurricanes, damages were estimated at \$300 billion. That is real damage. That is real economic damage happening here in the United States of America. When talking about \$1 billion of damage, that is talking about a lot of families being set back a long way. We are talking about a lot of infrastructure being ripped up, and we are talking about lives lost.

Despite this enormous damage and despite lives lost, the majority leader wants to create a farce over an issue threatening our country and our planet? That is just wrong. It is way beyond wrong—to see the face of a calamity and to do nothing. Well, it could go with all kinds of adjectives—none of them complimentary, not a one.

We should be the opposite here, taking on the responsibility of addressing these issues that are having an impact—having an impact in the heartland, having an impact on our soy and corn crops, having an impact on the coasts, having an impact in the Southeast, with hurricanes, and the Northeast, with Lyme disease and spreading tick infestations, the loss of the moose, and the lobsters heading north along the ocean into Canada.

So we must not bury our heads in the tar sands. We cannot allow the political donations that are present now in our corrupted governmental system to deter us from doing the work we need to do. Yet that appears to be exactly what is happening. We have a broader responsibility here—a responsibility to our sons and daughters. We have a responsibility to our grandchildren and their sons and daughters and their grandchildren.

This contamination of our atmosphere cannot be easily undone. Carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere for hundreds of years. So we have to prevent it from being put there in the first place. There is so much we can do together. There is so much we can do to say this challenge is real, to say we will work together as Americans to take this on and to help lead the world in ending this horrific damage that will persist for hundreds of years.

There is so much to do. We can create millions of good-paying jobs together for America and export products to the world instead of buying products from the world. We can make sure that as we do that and as we invest in an energy transformation, not only do we create millions of good-paying jobs, but we also make sure that rural America is not left behind, that our former fossil fuel communities are not left behind, and that our frontline urban communities that have so often been left behind are not left behind. We can make an economic renaissance that goes into every corner of our Nation where often economic improvements have not gone before.

These elements are the core elements of the Green New Deal. One is to face reality and together say: Yes, we have a big challenge in front of us of devastating consequences and growing consequences. Maybe it was a theory 20 years ago, but today it is a reality in every town across this country. It is a big calamity. We should say we will work together to take it on. That is the second basic principle, coming together, and then there is a surge of activity to develop alternatives and deploy alternatives to the use of fossil fuels.

The third piece of this puzzle is that in so doing, we will create millions of good-paying jobs. Isn't that what so many leaders run on? I certainly love the idea of good-paying jobs.

My dad, a union mechanic, was able to raise a family and be part of the great middle class of America and be

part of the American dream: buy a house, take the family camping on vacations, participate in having a 40-hour workweek, and get paid overtime if you had to work more. Yet that dream is further and further out of reach. Don't we want to create those better paying jobs in the process of renovating our energy economy?

Years ago, I undertook tearing the insides out of a house in the 1980s and then rebuilt that house. When you rebuild a house, there is plumbing, wiring, framing, sheetrock, windows, and roofing. I would buy a lot of stuff to renovate that house. That type of construction renovation puts a lot of people to work. If construction renovation puts people to work, think about how renovating our entire energy economy puts people to work. That is the third core principle.

The fourth is to make sure those economic gains go to those who have previously been left behind. That is an important message for rural America. That is an important message for urban frontline communities previously left behind. There is so much work to do and so many ways we can make sure these communities participate.

When I go out to Oregon, I do a town-hall in every county every year—36 counties. Twenty-two of them are rural. In political terms, you would describe them as deep red. People are frustrated by the very low wages and the very low number of jobs in those rural communities. Now we have an opportunity to say we have to go to work in an intensive way—a way that can create jobs all across this Nation and all across rural America. Instead, we have the majority leader bringing the issue to the floor as a farce. That is profoundly disturbing.

I encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, let us not miss this opportunity before us—an opportunity for America to lead, an opportunity for America to build its economy, an opportunity for America to

lead the world. We cannot afford to miss that opportunity. America cannot afford for us to miss that opportunity, and the world cannot afford for us to fail.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:18 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. JOHN W. RAYMOND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

L.T. GEN. JEFFREY L. HARRIGAN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 7033:

To be general

GEN. JAMES C. MCCONVILLE

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

KENNETH H. MERTEN, OF VIRGINIA
GEETA PASI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
TODD D. ROBINSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ERIC SETH RUBIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MATTHEW HEYWOOD TUELLER, OF UTAH
ALICE G. WELLS, OF WASHINGTON
KEVIN M. WHITAKER, OF VIRGINIA

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JAMESLY KELLY-CANNON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jamesly Kelly-Cannon for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Jamesly Kelly-Cannon is a student at Three Creeks K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jamesly Kelly-Cannon is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jamesly Kelly-Cannon for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING DOTTIE COLLINS

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dottie Collins, who recently received the 2018 El Campo Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture Citizen of the Year Award.

Ms. Collins began her educational career at Baylor University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in science physical education. She continued her studies and eventually obtained a Master's in Education from Sam Houston State University.

Ms. Collins and her husband, Allen, married in December of 1964 and moved to El Campo. With a heart for teaching others, she dedicated her career to educating and serving the people of El Campo.

Ms. Collins taught history and coached freshmen girls basketball, girls varsity track, and girls and boys cross country at El Campo High School for four years until moving to El Campo Middle School in 1989. At the middle school, she spent time outside of the classroom coordinating trips to Washington, D.C. for her students.

Ms. Collins educated and encouraged students at El Campo Middle School until her retirement in 2004. However, her retirement was not the end of her contributions to our community.

For years, she has served and participated in the Wharton County Retired Teachers Association, Blue Birds, and the Heritage Center.

Additionally, she worked with children at El Campo's First Presbyterian Church, volun-

teering her time as a Sunday school teacher and the church's Youth Director.

It is because of servant leaders like Ms. Collins that communities flourish, and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dottie Collins for her devotion to the people of El Campo.

HONORING LOREZ BAILEY AS
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lorez Bailey, whom I have named the 2019 Woman of the Year in Sonoma County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Bailey has spent over 20 years overseeing youth development programs and creating opportunities for young people in our community. She is the Executive Director of Chop's Teen Club in Santa Rosa, California. In her two years at Chop's, she has supported collaborative initiatives to give members a wider range of programs and services. She has also worked to raise the visibility and inclusion of Chop's in our community. Before joining Chop's, Ms. Bailey was the Director of College and Career Readiness at Social Advocates for Youth. In this role, she revamped all the high school college and career centers in Sonoma County. She also oversaw a team of coordinators who worked to implement work-based learning initiatives and Career Technical Education programs.

Ms. Bailey has positively impacted our community through her work at West County Community Services where she was the Manager of Youth and Adult Education and Employment Services. In addition, Ms. Bailey has spent a large portion of her career in media. She has worked at publications including The Press Democrat, The Community Voice, and Fremont Argus. In all her work, Ms. Bailey has followed her passion for advocacy and commitment to community service.

Ms. Bailey is an Oakland, California native and longtime resident of Sonoma County. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from Sacramento State University and her Master of Arts in Education from Sonoma State University. Ms. Bailey is married to her husband Andre, with whom she has three daughters.

Madam Speaker, Lorez Bailey is an incredible member of our community whose tireless work throughout her career has benefited the women throughout Sonoma County and California. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

IN CELEBRATION OF CONGRESS-
WOMAN GRACE MENG'S
ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I, along with Representative OCASIO-CORTEZ, rise to recognize our colleague, Congresswoman GRACE MENG, who received a women's history month award from us and from Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas at a ceremony in Queens on March 22nd in recognition of her passionate advocacy for women. Congresswoman MENG has been fearless in standing up for women, taking on issues that are critical for women's health and well-being.

Congresswoman MENG has been a force for greater diversity, inclusion and change. She is the first and only Asian American member of Congress from New York State. As a member of the New York State Assembly and as a member of Congress, she worked to strike the term "Oriental" from New York State and federal statutes. Congresswoman MENG is also First Vice Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific Americans Caucus, which works to reflect the needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Congresswoman MENG has been a champion for women. She has passed legislation to expand child care services for women in the military, and required the Department of Defense to review military uniforms for pregnant women to ensure proper fit, design, price, availability and utility. Understanding that menstrual health is critical to women's lives, she has been particularly concerned with menstrual equity, working to outlaw the tampon tax, to ensure access by inmates to menstrual hygiene products, and to enable homeless shelters to use federal funds to provide tampons and pads. When women lack access to proper hygienic products, they face embarrassment, ridicule and possible health consequences. Fortunately, Congresswoman MENG is winning the battle to ensure that vulnerable women are no longer denied full participation in society because they lack access to feminine hygiene products.

Recognizing that traveling mothers often lack safe places to pump milk, Congresswoman MENG has introduced legislation to require that airports set aside private spaces for nursing mothers. Working mothers need to pump both to provide their infants with milk when they return home and to ensure that their milk supply does not dry up. Travelers may spend hours waiting at airports in large public areas with no privacy, and women could use the time to pump milk if they have access to a secure private space.

Congresswoman MENG was elected to represent the 6th Congressional District of New York in the House of Representatives in 2012. She serves on the powerful House Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittees on

• 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.

State and Foreign Operations, Homeland Security, and Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies. Congresswoman MENG is also a Senior Whip and a Regional Whip for New York. She has also served as a Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee since 2016.

Before being elected to the House, Congresswoman MENG served in the New York State Assembly for two terms, and before that she was a public interest attorney. Congresswoman MENG is married to her high school sweetheart, Wayne Kye and has two children, Tyler and Brandon.

Madam Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing Congresswoman MENG's efforts to expand access to basic hygienic supplies and ensure that women are not denied essential products because of low income, lack of housing, incarceration or military service.

COMMERCE CITY BUSINESS APPRECIATION 2018 AWARD—THE GLOVE WAGON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud The Glove Wagon for receiving Commerce City's Business Appreciation 2018 Business on The Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales or new capital investment to the city in the last year. The Glove Wagon, a gloves and safety supplies wholesaler, sells work gloves as well as a full line of safety and protection products. The company's commercial customer base covers a wide range of industries: construction, concrete, plumbing, electrical, oil field, poultry, dairy, and transportation.

Covering the state of Colorado, The Glove Wagon recently expanded its glove rack service into parts of Idaho, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. The company relocated from Northglenn to Commerce City, building a 16,000 square-foot facility at E. 96th Avenue and Havana Street and brought 20 new jobs to the city.

I extend my deepest congratulations to The Glove Wagon for this well-deserved recognition from Commerce City.

IN RECOGNITION OF EFRAIN JESUS "E.J." LAUREL

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Efrain Jesus "E.J." Laurel.

Mr. Laurel was born and raised in Laredo, Texas. He began his career as a U.S. Customs agent and later became a DEA agent. He eventually served Webb County Precinct 4 as a constable and briefly served as Chief of the Laredo Police Department before leaving in 1991.

Mr. Laurel's colleagues considered him an intelligent, accomplished, and passionate worker. He was revered by many in his community for his hard work and dedication to the citizens of Laredo. He truly loved working in law enforcement and was well-respected in the field. Mr. Laurel had also earned a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and was said to have a great knowledge of historical facts. He had many interests and passions including the Houston Astros.

Mr. Laurel is survived by his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings, and mother-in-law. He was a beloved father, friend, and public servant. He was a well-respected hero in his community and leaves a legacy of serving his country and protecting those at home throughout his career of more than four decades.

HONORING ERIC PAYMON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a valiant and selfless community servant, Eric Paymon.

Eric Paymon grew up in Jackson, Mississippi where he graduated from Forest Hill High School in 1996. He also attended Hinds Community College and Jackson State University. Officer Paymon is now furthering his education, pursuing a degree in Communications.

Officer Paymon has been gainfully employed as a police officer since graduating from Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy in 2005. He served as a Patrolman at Jackson State University and as a Deputy at the Hinds County Sheriff's Department.

