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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 20, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable WM. LACY CLAY 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 would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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 1 minute 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. CLAY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

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

□ 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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We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in the people's House for the leadership of our Nation.

May all the Members have the vision of a world where respect and understanding are the marks of civility, and honor and integrity are the marks of one's character.

Raise up, O God, women and men from every nation who will lead toward the paths of peace, and whose good judgment will heal the hurt between all peoples.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed Halls 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. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PENCE 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Mariel Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF CUMMINS ENGINE COMPANY

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the centennial anniversary of a company whose name is synonymous with my hometown of Columbus, Indiana. One hundred years ago, Cummins Engine Company was incorporated, charting a course that would change the world and serve to make Indiana a manufacturing powerhouse.

Today, with nearly 60,000 employees worldwide, Cummins remains a global power leader. From engines to power systems, components, and advanced technologies, the power of Cummins will continue to drive our State, our Nation, and indeed, the world.

In fact, this year has brought record sales to Cummins, proving that after one century, the best is still to come.

On behalf of the people of Indiana's Sixth Congressional District, I congratulate Cummins, its incredible leadership, and its devoted employees on 100 years of improving lives by powering a more prosperous world.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 20, 2019, at 9:10 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 744.
 That the Senate passed S. 820.
 That the Senate passed S. 998.
 That the Senate passed S. 1379.
 With best wishes, I am,
 Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1602

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TITUS) at 4 o'clock and 2 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.

GLOBAL FRAGILITY ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2116) to enhance stabilization of conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2116

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Global Fragility Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) According to the United Nations, an unprecedented 68.5 million people around the world, the highest level ever recorded, are currently forcibly displaced from their homes.

(2) According to the World Bank, violence and violent conflict are now the leading causes of displacement and food insecurity worldwide, driving 80 percent of humanitarian needs, with the same conflicts accounting for the majority of forcibly displaced persons every year since 1991.

(3) According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, violence containment costs the global economy \$14.76 trillion a year, or 12.4 percent of the world's GDP.

(4) Violence and violent conflict underpin many of the United States Government's key national security challenges. Notably, violent conflicts allow for environments in which terrorist organizations recruit and thrive, while the combination of violence, corruption, poverty, poor governance, and

underdevelopment often enables transnational gangs and criminal networks to wreak havoc and commit atrocities worldwide.

(5) According to research by the University of Maryland and University of Pittsburgh, exposure to violence increases support for violence and violent extremism. Research increasingly finds exposure to violence as a predictor of future participation in violence, including violent extremism.

(6) United States foreign policy and assistance efforts in highly violent and fragile states remain governed by an outdated patchwork of authorities that prioritize responding to immediate needs rather than solving the problems that cause them.

(7) Lessons learned over the past 20 years, documented by the 2013 Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction Lessons Learned Study, the 2016 Fragility Study Group report, and the 2018 Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Lessons Learned Study on Stabilization, show that effective, sustained United States efforts to reduce violence and stabilize fragile and violence-affected states require clearly defined goals and strategies, adequate long-term funding, rigorous and iterative conflict analysis, coordination across the United States Government, including strong civil-military coordination, attention to the problem of corruption, and integration with and leadership from national and sub-national partners, including local civil society organizations, traditional justice systems, and local governance structures.

(8) The "Stabilization Assistance Review" released in 2018 by the Departments of State and Defense and the United States Agency for International Development states, "The United States has strong national security and economic interests in reducing levels of violence and promoting stability in areas affected by armed conflict." The Review further states, "Stabilization is an inherently political endeavor that requires aligning U.S. Government efforts—diplomatic engagement, foreign assistance, and defense—toward supporting locally legitimate authorities and systems to peacefully manage conflict and prevent violence."

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) ensure that all relevant Federal departments and agencies coordinate to achieve coherent, long-term goals for programs designed to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, including when implementing the Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6;

(2) seek to improve global, regional, and local coordination of relevant international and multilateral development and donor organizations regarding efforts to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, and, where practicable and appropriate, align such efforts with multilateral goals and indicators;

(3) expand and enhance the effectiveness of United States foreign assistance programs and activities to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally;

(4) support the research and development of effective approaches to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, and data collection efforts relevant to such approaches; and

(5) improve the tools and authorities for assessment, monitoring, and evaluation needed to enable learning and adaptation by such relevant Federal departments and agencies working to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) STABILIZATION AND PREVENTION FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the "Stabilization and Prevention Fund" (in this subsection referred to as the "Fund"), to be administered by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and consisting of amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (2).

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$200,000,000 for each of the five fiscal years beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act. Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this paragraph are authorized to remain available until expended.

(3) PURPOSES OF THE FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Fund shall be used for economic and development assistance for any of the following:

(i) To support stabilization of conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally, including through the Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6.

(ii) To provide assistance to areas liberated or at risk from, or under the control of, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, other terrorist organizations, or violent extremist organizations, including for stabilization assistance for vulnerable ethnic and religious minority communities affected by conflict.

(B) ADDITION.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Fund are in addition to any amounts otherwise made available for the purposes described in subparagraph (A).