Since 2007 Officer Paymon has been a model officer at the Vicksburg Police Department. He has held the position of Master Fire Arms Instructor where he was responsible for the training and qualification of all certified officers. Officer Paymon has worked in several capacities including Traffic Supervisor, Field Training Officer, Criminal Investigator, Patrolman and Watch Commander, supervising a shift of 11 officers. He is currently serving as Deputy Chief.

Officer Paymon is founder/owner of Secure One, a private security company providing security to local businesses, schools and private events.

Officer Paymon is happily married to his wife, Kimberly, and they are blessed with two children, Eriel and Eric, Jr. In his spare time, Officer Paymon enjoys Green Bay Packers and Jackson State Football, spending time with family, traveling and community service activities. Officer Paymon's life motto is "If I can help somebody along the way, then my living shall not be in vain."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Eric Paymon for his hard work, dedication and tenacity to serving others.

IN RECOGNITION OF KEVIN KANE, RECIPIENT OF THE WYOMING VALLEY CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION'S 2019 "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kevin Kane who received the Wyoming Valley Children's Association's (WVCA) "Making A Difference" Award along with his wife Mickey Kane on Friday, March 22, 2019 during the organization's 95th Anniversary Gala.

The WVCA provides quality, early childhood education as well as physical, occupational, and speech therapy programs to students diagnosed with autism, Down syndrome, and speech delays, and also to other children. The "Making A Difference Award" recognizes individuals who go above and beyond in their commitment and service to the WVCA.

Kevin currently works for the Luzerne County Court Administration as the Director of Domestic Relations for Family Court. Kevin has proudly served on the Board of Directors for Wyoming Valley Children's Association for twenty-seven years. He also served as the President of the Board. Kevin and Mickey are the proud parents of two children: Katie and Sean. Together they established the Sean P. Kane Memorial Fund in honor of their son. It supports services, programs, and causes aligned with health, wellness, and wellbeing of people across the community, with an emphasis on individuals with special needs.

It is an honor to recognize Kevin as he and Mickey accept the Wyoming Valley Children's Association's "Making A Difference" Award. May they continue to support the early childhood education needs of our community.

SELAH HURTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Selah Hurter for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Selah Hurter is a student at Wayne Carle Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Selah Hurter is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Selah Hurter for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FRED
"BUD" GREEN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Fred "Bud" Green. Bud, a native of Jumpertown, Mississippi, passed away on February 22nd at the age of 82.

Bud was dedicated to his family and community. For most of his life, he farmed the land that has been in his family for generations, insuring the land will stay in the family for generations to come. From 1995 to 2007, Bud proudly served the people of Prentiss County Mississippi, as Circuit Clerk. He often spoke of this as being one of the greatest joys in his life. Bud also proudly and actively served on Farm Bureau's Board of Directors.

It is through Bud's many years of hard work and service to his family and community that we can look back and celebrate all that he accomplished. Bud was a friend and leader to many and will be missed by all.

Bud is survived by his three children, Tommy Green, Rose Anne Parker, and Emily Pollard. He also leaves behind four grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

IN HONOR OF ANGELA GARVIN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I, along with Representative OCASIO CORTEZ, rise to recognize Angela Garvin, who received a women's history month award from us and from Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas at a ceremony in Queens on March 22nd. Ms. Garvin, who is now 12 years old, is being celebrated for her innovative proposal to develop rain gardens as part of the renovation of Astoria Park. These gardens will improve sustainability and make good use of stormwater.

Although Angela Garvin was just 10 years old when she developed her plan, her idea attracted the attention of New York City Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver, who decided to incorporate it into the design for Astoria Park, which is in the process of being renovated as part of the Anchor Parks initiative. Commissioner Silver said that he was "blown away by what she wrote about the importance of our future, about sustainability and how we have to do the right thing here in Astoria Park." The 60 acre park was selected to receive \$30 million of funding for major capital improvements. Ms. Garvin's rain gardens will be part of phase 1 of the renovation plan, which calls for the reconstruction of 12 acres of the park, including its track and field facilities and improvements in the surrounding area, including new seating areas, an adult fitness area, pathway realignments, bleachers and plantings. The plan includes the development of site drainage and grading improvements, including Ms. Garvin's

rain gardens to collect and treat stormwater, as well as a detention system under the synthetic turf field to reduce discharge into the East River.

Rain gardens are low-impact, sustainable landscaping that are designed to mitigate the effects of rainfall on impermeable surfaces. The gardens slow the flow of stormwater with plants that can absorb excess nutrients and filter pollutants.

Since she was very young, Ms. Garvin has wanted to improve the facilities in her community. When she heard that Astoria Park would be renovated, she became passionate about the idea of incorporating sustainability into the plans for the park. She began attending meetings with her grandmother, Mary Baker.

The oldest of three daughters, Ms. Garvin is a 4th generation native of Astoria who attended PS 122 from kindergarten to 5th grade, just as her mother, grandmother and great-grandfather did before her. She now attends The Cathedral School of St. John the Divine in Manhattan for middle school.

Madam Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in celebrating the creativity and vision of Angela Garvin who persuaded the Parks Department to use a sustainable design in its reimagining of Astoria Park. Her forward thinking will benefit generations of New Yorkers and can be implemented at parks around the city.

PANNAPORN
JAROENSAKULCHAIPORN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Pannaporn Jaroensakulchaiporn for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Pannaporn Jaroensakulchaiporn is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Pannaporn Jaroensakulchaiporn is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Pannaporn Jaroensakulchaiporn for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING TRAZENA "KANDIE"
JONES AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Trazena

"Kandie" Jones, as 2019 Woman of the Year in Contra Costa County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Jones has been active in our military community for over 30 years. Ms. Jones is the Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1351 in Martinez, California. At the VFW, she does outstanding work helping veterans connect with one another and assists elderly and sick members with tasks that have become too difficult for them. She works tirelessly at Post 1351 and spends her remaining free time volunteering at the Veterans Service Office assisting veterans with obtaining the benefits that they have earned. She is also the driving force behind Post 1351's local Buddy Poppy distribution program, which benefits veterans' rehabilitation and other services across the United States.

In addition to her work at the VFW, Ms. Jones has been an active volunteer of the PGA Veterans Hope Tournament and the Valor Games Far West. The Valor Games helps veterans and their families receive the services they need within their community. Ms. Jones also curates veterans hall military memorabilia.

Ms. Jones enlisted in the U.S. Army and rose to the rank of Sergeant while serving as Quartermaster. She was honorably discharged at Fort Ord near Monterey and since then has been committed to helping our veterans.

Ms. Jones grew up in Chicago, Illinois where she graduated high school. She enlisted in the Army and moved to California, where she attended aviation school. She also studied automotive/machinist training.

Madam Speaker, Trazena "Kandie" Jones is an incredible member of our community whose tireless work throughout her career has benefited the women throughout Contra Costa County and California. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING BELLA COSCETTI

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Woodsboro's Bella Coscetti, who recently set a high school national pole-vaulting record.

On January 12, 2019, this exceptionally gifted Woodsboro High School freshman set the national record by clearing 12-feet, 10-inches at the Arkansas Invitational indoor meet.

Ms. Coscetti's feat bested the previous high school record of 12-feet, 9-inches.

What makes Ms. Coscetti's accomplishment especially impressive is that her record breaking leap resulted in her first win as a high school athlete.

Ms. Coscetti's success is a clear testament to her diligence and perseverance, and I look forward to her future achievements.

COMMERCE CITY BUSINESS APPRECIATION 2018 AWARD—LINEAGE LOGISTICS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lineage Logistics for receiving Commerce City's Business Appreciation 2018 Business on The Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales or new capital investment to the city in the last year. As the population in the Denver Metro region increases, so does the need for distribution and warehouse space. Lineage Logistics, a cold storage warehousing and logistics company, is working to meet that need. The company added nearly 116,000 square feet to its existing 430,000-plus square-foot operation already in the Irondale neighborhood in Commerce City. This project brought an estimated \$12.5 million in new capital investment to the city in 2017 and \$2.1 million in 2018 as well as added 25 jobs to the company's existing workforce of 90 employees.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lineage Logistics for this well-deserved recognition from Commerce City.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF URNER'S HOME APPLIANCE STORE IN BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Urner's Home Appliance Store.

From his humble beginnings selling cookware off the back of a bicycle in the 1910s, founder David E Urner's entrepreneurial dreams were realized when he opened Urner & Janes in the summer of 1919. With a company mantra of "providing an easier way of living," Urner & Janes quickly became the premier store in the Central Valley for modern appliances. In fact, Mr Urner was the first person to offer innovative appliances like electric refrigerators and the "wonder" machine—an automatic washing machine years ahead of its time—for commercial sale in Bakersfield. His vision and relentless work ethic truly laid the foundation for Urner's to become the fixture in the community it is today.

When you look at family-owned companies that survive the test of time, one trait they all share is their adaptability, and Urner's is no exception. Largely unable to acquire metal-based appliances during World War II because of the war production efforts, Urner's had the foresight to begin selling toys and offering an appliance repair service. Fortunately, this knack for understanding the market extended well beyond David, and the company, now managed by the fourth generation of Urners, who have experienced so much success that they were forced to move from their

original downtown location into a larger 52,000 square foot superstore to keep up with demand. Urner's also recently expanded to the mattress market, opening two Z's Please Sleep Center locations and becoming their flagship mattress destination for the entire state of California.

Even more noteworthy than Urner's commercial success is their boundless care and support of the Bakersfield community. From championing local organizations to simply treating every person that passes through the doors of one of their stores with kindness and respect, Urner's is the quintessential example of how a family owned and operated business should be run. On behalf of the 23rd Congressional District I want to congratulate Urner's on its 100-year anniversary, and I look forward to another 100 years of Urner's prospering in the Bakersfield community.

RECOGNIZING THE MORTON GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE ILLINOIS 3A STATE TITLE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to recognize Morton, Illinois' Morton High School girls basketball team on winning the 2019 Class 3A state title.

Returning yet again to the state championship finals, the Lady Potters capped off the 33–3 season with a 35–21 win over Glen Ellyn Glenbard South. In a game where Morton took a dominating stance early on, the Potters began the tilt with a 15–0 run. Over the course of the game, the Morton Lady Potters had an amazing team effort on both offense and defense.

The Morton girls basketball team has now brought home their fourth Class 3A state title in five years. Morton's continued success on the hardwood is a testament to the leadership of Coach Bob Becker and the determination of the young women he coaches.

The Morton girls basketball team serves as a reminder to the people of our community that when we believe in ourselves and dedicate our time and effort to the goals that we set, we can achieve even the most daring outcomes. These young women exemplify the strong work ethic rooted in Central Illinois and we could not be prouder. Again, Congratulations to Coach Bob Becker and the Morton girls basketball team for their remarkable state championship win.

COMMERCE CITY BUSINESS APPRECIATION 2018 AWARD—MAGNOLIA STREET ART SPACE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Magnolia Street Art Space for receiving Commerce City's Business Appreciation 2018 Business on The Move Award.

The Entrepreneurial Spirit Award recognizes a company or entrepreneur that demonstrates

a pioneering spirit toward a business start-up, new product development, or a company/product with growth into new markets. Jeanie Nuances King, a champion of the arts and one of the founders of the Santa Fe Arts District, created Magnolia Street Art Space at 6600 E. 74th Ave. This 5,200-square-foot building houses studio and gallery space for artists at an affordable rate of \$1 per square foot.

Together with photographer Mark Sink, Ms. King is working to establish a Derby Arts District. Magnolia Street Art Space and the Derby Studio Project are the first two buildings in the plan to offer affordable art studios, gallery spaces and other amenities that will support the arts in the Derby neighborhood of Commerce City.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Magnolia Street Art Space for this well-deserved recognition from Commerce City.

CONGRATULATING LOGAN LEE ON HIS WIN AT THE CLASS 1A STATE FINALS FOR WRESTLING

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Logan Lee, a senior from Orion High School, who won the Illinois High School Association's Class 1A State Finals Wrestling Tournament. Lee completed a 21–1 season by securing a 7–5 decision over Tyler Elsbury of Byron.

Logan Lee captured the 285-pound state title in exciting fashion on the University of Illinois' campus. After conceding a controversial takedown to his opponent with only :54 seconds left in the match, Logan quickly escaped to even the match at 5 points apiece. With overtime approaching, Logan went on the offense, and showed great determination to secure the go-ahead takedown with only seconds left in the bout—leaving his opponent next to no time to respond. As a former athlete, I appreciate the fortitude Logan displayed to achieve his dream of being a state champion and commend him for his efforts and attitude. Logan is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Orion so well throughout the state.

It is because of student leaders such as Logan that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Logan Lee on his Class 1A State Finals title in wrestling.

IN RECOGNITION OF GABRIEL "G.E." MARTINEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Gabriel "G.E." Martinez.

Mr. Martinez proudly served his country during the Vietnam War, spending four years stationed in Thailand and Vietnam. He received

various awards for his many acts of service including the National Defense Medal, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, the Small Arms Marksmanship Ribbon, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

After his honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Martinez continued serving the American people as a police officer and was eventually promoted to Sergeant for the Laredo Police Department (LPD). He eventually retired after many years of service with the LPD and worked as a court security officer in Webb County and later in the Webb County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office.

Madam Speaker, it is important that we recognize our military and police officers and all those that bravely serve our country. Mr. Martinez is one example of the many men and women who have proudly served and protected others throughout their careers. He was admired and respected by many and his legacy lives on through his professional accomplishments and family.

Mr. Martinez was a loving father and husband. He is survived by his wife Beva Rivera, their five children, twelve grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. His commitment to public service lives on through his two sons, Pat and Benito Martinez, who are officers for the Laredo Police Department.

**HONORING MARY JANE BOWKER
AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Jane Bowker, as 2019 Woman of the Year in Napa County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Bowker is at the heart of political organizing up and down the Napa Valley. She's a strong defender of our democratic values and devotes much of her time, energy and resources to bettering our community. Her passion is working towards positive change, as seen from her leadership with Progressive Women of Napa Valley and Napa Valley ACTS. Through Progressive Women of Napa Valley, Ms. Bowker has trained numerous community members to constructively engage their local, state and federal representatives. Ms. Bowker works within Napa Valley ACTS to promote progressive activist collaboration and support the annual Napa Valley Women's March.

Ms. Bowker has also been instrumental in planning and organizing some of the biggest political events in our community, including the Napa Valley Women's Marches, Rock the Congress and Rock the Ride. For Rock the Congress, she has hosted luncheons, dinners and meetings to encourage interaction between the public and elected officials.

In addition to her activism, Ms. Bowker has also been my Campaign Events Coordinator

since 2002. She has planned countless events for me to engage with our community and has hosted numerous celebrations to thank volunteers.

Ms. Bowker was born in Southport, Connecticut. She has been married to Dennis Bowker since 1972, with whom she has two sons. She is also the grandmother to four grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Mary Jane Bowker is an incredible member of our community whose tireless work throughout her career has benefited the women throughout Napa County and California. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

COMMERCE CITY BUSINESS APPRECIATION 2018 AWARD—JESSE AND BECKY MARQUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jesse and Becky Marquez for receiving Commerce City's Business Appreciation 2018 Business on The Move Award.

The Retail Investment Award honors a retailer or commercial developer who contributed to Commerce City's economic vitality through the introduction of a new business that brought new employment and/or new capital investment to the city in the last year. As co-owners of Anchor Crossfit, Jesse and Becky Marquez share a love of well-balanced, healthy lifestyles and the desire to bring this passion to the Commerce City community. When Anchor Crossfit outgrew its existing space, the Marquezes saw an opportunity to meet the needs of the residents and visitors. They took a risk, built a new building, and met the demand for more restaurants and social gathering places.

Together with his co-founders, Jesse Marquez created Pour Tap House, where residents and visitors can enjoy a variety of craft beers with a focus on beers from Colorado. Pour Tap House hosts weekly events to bring a wide variety of people in, and then keep welcoming them back—including trivia, poker, yoga, and crafting nights. All together the 8,450 square-foot building now houses Anchor Crossfit, Pour Tap House, and space for a sit-down restaurant.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jesse and Becky Marquez for this well-deserved recognition from the Commerce City.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was ill. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 106, and Nay on Roll Call No. 107.

HONORING THE NORTH COUNTRY CAMPS ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor The North Country Camps on their 100th anniversary.

Camp Lincoln for boys and Camp Whippoorwill for girls have provided children in the North Country an opportunity to spend their summers in a safe, healthy, and educational environment for generations. By engaging children in challenging programs such as sailing, canoeing, archery and wilderness excursions, North Country Camps helps children build confidence, resourcefulness and independence. These are skills they will carry with them for life. The camp also runs a scholarship to ensure that children can attend regardless of their family's ability to pay.

None of this would be possible without the steadfast commitment of four generations of the Gucker Family. The camp was founded by Colba "Chief" Gucker and his family has carried on this tradition ever since.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I want to thank the Gucker family for their commitment to our community and congratulate them on the centennial anniversary of The North Country Camps.

COMMERCE CITY BUSINESS APPRECIATION 2018 AWARD—NEXUS TEAM

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nexus Team for receiving Commerce City's Business Appreciation 2018 Business on The Move Award.

The Economic Development Award for Leadership honors a business or individual that has been a catalyst toward economic vitality in Commerce City through creative leadership, innovation, facilitation, collaboration or through contribution of resources. Thanks to the pioneering vision of C.H. Thompson Company and Schuck Communities, the Tower Road corridor is now taking shape as a prime opportunity for development in the Denver Metro area. As a result of their leadership and vision, a 200-acre business park has begun to transform from empty land into a thriving development that will support new and growing businesses investing and creating jobs in Commerce City for many years to come.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Nexus Team for this well-deserved recognition from Commerce City.

IN HONOR OF JULIE SCHWIETERT
COLLAZO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I, along with Representative OCASIO-CORTEZ, rise to recognize Julie Schwiertert Collazo who received a women's history month award from us and from Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas at a ceremony in Queens on March 22nd. Ms. Schwiertert Collazo is being recognized for her part in founding Immigrant Families Together, which works to support families in danger of being separated by anti-immigrant policies.

In June 2018, along with her husband, Francisco Collazo, she founded what has evolved into Immigrant Families Together (IFT), an organization of rapid response volunteers who fight back against punitive immigration policies, including zero tolerance and family separation, that have traumatized the nation's diverse population. IFT was created when a group of mothers learned about Yeni Gonzalez, a Guatemalan immigrant who was jailed in Arizona because she could not post bond, and whose three children were taken to New York. Ms. Gonzalez could not put together the \$7500 needed to secure her release. When Ms. Schwiertert Collazo and others heard about her plight, they raised the money to pay her bail and then helped transport her to New York, arranging for her to sleep at the homes of volunteers. They eventually helped her gain full custody of her children, and found her shelter, food and legal counsel.

In six short months, almost entirely through social media, Ms. Schwiertert Collazo and IFT raised nearly a million dollars. IFT now provides funding to pay bonds to secure the release of other immigrants facing deportation, and often donates critical funding to cover living expenses, medical costs and legal fees. To date they have posted bond for more than 65 parents, grandparents, and older siblings who had been detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and separated from their families. They also provide ongoing support and services for families who have filed asylum applications so that they can build healthy, stable lives while their applications are being processed.

As a result of her work with Immigrant Families Together, Ms. Schwiertert Collazo has become a much sought-after speaker and commentator on immigration policy, migration, and resettlement issues.

Ms. Schwiertert Collazo is a former social worker and creative arts therapist, who is currently working as a writer, editor, and translator. She left the field of social work and psychotherapy in 2004 to live abroad and to focus on her own writing full-time. She has interviewed the First Lady of Belize and the Spanish chef Ferran Adria, has covered the state visit of Prince Harry in Belize, and in 2008 was one of the few journalists permitted to visit the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. She co-wrote/edited a book about Pope Francis, which to date has been translated into more than a dozen languages and is a bestseller in Italy.

Madam Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing the compassionate work

Julie Schwiertert Collazo and Immigrant Families Together are doing to help recent immigrants achieve their American dream.

HONORING DENNIS L. PATILLO

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dennis L. Patillo.

On January 16, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) board of directors elected Dennis L. Patillo, of Victoria, as chairman of the nine-member governing body. The GBRA was established in 1933, and serves as a steward of water resources for ten counties, including, Calhoun, DeWitt, Refugio, and Victoria counties.

Mr. Patillo is the owner of the PumpHouse Riverside Restaurant and Bar in Victoria, Texas. In addition, he is the president of Stewart Title of the Coastal Bend Inc. and president of Evangelynn Hospitality LLC.

The GBRA first appointed Mr. Patillo to the board of directors in 2011. Mr. Patillo's participation and service in the district is noteworthy. He is the past chairman of the Victoria Economic Development Corporation, the Texas Association of Realtors, and the Houston Association of Realtors. Mr. Patillo served on the Texas Tax Reform Commission, the University of Houston Commission on Downward Expansion, the DeTar Healthcare System, and the Victoria County Airport Commission.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Dennis L. Patillo on becoming chair of the GBRA, as well as my thanks for his years of dedication to the people of Victoria and the 27th District of Texas.

COMMERCE CITY BUSINESS APPRECIATION 2018 AWARD—OLD DOMINION FREIGHT LINE INC.

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Old Dominion Freight Line Inc. for receiving Commerce City's Business Appreciation 2018 Business on The Move Award.

The Business of the Year Award is given to a Commerce City company with a pioneering spirit that has shown a history of leadership within its industry and the community. Old Dominion Freight Line has demonstrated longevity and sustained growth within the community. Old Dominion Freight Line is a less-than-truckload (LTL) motor carrier providing regional, inter-regional and national LTL service and value-added logistics services.

Old Dominion Freight Line built its Commerce City service center in 1997, expanded in 2016 and then expanded again in 2018. These renovations accommodate the tremendous growth in the Colorado marketplace, making the service center the most advanced service center in the Denver Metro area and enabling the company to expand its customer base both locally and globally.

The facility employs 330 people, 26 of which were hired because of service center growth. All of these employees have future growth potential within Old Dominion Freight Line. I extend my deepest congratulations to Old Dominion Freight Line Inc. for this well-deserved recognition from Commerce City.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF VETERANS ADVOCATE AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY LEADER DALE "ANN" MORAN

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late Dale "Ann" Moran, a dedicated and selfless advocate for the veterans community across the Commonwealth of Virginia, especially here in Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

Ann was an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary, unit 293 of Purcellville, VA for 35 years. Mrs. Moran truly lived the Auxiliary motto, "Service, Not Self". Ann demonstrated this commitment through her tremendous leadership over the course of her time with the Auxiliary. Her roles included the Department Historian for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Virginia, 2-time Northern Zone Vice President, and multiple chairmanships. She served as the 16th District President and held various chairmanships at the district level. In her home office, Unit 293, Ann at one time served in every office, in every chairmanship, and served as a mentor to countless members. She played a major role in the Unit's successes at the Department and National Level, including receiving national awards for her Department Chairman reports.

In addition to her various leadership positions, Ann played an important role in directly assisting veterans through her work as a Veteran Service Officer where she worked with veterans in identifying and correcting a need, and helped them obtain the services that they had earned. She also established the "Blanketing Veterans with Love" initiative. Through this initiative Ann enlisted the involvement of her family, friends, and community to craft more than 300 blankets for veterans returning from combat. Ann also worked with the Martinsburg Vet Center to bring a satellite vet center to Loudoun County, and was a tireless supporter of Boulder Crest retreat, a local retreat for Military, Veterans, and their families. Ann was also a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. Her legacy lives on through her husband, Thomas R., and son Thomas D. Moran, daughter in law Shannon, and two grandchildren. Mrs. Moran was also a 25-year employee of the Loudoun County School system.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions that Mrs. Ann Moran so graciously made to our veterans, our district, the commonwealth, and nation. While we join her family in mourning her loss, we stand today to celebrate her commitment and legacy, on behalf of a grateful nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 84TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CULINARY UNION

HON. STEVEN HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I ask that this body recognize the Culinary Union's 84th Anniversary.

Since 1935, the Culinary Union has improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Nevada hospitality workers and their families. Its continued fight to secure good benefits and union wages for its members have made it an essential economic institution in the Silver State.

The Culinary Union can rightfully claim that it has won a "middle-class standard of living" for more than 700,000 hospitality workers during its 84 years. Its guest room attendants, cocktail and food servers, porters, bellmen, cooks, bartenders, laundry and kitchen workers hail from 178 different countries and speak 40 different languages.

I'm proud of the work this union has accomplished.

CONGRATULATING NORMA EHRIK

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Norma Ehrig of Gonzales, Texas, for receiving the David B. Walshak Lifetime Achievement Award.

The 97th Annual Gonzales Chamber of Commerce banquet recognized Mrs. Ehrig for her exceptional community engagement. Her friends and colleagues vouched for her much deserved recognition.

Mrs. Ehrig's involvement in the community has tremendously affected the lives of the youth. At Gonzales East Avenue Primary School, she counsels students and assists disadvantaged children.

Mrs. Ehrig's commitment includes providing funds for these underprivileged kids to buy food and clothing when their families are not there to support them. And as Mrs. Ehrig is never one to seek recognition, her family was not even aware of her financial contributions to help those less fortunate. Her family embraced her selfless acts and appreciated the way in which she devoted herself to helping the community.

Mrs. Ehrig has also assisted Gonzales' Child Protective Services; she helped raise funding for essential examination equipment to investigate severe child abuse. With her help, the city established the Gonzales Regional Child Advocacy Center.

To honor her, the board members renamed the center as "Norma's House" in 2001 and recognized her as a permanent board member.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Ehrig and recognize her tremendous service in the Gonzales community.

COMMERCE CITY BUSINESS APPRECIATION 2018 AWARD—STILLWATER DAY SPA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stillwater Day Spa for receiving Commerce City's Business Appreciation 2018 Business on The Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales or new capital investment to the city in the last year. Entrepreneurs Lewis Ortiz and Michael Bertles see nothing but potential in the Commerce City and work hard to provide needed services to the community. Their work began with Heart and Soul Floral providing floral services to more recently providing health and wellness services in the northern range with the Stillwater Day Spa.

Stillwater Day Spa offers a full range of spa services including massage, facials, waxing, fillers, injections, and more. Since opening in October 2017, the company has steadily increased its product and service offerings and has doubled in size to accommodate the growing business. Stillwater Day Spa supports other local entrepreneurs and small businesses by selling their products at the spa, partnering with them on monthly giveaways, and leasing out space within their suite to another small business as well.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Stillwater Day Spa for this well-deserved recognition from Commerce City.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARLOS JOSE CARRANCO, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Carlos Jose Carranco, Sr.

Mr. Carranco was born and raised in Laredo, TX. He attended Martin High School and eventually served as a combat infantryman during World War II. He proudly served his country and was honorably discharged in May of 1946.

After the war, Mr. Carranco graduated from Laredo Junior College before attending Texas A&I, known today as Texas A&M University-Kingsville, where he received his bachelor's degree in education and master's degree in education administration. Mr. Carranco later made an impact educating his local community for 42 years as a secondary school teacher and at Laredo Community College. He also served as a Principal at both Thomas Sanchez Elementary School and Santa Maria Elementary School in Laredo; together comprising 26 years of his educational career.

Mr. Carranco was a well-respected individual who led a life of service. He was a steward of the Laredo community through teaching and helping others reach their full potential. His dedication to others demonstrates what it really means to be an American.

Mr. Carranco is survived by his wife of 15 years, Bessie Lee Carranco, his brother Antonio Carranco, as well as several children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

HONORING DR. MARY WILLIAMS URGENT AND PRIMARY CARE OF CLARKSDALE, MS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Mary Williams.

Dr. Mary Williams was born to Albert and Emma Williams. She is the ninth child of ten children. Six sisters: Dorothy, Olivia, Sherlie, Maretta, Deleatha, and Chrystal and three brothers: Morris, Jeffrey, and Donald. Mary was raised in Marks, Mississippi. She is the owner of Urgent and Primary Care of Clarksdale, Mississippi, the first Urgent Care clinic to be opened in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Dr. Mary Williams is recognized amongst family, her community, and her colleagues as a woman of integrity, service, compassion, and outstanding spirit.

Dr. Williams attended and graduated from Quitman County High School. After earning her high school diploma (1987), Northwest Community College, where she earned her Associate Degree in Nursing, Delta State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and then attended Mississippi University for Women where she received her Master of Science Degree. With her commitment to becoming the best in her field, she attended the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in 2011, where she received her Doctor of Nursing Degree with a major in Forensic Nursing.

Dr. Williams is also a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner at Northwest MS Regional Medical Center, where her specialty is Renal Disease and Hypertension Management. She has spent her entire life building strong working relationships in the healthcare field and educating people on the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Dr. Williams owned and operated Clarksdale's first locally owned hospice agency in 2001 thru 2007. She holds licenses to practice as a Nurse Practitioner in the state of Mississippi and Tennessee. She is also a member of the Mississippi Nurses Association, American Nurses Association, American Association for Nurse Practitioners and the National Kidney Foundation.

Dr. Williams has been named one of the Top 50 Mississippi Leading Business Women in the state of Mississippi. She has received numerous awards in healthcare. She credits all of her achievements to her strong foundation in God. She is a member of St. Matthew Church of God in Christ and an active member of Iota Delta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. where she currently serves as President.

Dr. Williams is the proud mother of two children, Ebony and Andre, and four grandchildren. Dr. Williams' leadership, passion, dedication, dependability, and service have made her synonymous with being one of the best, if not the best Family Nurse Practitioners

in the Mississippi Delta. Dr. Williams is recognized for her service to God, her family, her country, her community, and the people that seek her help.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Mary Williams for her dedication to serving this great state and country.

RECOGNIZING THE WILLIAMSON FAMILY

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ed, Carol, and Trae Williamson. The Williamsons are pillars of the South Florida community and have been named Citizens of the Year by the Biscayne Bay Kiwanis Club, one of my District's most active community service organizations.

The Biscayne Bay Kiwanis Club serves disadvantaged children in Miami through partnerships with more than a dozen local schools. In addition, the Club has awarded over \$200,000 in college scholarships over the past seven years.

This year marks the first time the Biscayne Bay Kiwanis Club has selected an entire family for the Citizen of the Year Award. Ed, Carol, and Trae have made tremendous contributions to our community, both through Ed's business, the Williamson Automotive Group, and through their involvement with numerous community organizations in Miami, including the Orange Bowl Committee, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Beacon Council, the Dade Foundation, the United Way of Dade County, the Rotary Club of South Florida, and the Miami Business Forum. The Williamsons are also generous supporters of the University of Miami, where Trae is currently a PhD candidate and adjunct professor in management.

The Williamson family exemplifies extraordinary dedication to the South Florida community. I am pleased to celebrate their achievements as community leaders.

CELEBRATING THE LOVE BETWEEN MICHAEL AND ESPERANZA

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my greatest congratulations to Michael Ortiz Ayala and Esperanza Padilla Ayala for their 70th wedding anniversary.

On this special anniversary, I'm delighted to know Michael and Esperanza are surrounded by their loving family including their three children: Carlos, Dolores and Teresa; and their nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. They join this lovely couple in celebrating the love and partnership they have shared for nearly three quarters of a century. The love shared between these two continues to inspire their friends and all their loved ones in Fort Worth.

I'm delighted to wish them many more years together.

HONORING VERA MUSTICO AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vera Mustico, whom I have named the 2019 Woman of the Year in Solano County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Mustico has been dedicated to our community for over 60 years. She has served as the Chair of the Board of the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce. During her tenure she helped establish a new headquarters downtown and started the Leadership Vallejo Program. The Chamber was also awarded several awards under her leadership. Ms. Mustico assisted the Salvation Army with finding a Vallejo location and opening a soup kitchen. Ms. Mustico led the effort to build a helipad at Sutter Solano Medical Center. She organized our community to raise \$250,000 for the project. She was also instrumental in the successful \$500,000 fundraising campaign for the East Wing expansion of the Medical Center. Most recently, Ms. Mustico worked to rename the main post office in Vallejo after Janet Capello, her longtime friend and a prominent Vallejoan.

Ms. Mustico has participated on numerous boards and received many awards for her selfless service. She is a past president and a member of the Vallejo Rotary Club, which awarded her Rotarian of the Year. She is also the past president and a member of the Vallejo Symphony Association Board. Ms. Mustico is a lifetime member of the Solano Association Board of Realtors and serves on the Scholarship Committee. She has also been honored by the California State Assembly for her professional and civic achievements.

Ms. Mustico was born in Oklahoma and moved to San Diego at the age of four. She moved to Vallejo in 1951 and began her career at the Coca Cola Bottling Company and Staats & Bell Furniture. She is the Broker and Owner of Mustico Realty in Vallejo, a successful real estate company that she founded. She was married to Peter Mustico, with whom she has two daughters, for 58 years. She has five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Vera Mustico is an incredible member of our community whose tireless work throughout her career has benefited the women throughout Solano County and California. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

CONGRATULATING HARVIE CHISHOLM

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Harvie Chisholm, who resides on Padre Island in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Ms. Chisholm recently celebrated her 104th birthday, which makes her the oldest Islander. She accredits her spry longevity to a diet consisting of chocolate and bananas.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Harvie Chisholm and look forward to her soon celebrating her 105th.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON COUGARS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Houston Cougars Men's Basketball Team on its extraordinary success during the 2018-2019 season.

I am proud to represent this exceptional university, which is located in the heart of the 18th Congressional District of Texas.

The University of Houston men's basketball team were dominant throughout the season, compiling a 30-2 overall record and 16-2 in conference play.

This season marks the first outright American Athletic Conference Championship, which confers an automatic berth to the NCAA Men's College Basketball Tournament.

The Cougars were consistently ranked in the Top 20 all season and currently are ranked No. 11 in the Associated Press Poll and No. 10 in the Coaches Poll.

The Cougars opened their March Madness quest on Thursday, March 21, in Tulsa, Oklahoma as the No. 3 seed in the Midwest Region, where they defeated Georgia State, 84-55.

After defeating Ohio State 74-59, on Sunday, March 24, the Cougars advanced to the Sweet 16 for the first time in 35 years.

The Cougars next take the court this Friday against the No. 2 seed Kentucky Wildcats at the Sprint Center in Kansas City, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, you should also know that this historic season includes the selection of Cougars Head Coach Kelvin Sampson as AAC Coach of the Year.

This year's success of the student athletes at the University of Houston, together with its first-rate academic program, shows the nation and the world the formidable prowess of this fine institution led by its dynamic and visionary Chancellor and President, Dr. Renu Khato.

I commend congratulate Coach Sampson, the Cougars and wish them continued success at the Big Dance.

IN HONOR OF JEFF
SHELLEBARGER

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Jeff Shellebarger on his retirement of 38 years of service with Chevron Corporation.

After graduating from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's and a master's in geology, Jeff Shellebarger began his Chevron career in 1980 as an exploration geologist in New Orleans. Throughout the 1980s, Jeff continued to earn assignments of increasing responsibility at Chevron. He established himself as a highly respected, effective leader, and by 1990 was named division geologist of Western Gulf of Mexico.

Jeff's career continued to accelerate. Not only did his work in managerial and development roles take him to Houston, San Francisco, and Bakersfield, but also overseas to Angola and Indonesia. Regardless of location, Jeff earned the trust and respect of his colleagues and the surrounding community.

In his last and most recent role, Jeff served as President of Chevron North America Exploration & Production Company. He worked to reshape and reposition the company, leading to record-setting production, increased revenue, and stronger, more competitive performance.

Jeff's focus on the Permian Basin strengthened Chevron's North American portfolio, and as production continues to soar, will play a vital role in America's energy renaissance.

Over his 38-year career, Jeff has led with ethics, integrity, and a commitment to community. During his tenure as President, Jeff worked to advance Houston's standing as a world-class city. He served as a Vice Chairman of the Houston Super Bowl LI host committee, Chairman of the Greater Houston Partnership, and Chairman of the 23rd World Petroleum Congress Houston Organizing Committee. Over the years he has also served on the American Petroleum Institute's Upstream Committee, the Board of the United Way of Greater Houston, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and the Kinder Institute.

In retirement, Jeff and his wife Sydney look forward to having more time to read, travel, attend University of Georgia sporting events, and of course, spend time with their grandchildren.

I am proud to join Jeff's family, friends, and colleagues to congratulate Jeff on his retirement and thank him for his diligent service to our community. I wish him all the best that his well-earned retirement has to offer.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICKEY
KANE, RECIPIENT OF THE WYOMING
VALLEY CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION'S
2019 "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mickey Kane who re-

ceived the Wyoming Valley Children's Association's (WVCA) "Making A Difference" Award along with her husband Kevin Kane on Friday, March 22, 2019 during the organization's 95th Anniversary Gala.

The WVCA provides quality, early childhood education as well as physical, occupational, and speech therapy programs to students and developing children that have been diagnosed with Autism, Down syndrome, or speech delays. The "Making A Difference Award" recognizes individuals who go above and beyond in their commitment and service to the WVCA.

Mickey is a Senior Registered Associate with Morgan Stanley in Wilkes Barre, PA. She started with Morgan Stanley's predecessor firm in 1988. Mickey holds a General Securities Representative License (Series 7) and passed the Uniform Combined State Law Examination (Series 66). Mickey is essential to several Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor teams, and she is responsible for administrative and account services for Wealth Management clients.

Kevin and Mickey are the proud parents of two children: Katie and Sean. Together they established the Sean P. Kane Memorial Fund in honor of their son. It is intended to support services, programs, and causes aligned with health, wellness, and wellbeing of people across the community, with an emphasis on individuals with special needs.

Mickey has been active in the WVCA Walk-A-Thon for more than 25 years, coordinating "Team Katie" for that event. In addition, she also works on the committee for the annual Sean P. Kane Memorial Mixer.

It is an honor to recognize Mickey as she and Kevin accept the Wyoming Valley Children's Association's "Making A Difference" Award. May they continue to support the early childhood education needs of our community.

IN HONOR OF JULIA SORRENTINO
AND MEGAN STOTTS FOR THEIR
LEADERSHIP OF HEARTS
ACROSS QUEENS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I along with Representative OCASIO-CORTEZ rise to recognize Julia Sorrentino and Megan Stotts who received a women's history month award from us and from Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas at a ceremony in Queens on March 22nd for their leadership of Hearts Across Queens, an organization that is dedicated to protecting, supporting and empowering their neighbors and acting together to create positive change. Lifelong activists, Ms. Sorrentino and Ms. Stotts joined with other local mothers to create an organization to amplify their concerns and bring like-minded neighbors together.

In 2016, an inspired group of women started Hearts Across Queens with the goal of sharing information about local events and social issues, while advocating for tolerance and diversity in Western Queens. Their aim is to help women understand and exercise their own power, while fostering beneficial relationships among people with common purpose. Hearts Across Queens creates a sense of

community through local activism and community events that support positive change, enabling and empowering people of all ages and backgrounds.

Every Wednesday, the members of Hearts Across Queens unite to meet other mothers and develop alliances, while teaching their children to face their fears and make plans for a brighter future. They have organized events, including a candidates forum, mini-speakouts, and a program to teach children how to get involved and de-escalate violence.

Ms. Sorrentino teaches at LaGuardia Community College. She is the creator of the series, Queens Women in STEAM, where local women are featured each day of Women's History Month, sharing their stories with District 30 students, and their neighborhoods. Ms. Sorrentino was also a founding member of No IDC NY, a highly successful grassroots movement that challenged a group of Democrats that had been caucusing with Republicans in the New York State Senate. Their progressive, Democratic candidates unseated 7 of the 8 Independent Democratic Caucus members in the 2018 election.

Megan Stotts has volunteered for several local organizations and campaigns. Her current focus is Immigrant Families Together, which works to combat anti-immigrant policies of the current administration. She also serves on the Queens County Committee. In 2017, Ms. Stotts helped organize a rally protesting the MTA's decision to renovate subway stations without making them accessible. She was inspired to take action because as a mother of young children she knows how difficult it is to travel with a stroller when there is no elevator.

Ms. Sorrentino and Ms. Stotts were co-recipients of the Taminent Regular Democratic Club 2018 Political Activism award.

Madam Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the work done by Julia Sorrentino, Megan Stotts and the members of Hearts Across Queens whose collaborative activism is making a real difference in their community.

IN RECOGNITION OF HERBERT
KELLEHER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Herbert Kelleher.

Mr. Kelleher was born in Camden, New Jersey to Ruth and Harry Kelleher. He attended Wesleyan University and received his bachelor's degree in English and a minor in Philosophy. At Wesleyan, he was an Olin Scholar and president of the student body. He later attended law school at New York University where he was a Root-Tilden Scholar. He and his wife eventually moved to Texas, where he co-founded Southwest Airlines and helped build one of the world's largest and most successful airlines.

As CEO and Executive Chairman of Southwest Airlines, Mr. Kelleher, was known as a witty, inspiring, and compassionate leader and friend. He also valued his employees above all else and never laid off a single worker. He received many honors and awards including

CEO of the year and even CEO of the century by Texas Monthly Magazine. He was well-known within the business and financial world and received awards such as the Bower Award for Business Leadership from the Franklin Institute. He is also remembered through scholarships named in his honor such as the Herbert D. Kelleher Servant Leader Scholarship. Mr. Kelleher also played a role on many boards such as the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, the National Air and Space Museum, and the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Mr. Kelleher, often referred to by his first name Herb, was also dearly loved by his family. He is survived by his wife, Joan Negley Kelleher, whom he met while attending school at Wesleyan University. They were married for sixty-four years and had four children. He is survived by three of his children, Michael Kelleher, David Kelleher and Ruth Agather. He is also lovingly remembered by nine grandchildren, who called him "Poppair".

HONORING TIMOTHY V. CHAMBERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant. Mr. Timothy V. Chambers. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Technology from Alcorn State University. He later pursued further studies in the education program at Jackson State University and received his standard teaching certificate. Mr. Chambers earned his Masters Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from Jackson State University.

He started his education career teaching in Canton, Mississippi where he spent seven years collectively between Canton Elementary School, Nichols Middle School and the Canton Career Center. Mr. Chambers served as assistant principal at Canton Elementary School, Nichols Middle School and principal at Canton Educational Services Center. From there, Mr. Chambers traveled to Leake County to serve as principal for Leake County High School. While at Leake County High School, he successfully improved the school's rating from a failing school to a successful status. He then journeyed back home where he served as principal at Canton High School and director at the Canton Career Center.

Mr. Chambers' educational experiences have afforded him the opportunity to collaborate with a diverse group of people to meet the common goal of increasing student achievement and well-being. His educational philosophy is based on his uncompromising belief that all students can learn, given a positive learning environment, strong and knowledgeable leadership, a committed and focused educational team, an encouraging community, and a supportive family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Timothy V. Chambers for his dedication to serving.

CONGRATULATING WILBUR BONTRAGER ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 47 YEARS AT JAYCO

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Wilbur Bontrager on his retirement from Jayco, Inc., after 47 years of dedicated and impressive service.

Wilbur was intimately involved with Jayco from its inception, having helped his parents Lloyd and Bertha set up the original facility on their family farm in Middlebury in 1968. He officially joined the Jayco team in the spring of 1971, utilizing his engineering and manufacturing skills to drive innovation and growth. He rose to the position of Executive Vice President in 1985, and then became CEO and Chairman of the Board in 1993. He later stepped down as CEO but remained Chairman until his retirement.

Wilbur made invaluable and far-reaching contributions not only to the company but also to the northern Indiana RV industry and our region's economy. Wilbur helped grow the small family business into a manufacturing powerhouse with nearly 4,000 employees. Over the last few decades, northern Indiana has grown into the RV capital of the world, and Hoosiers have dynamic companies like Jayco and excellent leaders like Wilbur to thank for that. Wilbur's remarkable vision and innovation have helped shape the landscape of made-in-America RVs, and the industry is sure to miss his leadership. He even received the industry's highest honor in 2008 when he was inducted into the RV Hall of Fame. I want to thank Wilbur for the vital role he has played in creating good jobs for Hoosiers, and for his unwavering commitment over the years to Jayco's hardworking employees.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Wilbur's accomplishments in nearly five decades at Jayco. He defines his approach as doing things the "Jayco Way," and for that we thank him. I am grateful for the legacy Wilbur is leaving behind, and I wish him all the best in the years to come.

HONORING MARIE ELAINE BEERY AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marie Elaine Beery, whom I have named the 2019 Woman of the Year in Lake County, California. Woman of the Year recognizes women who have made important contributions to California's 5th Congressional District in Arts and Culture, Professional Achievement, Entrepreneurship and Innovation or Community Service.

Ms. Beery has been active in our wine and food community for over 30 years. From 1991 to 1999 she was the Chief Financial Officer for Steele Wines. Since 2001, she has been the proprietor of Saw Shop Gallery Bistro in Kelseyville. Ms. Beery is also the founder and

leader of a local wine group for businesswomen. Through this group, she aims to empower and develop future generations of female business leaders. She has been the president of the Kelseyville Business Association for three years and has sat on the Board of Directors of the Lake County Wine Alliance since 1998.

Ms. Beery devotes much of her time, energy and resources to charitable organizations and the betterment of our community. She is the Treasurer of Habitat for Humanity Lake County and hosts their annual dinner at her restaurant. She also works year-round to organize the Lake County Wine Alliance Wine Auction. For this event, she collects donations, solicits sponsors and selects beneficiaries. Ms. Beery generously supports local non-profits, which positively impact our community. Some of the organizations she works with include the Hunger Task Force, the Imagination Library, Lake County Land Trust, Kelseyville Senior Center and Kelseyville Food Pantry.

Ms. Beery grew up on a farm in Warsaw, Indiana. She graduated from Pierceton High School and studied at Ball State University and the Marysville campus of Yuba College. She has a daughter who was a longtime teacher who now owns her own business like her mother.

Madam Speaker, Marie Elaine Beery is an incredible member of our community whose tireless work throughout her career has benefited the women throughout Lake County and California. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARIA ANTONIA OJEDA

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Maria Antonia Ojeda who passed away in Buffalo, New York surrounded by her loved ones on March 10, 2019 at the age of 82.

Born in Puerto Rico, Maria, lovingly referred to as Tonia, enjoyed expressing her creativity through her cooking, entertaining, and gardening. She was well known for opening the doors to her home to help those in need and was well-respected in the communities in which she lived and served. Her greatest pride was her family, whom she loved dearly, and her happiest moments were always when she was surrounded by them. No amount of words could wholly describe her, but she was best known and revered for her determination, perseverance, beauty, charity, wisdom and courage.

Her beautiful life will forever be cherished by her husband of over 55 years, Francisco Ojeda, as well as by her eight children: Conception, David, Jose Antonio, James, Eva, William, Christine, and Margie. She will also be remembered well by her sisters Maria Isabel, Abigail, Ramona, Margie, Clara, and Rosa, and her brothers Gilberto, Luis, and Ramon, as well as her 20 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and her many loved nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

Madam Speaker, I honor the life of Maria Antonia Ojeda, and I ask my colleagues to join

me in extending our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
CURTIS HAVEN KINCAID

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Curtis Haven Kincaid, a Victoria resident and World War II Army veteran.

Curtis Haven Kincaid, born on November 6, 1921, in Hudson, Michigan, passed away on January 29, 2019, at the age of 97.

In December 1939, Mr. Kincaid enlisted in the U.S. Army. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Kincaid was assigned to the 38th Division 150th Infantry Force, also known as the "Cyclone Division." His unit was the first U.S. Army combat forces deployed overseas after December 7.

Mr. Kincaid was deployed to Europe in June 1944 and fought courageously in the Combat Infantry through France, Belgium, and into Germany, where he remained until Nazi Germany's defeat. He was honorably discharged in December 1945 with the rank of Sergeant.

After his Army service, Mr. Kincaid left for Texas and served as the Victoria representative for the Snap-On Tool Corporation from 1954 to 1998. He received recognition for setting national sales records during his 44 years of hard work with Snap-On.

I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to the Kincaid family and express appreciation for his service to our community and sacrifices for our country.

ROSIE THE RIVETER—MARINA
METEVALIS

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a constituent who truly has left a lasting legacy on our state and our country.

Marina Metevalis was just 16 years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941. This traumatic event galvanized many Americans to join the army or do whatever they could to serve their country in our time of need. Marina was inspired to apply for a job at the Wichita aircraft plant, putting together the planes that would defend our country.

Just a high schooler, Marina took up the mantle of Rosie the Riveter, stepping up to do what was at the time considered "men's work" while our troops were fighting the Axis Powers abroad.

Marina juggled school work with her job at the aircraft plant, coming home after the night shift to work on homework before getting up in the morning to start all over again.

In the years since, Marina has gone on to be an educator, a mother, and an inspiration to many, but recalls her time as a Rosie the Riveter as one of her proudest moments. Marina turns 95 years old today and remains just as full of life and service-minded as she has been her entire life.

Congress is pending legislation to award Marina and the many other inspirational women who joined the workforce during World War II, taking on the mantle of "Rosie the Riveter", with a Congressional Gold Medal. I look forward to voting for her and our many Rosie the Riveters to be awarded with this honor.

She is an example of true patriotism, selflessness, and American spirit. I thank her for her service to our country and the legacy she has left on our community.

HONORING MRS. VERNICE BLACK-
AVANT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Vernice Black-Avant.

Vernice Black-Avant was born November 18, 1949 in Como, Mississippi to the late Albert and Della Mae Black. She was the fifth born of thirteen children. She was diagnosed at the age of ten with a childhood spinal illness. She and her parents and friends spent many months at LeBonheur Children's Hospital for surgeries, treatments and follow up visits. She was blessed with praying parents and grandparents: Effie Dodson Washington and Armetha Walton Black, who both saw to it that she had a Christian upbringing. She grew up in a rural community just west of Como, Mississippi. Vernice attended Caruthers and Melrose Elementary and Como Junior High School. In 1968, she and her family moved to Longtown, MS. This move came after her family was told to move over night or be burned in that house because her parents had encouraged her to attend a predominantly all-white high school during her senior year in high school.

After moving to Longtown, she met the man of her dreams, Robert Allen Avant, Sr. in 1968 and married six months later after graduating from North Panola High School. Following her wedding on July thirteenth they relocated to Chicago, Illinois for eighteen months. There she enjoyed cooking with her mother-in-law, Dorothy Jean Bishop-Avant and sitting in the window on Halsted Street watching the many Cadillac Eldorados go by as she waited for her husband to come home from work. After a couple years her aunt became sick, (her mother-in-law's sister) and they moved back to Longtown. After her Aunt passed, they moved to live with her mother-in-law in Memphis for a few months. Then in 1972, she began her career as an elementary school secretary at Crenshaw Elementary School where she worked for thirty-one years. While there, she served as lunchroom bookkeeper, doctor, counselor, negotiator, nurse, mediator, accountant, police/protector and friend.

In 1973, Vernice and Robert were blessed with their first son, Robert Allen Avant, Jr. Issac Lanier was born five years later. In 1981, they were blessed with their third son, Albert Hosia Jerriod Avant. A year later, they moved into their first newly built home. Vernice and Robert enrolled and attended evening/night classes at Coahoma Community College at the Crenshaw Interested Community Builders Campus in Crenshaw, Mississippi

and both graduated in 1986 with Honors, merit Scholarships, and with an Associate Arts Degree. From 1987 to August 4, 2008, Robert Allen Avant, Sr. served as Panola County's District Two Supervisor with Vernice by his side in full support. After retiring for a short while, she went to work for a private corporation as secretary and bookkeeper for ten years. In August of 2008, following Robert's untimely death due to a very rare lung cancer, Vernice was sworn in as Supervisor of Panola County's 2nd District.

Currently, Vernice is serving her district and Panola County as vice-President of North Delta Planning and Development District, secretary for the Crenshaw P-16 Council for Crenshaw Elementary School and is an active member of McIvor Creek Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as President of the Mother Board. She is a Mississippi Association of Supervisors Education Committee member, former Mississippi Association of Supervisors Insurance Trust Board member, an active member of the NAACP and is an active member of Keep America Beautiful/Panola County. In her quest to be a servant to the people of Panola County, she made time to care for her brothers-in-law, Micheal Avant and Willie Avant, both of which lost battles to oral and throat cancers in 2009 and 2018 respectively. Vernice lost her eldest son, Robert Jr., to a long battle with diabetes and later colon and lung cancer in January, 2017. Vernice continues to serve with God as her focus point. She was recently nominated and awarded the "Women of Excellence Award" by the National Foundation for Women Legislators. All of Vernice and Robert's children have earned bachelor degrees. Lanier earned his Juris Doctor degree from Howard University in 2007 and Jerriod is working on his PhD in English at The University of Rhode Island. Thanks for the opportunity to serve such great people.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Vernice Black-Avant for her dedication in serving her community.

HONORING DEPUTY RILEY
MICHELE JARECKI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Riley Michele Jarecki, whom I have named a Public Safety Hero of the Year in Napa County, California.

Ms. Jarecki was born in Napa, California and has a family history of public service. She is a third generation Napa County law enforcement officer, following the footsteps of her father, a Sergeant with the Napa County Sheriff's Office, and her grandfather, who was a Police Captain with the City of Napa Police Department.

On February 17, 2019, Ms. Jarecki displayed her dedication to public safety. Around 11:00 pm, Ms. Jarecki was performing a vehicle check on a rural road in Napa County. After speaking with the driver from the passenger side window, Ms. Jarecki moved to the driver side window and asked the driver to roll down the window. After rolling down the window, the driver presented a firearm and fired

at Ms. Jarecki. Ms. Jarecki remained calm under pressure and radioed in her situation. She moved to a better position and returned fire to protect herself. Ms. Jarecki protected herself and was not hit by the gunfire. Ms. Jarecki's immediate and calm response not only saved her life, but also prevented harm from being done to additional people. Deputy Jarecki's professionalism amidst intense pressure is commendable and shows her commitment to public service within our community.

Ms. Jarecki began her college career at Napa Valley College before transferring to Boise State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in communications and received a certificate in public relations. Ms. Jarecki has also coached girls soccer for Napa Blaze and the Napa Sheriff Activities League.

Madam Speaker, we thank Riley Michele Jarecki for her dedication. For this reason, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEVADA BEING THE FIRST STATE TO RATIFY THE 15TH AMENDMENT

HON. STEVEN HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise to reflect Nevada's status as the first state in the Union to ratify the Fifteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution which granted African-American freedmen the right to vote.

The Fifteenth Amendment states that: "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

It's important that we recognize the important role Nevada played in extending the franchise 150 years ago this month. The work of these Nevadans is directly connected to H.R. 1, H.R. 4, and this Congress' ongoing fight for voting rights for all eligible voters.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PAY EQUITY FOR ALL ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Pay Equity for All Act of 2019, a bill that will help eliminate the gender and racial pay gap by prohibiting employers from asking job applicants for their salary history before making a job or salary offer. Even though many employers may not intentionally discriminate against applicants or employees based on gender, race or ethnicity, setting wages based on salary history can reinforce the wage gap. Members of historically disadvantaged groups often start their careers with unfair and artificially low wages compared to their white male counterparts, and the disparities are compounded from job to job throughout their careers. I am grateful that the text of the Pay Equity for All Act was included

in the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7). Representatives ROSA DELAURO, JERRY NADLER and JACKIE SPEIER are cosponsors of the Pay Equity for All Act.

The Pay Equity for All Act will ensure that applicants' salaries are based on their skills and merit, not on salary history, by assessing penalties against employers who ask applicants for their salary history during the interview process or as a condition of employment. It would also provide job applicants and employees with a private right of action against employers who violate these provisions.

There is much work to be done to address the wage gap. Our bill is an important step toward addressing these disparities.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING SHERIFF LEROY MOODY

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Sheriff Leroy Moody for his dedication and commitment to protecting the people of San Patricio County.

Sheriff Moody was first elected in 1989 and has devoted more than 54 years to keeping the residents of San Patricio County safe. Sheriff Moody plans on stepping down on March 31, 2019.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Sheriff Leroy Moody for his tremendous public service and devotion to the people of the 27th District of Texas.

HONORING CAPTAIN JODIE WOODROW MINOR, JR.

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Captain (Promotable) Jodie Woodrow Minor, Jr. for his exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Later this afternoon, I will have the honor to serve as guest speaker for Captain Minor's promotion ceremony in which he will be promoted to the rank of Major.

Born in Carrollton, Alabama, a town that was in the congressional district in which I represented for six years, Captain Minor enlisted in the United States Army as an Intelligence Analyst and later commissioned as an Adjutant General Corps officer after graduation from Officer Candidate School. He holds Associates Degree in Intelligence Operations from Cochise College and a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Athens State University. He also holds Master's degrees in Business Administration from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University and in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University. Captain Minor has served in a broad range of assignments during his 14 year Army career. His assignments took him across

the country including Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Redstone Arsenal, Alabama; Fort Carson, Colorado, and Washington, District of Columbia. He has two combat deployments encompassing over 27 months in Baghdad, Iraq, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In 2017, I had the privilege of having Captain Minor serve in my office for a year as an Army Congressional Fellow, and I found his assistance invaluable during his subsequent assignment as a Congressional Budget Liaison-Forward for the U.S. Army. Captain Minor worked tirelessly with Members of Congress and their staffs to accurately articulate the Army's budget positions to the Appropriations Committees. His professionalism, diligence, and commitment to the mission are unmatched, and his work both as a fellow and as a liaison very effectively represented the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense to the United States Congress.

The foundation of Jodie's military success is his family. His grandmother, Joeita Simon of Carrollton, Alabama, provided the base of working hard and "treating others the way you would want to be treated", and this principle is so evident in all he does. His aunt, Sherry Anderson and mother, Vanessa Stewart have also had integral roles in Jodie's success. Jodie's daily inspiration comes from his three daughters, Jasmine, Taryn and Trey. As Baptist minister, his encouragement and strength also comes from his faith in Jesus Christ. Jodie serves as a model example and inspiration for all around him to continually develop: spiritually, mentally, and physically.

Throughout his career, Captain Minor has positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited tremendously from his extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison.

Madam Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Captain Minor over the last two and a half years. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Jodie Minor for his service to our country. We wish Jodie and his family all the best as he continues to serve in the United States Army.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF DEBORAH R. MCBRIDE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50-year career and upcoming retirement of Ms. Deborah "Debby" R. McBride.

Debby was born in Washington, D.C. to Miriam and Clarence McBride who moved to Washington, D.C. from Evanston, Illinois shortly before Debby was born. Her father was a tax attorney with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and both her father and mother worked as teachers at Evanston Township High School. Debby attended Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda and then attended Birmingham Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama.

Debby had two late sisters: Marcia, who was 18 years older and developmentally disabled and Gail, who was 10 years older but very close with Debby.

At Birmingham Southern, Debby majored in Elementary Education. Over spring break of her senior year in college, she went to Capitol Hill to look for a job. She met the personal secretary for Bill Nichols, Mary Elva Rice and was hired as a caseworker. She began working in 1969 and continued working as a caseworker until Congressman Nichols died on December 13, 1988. Everyone in Nichols' office found other jobs, but Debby stayed with the Third District of Alabama office. Congressman Glen Browder replaced Nichols in a special election on April 5, 1989 and she continued working for the Third District. Debby handled scheduling, office manager duties and continued with casework. Congressman Browder stayed for the remainder of that term and two other terms before running for the U.S. Senate. When Bob Riley was elected in 1996, Debby stayed on to work with him also picking up coordinating tours and flags. After three terms, Riley successfully ran for Governor of Alabama and I was elected in 2002. Debby continued doing tours and flags, office management and casework.

During her time on the Hill, Debby was involved for about 20 years with the Capitol Hill Equestrian Society, which began while she was working for Congressman Nichols. They had meetings once a month and published a monthly newsletter.

Debby received awards from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Debby has been with me since day one. If you polled the Third District, she is probably way more popular than me. She has institutional knowledge that cannot be replaced and we will miss her so much. Debby has a heart of gold and has touched so many lives. The Third District of Alabama won't be the same without her.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Debby for her unwavering service to the people of Alabama.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF WALTER LOEBENBERG

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of Walter Loebenberg, a community leader, advocate for the less fortunate, philanthropist and founder of the Florida Holocaust Museum.

As a young man, Mr. Loebenberg was forced by the Nazis to flee his native country of Germany for the United States. Mr. Loebenberg returned a few years later, where he honorably served the United States during the Battle of the Bulge. His service was so distinguished he was personally awarded a Bronze Star by General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

After the war, Mr. Loebenberg returned to the United States and moved to Florida where he managed local hospitals, became a philanthropist, and fought to improve the lives of the

blind, the hungry, and those who could not fight for themselves. He dedicated his life to improving the world, one act at a time.

In 1992, Mr. Loebenberg founded a Holocaust Museum at the Jewish Community Center of Pinellas County in Madeira Beach. This rapidly expanded into the Florida Holocaust Museum, opening in downtown St. Petersburg to great fanfare in 1998.

Mr. Loebenberg understood the importance of building a lasting tribute to the horrors and lives lost in the Holocaust—so that history might never repeat itself. His work, and his museum, will stand the test of time, as a testament, and a warning to all of us, and all who come after us. For the people of Pinellas County, the state of Florida, the U.S. House of Representatives, and a grateful nation, we honor the life of Walter Loebenberg.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EZEQUIEL SANTIAGO

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, today, I join the rest of Connecticut in mourning the loss of State Rep. Ezequiel Santiago. Zeke was a dedicated public servant and a dear friend who was taken from his family, and his community, far too soon. Zeke was kind, welcoming, and a strong leader. He dedicated himself to bettering the Bridgeport community and those around him.

Raised in Bridgeport, Zeke entered politics at a young age, volunteering on numerous campaigns before running for office. He was a tireless advocate for underrepresented and minority communities, bettering the lives of thousands of his fellow citizens. His work was integral in securing funding for community organizations that benefitted families and children like the South End Community Center, the Sheehan Center, and the YMCA. Without any pomp or self-aggrandizement, he dedicated his life to doing the hard, necessary work that makes our government function.

Zeke's loss is felt by everyone lucky enough to know him and has created a hole that will not soon be filled. A grateful state and nation will strive to preserve his memory and carry on his legacy.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOHN FREDERICK WILSON

HON. JOHN R. CURTIS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain John Frederick Wilson, as he celebrates his 100th birthday.

Born on April 2, 1919 and raised in Park City, Utah, John Frederick Wilson, known affectionately as "Jack", was one the few pilots trained at BYU. On December 11, 1941, four days after the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, he joined the Army Air Corps.

After learning to fly the four-engine B-24 Liberator bomber—an aircraft featured in the Hollywood film "Unbroken"—he was assigned

to the 90th bombing group in the Fifth Air Force of the Army Air Corps. He was sent by ship to Pearl Harbor, and then to New Guinea, where he became pilot and captain of a ten-member B-24 crew.

Jack and his crew were assigned to seek out and destroy the Japanese airstrips in the island Pacific. Given his prowess as a pilot, Jack and his crew were soon reassigned to reconnaissance missions to track the Japanese fleet. His beloved B-24 was stripped of all bombs, bomb bays, machine guns, and other defensive weapons, so that the weight could be replaced with extra gas tanks to support their long-distance reconnaissance missions. His biggest fear rapidly became encountering not enemy aircraft, but running out of fuel. "My career as a B-24 pilot basically consisted of long periods of boredom punctuated with moments of terror."

Jack and his crew were dispatched to a small airstrip on an island near Okinawa. They were assigned to fly five days a week to the North China sea, to track the Japanese fleet. He there became as member of the famed "Jolly Rogers" and was issued a card that he has carried in his wallet to this day: "Having been assigned to the best damned heavy bomb group, and having paid his dues, Captain Jack F. Wilson is hereby considered a member in good standing of the Jolly Rogers."

Jack refused to participate in the demonization of the Japanese that was popular during and after the war. "There are good people everywhere," he taught his children and grandchildren. At one time, a typhoon had threatened the island airstrip and the Okinawan people showed him a cave that he and his B-24 crew sheltered in, thereby saving their lives.

After the war, Jack used his flying skills to help locate wildfires and his people skills to create the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, which bears his name.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to honor a native Utahn, the last remaining B-24 pilot from World War II, and extend warm greetings to Mr. Wilson on April 2, 2019, his 100th birthday. We commend him for his life of service and valor in defense of his country.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Women's History Month, a time when we celebrate the women who have fought for women's equality and their achievements to our nation. As we gather to reflect on this important cause, it is important to recognize that today there are a record number of women in Congress, and I am proud to serve alongside each of them.

Throughout my life, I have been inspired by countless independent and accomplished women. From the beginning of my life, my mother Lillie Mae Johnson, a dedicated community volunteer, instilled in me a sense of confidence and self-worth. I have been blessed with the support of many such women throughout my political career, such as Cheryl Wattley, Mable White, Demetris Sampson, and

Veronica Frazier. Also, I am grateful for my friendship with prominent Dallas women, such as Judge Sarah T. Hughes, who first encouraged me to run for the Texas House of Representatives in the 1970s, and Margaret McDermott, who demonstrated limitless support of our society's civic, cultural, and educational growth.

Women and girls have contributed significantly in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. As Chairwoman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I have made it my priority to encourage young girls and women to pursue careers in STEM, because our country suffers greatly if they are not given an opportunity to be included.

Although we have made great strides throughout this country's history, we must continue to work to break the barriers that hinder the advancement of women—like equal pay in the workplace and preserving a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions. There is more work to be done in my home state of Texas and throughout our nation. We will continue this work until we are able to provide women with the economic security and opportunities they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Women's History Month.

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 Tuesday, March 26, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Army.

SD-138

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Transportation.

SD-192

Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower

To hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Chairman's housing reform outline, part II.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine our blue economy, focusing on successes and opportunities.

SD-G50

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert A. Destro, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Keith Krach, of California, to be an Under Secretary (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment), to be United States Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and United States Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank, and David Stilwell, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), all of the Department of State.

SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Smithsonian Institution.

SR-301

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Energy.

SD-138

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine military space operations, policy, and programs.

SR-222

Committee on the Budget

Business meeting to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2020.

SD-608

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Water and Power

To hold hearings to examine the Colorado River drought contingency plan.

SD-366

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider S. 771, to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, S. 772, to require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration, and an original bill to repeal the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans.

SR-428A

3 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for

fiscal year 2020 for the Library of Congress and the Architect of the Capitol.

SD-124

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation and Space

To hold hearings to examine the state of airline safety, focusing on Federal oversight of commercial aviation.

SH-216

MARCH 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine Department of Energy's atomic energy defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and future years defense program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Coast Guard.

SD-192

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Education.

SD-124

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Interior.

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the Federal response to the risks associated with per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

SD-406

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Daniel P. Collins, and Kenneth Kiyul Lee, both of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, James Wesley Hendrix, and Mark T. Pittman, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Sean D. Jordan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Wing Chau, to be United States Marshal for the District of Rhode Island, and Ramona L. Dohman, to be United States Marshal for the District of Minnesota.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Food and Drug Administration.

SD-138

Committee on the Budget

Business meeting to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2020.

SH-216

10 a.m. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Energy. SD-366 3 p.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Airland To hold hearings to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Au-	thorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the future years defense program. SR-232A APRIL 3 2:30 p.m. Committee on Indian Affairs To hold hearings to examine enhancing tribal self-governance and safety of Indian roads. SD-628	POSTPONEMENTS MARCH 27 2:30 p.m. Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission. SD-192
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Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1919–S1947

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 853–865, S.J. Res. 14, and S. Res. 120–121. **Page S1939**

Measures Reported:

S. 224, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska. (S. Rept. No. 116–10)

S. 256, to amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide flexibility and reauthorization to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages. (S. Rept. No. 116–11)

S. 380, to increase access to agency guidance documents, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–12)

S. 394, to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 116–13)

S. 395, to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule. (S. Rept. No. 116–14)

S. 406, to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 116–15)

H.R. 504, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–16)

Special Report entitled “Activities of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs”. (S. Rept. No. 116–17) **Pages S1938–39**

Measures Passed:

VA podiatrist grade and pay clarification: Senate passed S. 863, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the grade and pay of podiatrists of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Pages S1942–43**

Bade Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Bridget S. Bade,

of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Pages S1919–31**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 77 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. EX. 50), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1931**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, March 26, 2019; that following disposition of the nomination, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 8, recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal, with the time until 4 p.m., equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the motions to invoke cloture with respect to S.J. Res. 8, and H.R. 268, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, ripen at 4 p.m., on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

Page S1931

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

Page S1943

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

A routine list in the Foreign Service. **Page S1947**

Messages from the House: **Pages S1934–35**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1935–38**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1939–41**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1941–42**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1933–34**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—50) **Page S1931**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:18 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1943.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 14 public bills, H.R. 1854–1867; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 53; and H. Res. 253–254 were introduced.

Pages H2795–96

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H2796–98

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 252, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 124) expressing opposition to banning service in the Armed Forces by openly transgender individuals (H. Rept. 116–19).

Pages H2794–95

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Lowenthal to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H2765

Recess: The House recessed at 12:17 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H2767

Recess: The House recessed at 2:02 p.m. and reconvened at 4:45 p.m.

Page H2767

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Venezuela Arms Restriction Act: H.R. 920, amended, to restrict the transfer of defense articles, defense services, and crime control articles to any element of the security forces of Venezuela that is under the authority of a government of Venezuela that is not recognized as the legitimate government of Venezuela by the Government of the United States;

Pages H2767–69

Humanitarian Assistance to the Venezuelan People Act of 2019: H.R. 854, amended, to provide humanitarian assistance to the Venezuelan people, including Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the Americas;

Pages H2769–71

Prioritizing the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage

countries in Central and Eastern Europe to diversify their energy sources and supply routes, increase Europe's energy security, and help the United States reach its global energy security goals: H.R. 1616, amended, to prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage countries in Central and Eastern Europe to diversify their energy sources and supply routes, increase Europe's energy security, and help the United States reach its global energy security goals, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 391 yeas to 24 nays, Roll No. 126;

Pages H2771–73, H2780–81

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To prioritize the efforts of and enhance coordination among United States agencies to encourage countries in Europe and Eurasia to diversify their energy sources and supply routes, increase energy security in the region, and help the United States reach its global energy security goals, and for other purposes."

Page H2781

Amending title XIX to extend protection for Medicaid recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment, establish a State Medicaid option to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through health homes, prevent the misclassification of drugs for purposes of the Medicaid drug rebate program: H.R. 1839, amended, to amend title XIX to extend protection for Medicaid recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment, establish a State Medicaid option to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through health homes, prevent the misclassification of drugs for purposes of the Medicaid drug rebate program; and

Pages H2773–80, H2781

Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act: H.R. 1477, amended, to require a threat assessment and strategy to counter Russian influence in Venezuela, an assessment of foreign acquisition of CITGO assets in the United States.

Pages H2781–84

Recess: The House recessed at 5:52 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H2780

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H2780–81. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a markup on H. Res. 245, providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress; and Committee Resolution 116–09, a Resolution to Approve Franked Mail Allowances for Committees for the 116th Congress. H. Res. 245 was ordered reported, without amendment. Committee Resolution 116–09 was agreed to.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT; EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO BANNING SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES BY OPENLY TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 7, the “Paycheck Fairness Act”; and H. Res. 124, expressing opposition to banning service in the Armed Forces by openly transgender individuals. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 7, the Paycheck Fairness Act, and H. Res. 124, Expressing opposition to banning service in the Armed Forces by openly transgender individuals. Section 1 of the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 7 under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–8, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each such 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. The rule waives all points of order against the amend-

ments printed in part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Section 2 provides for consideration of H. Res. 124, Expressing opposition to banning service in the Armed Forces by openly transgender individuals, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the resolution. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. Testimony was heard from airman Scott of Virginia, and Representatives Byrne, DeLauro, and Levin of Michigan.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D267)

S. 49, to designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation. Signed on March 21, 2019. (Public Law 116–10)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to hold hearings to examine cybersecurity responsibilities of the defense industrial base, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine Chairman’s housing reform outline, part I, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine small business perspectives on a federal data privacy framework, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nominations of Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security, Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and Courtney Dunbar Jones, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine United States policy toward North Korea after the second summit, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, to hold hearings to examine 5 years after the revolution, focusing on Ukraine's progress and Russia's activities, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine implementing the 21st Century Cures Act, focusing on making electronic health information available to patients and providers, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine red flag laws, focusing on guidelines for state action, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020 and advanced appropriations requests for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., SR-418.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the National Science Foundation, 9:30 a.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Energy, 10 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, budget hearing on the Office of Management and Budget, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Education, 10:15 a.m., 2359-Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of the Interior, 10:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the Reserve Components, 11 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Member Day", 11 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security, budget hearing on the U.S. Coast Guard, 1 p.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Member Day", 2 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Military Installations and BRAC Overview, 2:15 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Member Day", 2:30 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, oversight hearing on the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, 3 p.m., H-140 Capitol. This hearing will be closed.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of Defense", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled "Department of the Navy Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request for Seapower and Projection Forces", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Department of Health and Human Services FY 2020 Budget", 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, hearing entitled "Protecting Workers' Right to Organize: The Need for Labor Law Reform", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services, hearing entitled "Strengthening Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect", 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, markup on H.R. 1644, the "Save the Internet Act of 2019", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Administration of Disaster Recovery Funds in the Wake of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on H.R. 389, the "Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Act"; H.R. 1500, the "Consumers First Act"; H.R. 1595, the "Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2019"; H.R. 1815, the "SEC Disclosure Effectiveness Testing Act"; and legislation on Ending Homelessness Act of 2019, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, and Trade, hearing entitled "Understanding Odebrecht: Lessons for Combating Corruption in the Americas", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Proposed Small Arms Transfers: Big Implications for U.S. Foreign Policy", 10 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled "Looking Forward: U.S.—Africa Relations", 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment, hearing entitled "The Historic American Alliance with Europe", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations, hearing entitled "The Department of Homeland Security's Family Separation Policy: Perspectives from the Border", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 243, of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Attorney General to transmit, respectively,

certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the actions of former Federal Bureau of Investigation Acting Director Andrew McCabe, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing on H.R. 1326, the “ACCESS Act”; H.R. 877, the “Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act”; H.R. 1809, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, to provide parity for United States territories and the District of Columbia, to make technical corrections to such Acts and related laws, and for other purposes; H.R. 737, the “Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act of 2019”; H.R. 1305, the “Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act”; H.R. 1380, the “Big Cat Public Safety Act”; and H.R. 1568, the “SAVE Right Whales Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “The Need to Protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Plain”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 745, the “Executive Branch Comprehensive Ethics Enforcement Act”; H.R. 964, the “Transition Team Ethics Improvement Act”; H.R. 1076, the “Fair Chance Act”; H.R. 1496, the “Presidential Allowance Modernization Act”; H.R. 1847, the “Inspector General Protection Act”; H.R. 540, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 770 Ayrault Road in Fairport, New York, as the “Louise and Bob Slaughter Post Office”; H.R. 1198, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 South Boulder Highway in Henderson, Nevada, as the “Henderson Veterans Memorial Post Office Building”; H.R. 1449, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3033 203rd Street in Olympia Fields, Illinois, as the “Captain Robert L. Martin Post Office”; and S. 725, a bill to change the address of the postal facility designated in honor of Captain Humayun Khan, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, hearing entitled “Improving Data Security at Consumer Reporting Agencies”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology; and Subcommittee on Energy, joint hearing entitled “Revitalizing American Leadership in Advanced Manufacturing”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure, hearing entitled “Cleared for Take-off? Implementation of the Small Business Runway Extension Act”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Cost of Doing Nothing: Why Investment in our Nation’s Airports Matters”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled “Trade and Labor: Creating and Enforcing Rules to Benefit American Workers”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 26 through March 29, 2019

Senate Chamber

On Tuesday, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Bridget S. Bade, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, post cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Bridget S. Bade, Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 8, Green New Deal, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution at 4 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: March 27, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SD–192.

March 27, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Army, 10 a.m., SD–138.

March 27, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Energy, 2:30 p.m., SD–138.

March 27, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Library of Congress and the Architect of the Capitol, 3 p.m., SD–124.

March 28, Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Coast Guard, 10 a.m., SD–192.

March 28, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Education, 10 a.m., SD–124.

March 28, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Food and Drug Administration, 10:30 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: March 26, to hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

March 26, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to hold hearings to examine cybersecurity responsibilities of the defense industrial base, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

March 27, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the Future Years Defense Program, 10 a.m., SR-232A.

March 27, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine military space operations, policy, and programs, 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

March 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Department of Energy's atomic energy defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and future years defense program, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: March 26, to hold hearings to examine Chairman's housing reform outline, part I, 10 a.m., SD-538.

March 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Chairman's housing reform outline, part II, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: March 27, business meeting to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2020, 2:30 p.m., SD-608.

March 28, Full Committee, business meeting to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2020, 10:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: March 26, Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine small business perspectives on a federal data privacy framework, 2:30 p.m., SD-562.

March 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine our blue economy, focusing on successes and opportunities, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

March 27, Subcommittee on Aviation and Space, to hold hearings to examine the state of airline safety, focusing on Federal oversight of commercial aviation, 3 p.m., SH-216.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: March 27, Subcommittee on Water and Power, to hold hearings to examine the Colorado River drought contingency plan, 2:30 p.m., SD-366.

March 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 28, to hold hearings to examine the Federal response to the risks associated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: March 26, business meeting to consider the nominations of Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security, Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and Courtney Dunbar Jones, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 26, Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine United States policy toward North Korea after the second summit, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

March 26, Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, to hold hearings to examine 5 years after the revolution, focusing on Ukraine's progress and Russia's activities, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

March 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert A. Destro, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Keith Krach, of California, to be an Under Secretary (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment), to be United States Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and United States Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank, and David Stilwell, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: March 26, to hold hearings to examine implementing the 21st Century Cures Act, focusing on making electronic health information available to patients and providers, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 26, to hold hearings to examine red flag laws, focusing on guidelines for state action, 10 a.m., SD-226.

March 28, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Daniel P. Collins, and Kenneth Kiyul Lee, both of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, James Wesley Hendrix, and Mark T. Pittman, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Sean D. Jordan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Wing Chau, to be United States Marshal for the District of Rhode Island, and Ramona L. Dohman, to be United States Marshal for the District of Minnesota, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: March 27, to hold oversight hearings to examine the Smithsonian Institution, 10:30 a.m., SR-301.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: March 27, business meeting to consider S. 771, to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, S. 772, to require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration, and an original bill to repeal the sunset for collateral requirements for Small Business Administration disaster loans, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: March 26, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020 and advanced appropriations requests for fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., SR-418.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, March 27, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, budget hearing on the Department of State, 9:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation, 9:45 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 10:15 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

March 27, Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security, budget hearing on the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 10:30 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “USDA’s Proposed Relocation of the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture”, 11 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the National Security Agency, U.S. Cyber Command, 11 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

March 27, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 1 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs, 1 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing entitled “Public Witness Hearing”, 1:30 p.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 2:30 p.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the National Reconnaissance Office, 3 p.m., H–405 Capitol. This hearing will be closed.

March 28, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the U.S. Forest Service, 10 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, March 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activities in the Indo-Pacific”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Reserve Component Duty Status Reform”, 4 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 28, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request for Department of Defense Science and Technology Programs: Maintaining a Robust Ecosystem for our Technological Edge”, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 28, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled “FY20 Priorities for Department of Defense Nuclear Activities”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, March 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Department of Defense’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, March 27, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment, hearing entitled “Innovations in Expanding Registered Apprenticeship Programs”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, March 27, Subcommittee on Health, markup on H.R. 1781, the “Payment Commission Data Act of 2019”; H.R. 938, the “BLOCKING Act of 2019”; H.R. 1520, the “Purple Book Continuity Act of 2019”; H.R. 1503, the “Orange Book Transparency Act of 2019”; H.R. 1499, the “Protecting Consumer Access to Generic Drugs Act of 2019”; H.R. 965, the “CREATES Act of 2019”; H.R. 1385, the “SAVE Act”; H.R. 1386, the “ENROLL Act of 2019”; H.R. 1425, the “State Health Care Premium Reduction Act”; H.R. 987, the “MORE Health Education Act”; H.R. 986, the “Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019”; and H.R. 1010, a bill to provide that the rule entitled “Short-Term, Limited Duration Insurance” shall have no force or effect, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, March 27, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation, hearing entitled “Making Sanctions Effective: The Case of North Korea”, 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The State Department’s Foreign Policy Strategy and FY20 Budget Request”, 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, March 27, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled “Lost Einsteins: Lack of Diversity in Patent Inventorship and the Impact on America’s Innovation Economy”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “Examining the Constitutional Role of the Pardon Power”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, March 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Examining the Department of the Interior’s Spending Priorities and the President’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 28, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing entitled “The Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 28, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation: Innovative Approaches and Economic Development Opportunities”, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, March 28, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, March 27, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight; and Subcommittee on Environment, joint hearing entitled “EPA’s IRIS Program: Reviewing its Progress and Roadblocks Ahead”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

March 27, Subcommittee on Energy, markup on H.R. 34, the “Energy and Water Research Integration Act of 2019”, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, March 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Unlocking Small Business Retirement Security”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 27, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1108, the “Aviation Funding Stability Act of 2019”; H.R. 1775, to establish a task force on NOTAM improvements, and for other purposes; H.R. 367, the “Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019”; H.R. 1322, to require a report on the effects of Climate Change on the Coast Guard; H.R. 1306, the “Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act”; H.R. 1307, the “Post-Disaster Assistance Online Accountability Act”; H.R. 1311, to amend the Robert T. Stafford

Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that unmet needs after a major disaster are met; and H.R. 1331, the “Local Water Protection Act”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Ways and Means, March 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The 2017 Tax Law and Who It Left Behind”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, March 28, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Putin’s Playbook: The Kremlin’s Use of Oligarchs, Money and Intelligence in 2016 and Beyond”, 9 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, March 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Congressional Reforms of the Past and Their Effect on Today’s Congress”, 2 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Bridget S. Bade, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, post cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Bridget S. Bade, Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 8, Green New Deal, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution at 4 p.m.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 26

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the Veto Message on H.J. Res. 46—Relating to a national emergency declared by the President on February 15, 2019. Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

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