(4) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days before amounts from the Fund are obligated, the Secretary of State or Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit notification of such obligation to—

(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; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(b) COMPLEX CRISES FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the "Complex Crises Fund" (in this subsection referred to as the "Fund"), to be administered by USAID.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$30,000,000 for each of the five fiscal years beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act. Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this paragraph are authorized to remain available until expended.

(3) PURPOSES OF THE FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d), amounts in the Fund may be used to carry out the provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) to support programs and activities to prevent or respond to emerging or unforeseen foreign challenges and complex crises overseas, including through the Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6.

(B) ADDITION.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Fund are in addition to any amounts otherwise made available for the purposes described in subparagraph (A).

(4) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the Fund may not be expended for lethal assistance or to respond to natural disasters.

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than five percent of amounts in the Fund may be used for administrative expenses.

(5) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than five days before amounts from the Fund are obligated, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit notification of such obligation to—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(6) WAIVER.—Notification in accordance with paragraph (5) may be waived if—

(A) notification by the deadline specified in such paragraph would pose a substantial risk to human health or welfare; and

(B) the congressional committees specified in such paragraph—

(i) are notified not later than three days after an obligation of amounts from the Fund; and

(ii) are provided with an explanation of the emergency circumstances that necessitated such waiver.

(c) OTHER FUNDING AND COST MATCHING.—The Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6—

(1) may be supported by funds other than funds authorized to be appropriated pursuant to this section; and

(2) shall seek to leverage funds from sources other than the United States Government in order to promote coordination and cost-matching to the maximum extent practicable.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE GLOBAL FRAGILITY INITIATIVE.

It is the sense of Congress that the President, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies should work with the appropriate congressional committees to provide sufficient types and levels of funding to—

(1) allow for more adaptive and responsive policy and program planning, implementation, and scaling under the Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6, including through more flexible funding mechanisms and exemptions from specific and minimum funding levels when such exemptions would make such programs better able to respond to local needs, the results of monitoring and evaluation, or changed circumstances in relevant countries;

(2) better integrate the initiative and other conflict and violence reduction objectives and activities into other policy and program areas, where appropriate; and

(3) support transparent and accountable multilateral funds, initiatives, and strategies to enhance and better coordinate both private and public efforts to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally.

SEC. 6. GLOBAL FRAGILITY INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Secretary of Defense, the Atrocities Prevention Board (or any successor entity), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall, in accordance with subsection (b), establish an interagency initia-

tive, to be referred to as the “Global Fragility Initiative”, to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally.

(2) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.—The Global Fragility Initiative required under this subsection shall be developed in consultation with representatives of local civil society and national and local governance entities, as well as relevant international development organizations with experience implementing programs in fragile and violence-affected communities, multilateral organizations and donors, and relevant private, academic, and philanthropic entities, as appropriate.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, the Atrocities Prevention Board (or any successor entity), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an interagency plan regarding the establishment of the Global Fragility Initiative pursuant to subsection (a) that includes the following:

(1) Identification of the roles and responsibilities of each participating Federal department or agency, while ensuring that—

(A) the Department of State is the overall lead department for establishing United States foreign policy and advancing diplomatic and political efforts;

(B) USAID is the lead implementing agency for development, humanitarian, and related non-security program policy;

(C) where appropriate, the Department of Defense may support the activities of the Department of State and USAID by providing requisite security and support to civilian efforts with the joint-formulation, coordination, and concurrence of the Secretary of State and Administrator of USAID; and

(D) other Federal departments and agencies support the activities of the Department of State and USAID as appropriate, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and Administrator of USAID.

(2) Identification of which officials of the Department of State, USAID, and the Department of Defense, with a rank not lower than Assistant Secretary or Assistant Administrator, as the case may be, will be responsible for overseeing and leading the initiative.

(3) Identification of the authorities, staffing, and other resource requirements needed to effectively implement the initiative.

(4) Descriptions of the organizational steps the Secretary of State, the Administrator, the Secretary of Defense, and the head of each other relevant Federal department or agency will take to improve planning, coordination, implementation, assessment, monitoring, evaluation, adaptive management, and iterative learning with respect to the programs carried out under the initiative.

(5) Descriptions of the steps the Secretary of State, the Administrator, the Secretary of Defense, and the head of each other relevant Federal department or agency will take to ensure appropriate host-country ownership and to improve coordination and collaboration under the initiative with international development organizations, international donors, multilateral organizations, and the private sector.

(6) Descriptions of potential areas of improved public and private sector research and development, including with academic, philanthropic, and civil society organizations, on data collection efforts and more effective approaches to stabilize conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally.

(7) Descriptions of the processes for regularly evaluating and updating the initiative on an iterative basis, including regarding priority country and regional plans described in subsection (d).

(8) A list of priority countries and regions selected pursuant to subsection (c), including descriptions of the rationale for such selections.

(c) SELECTION OF PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND REGIONS.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID and the Secretary of Defense, and in consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, shall select certain countries as “priority countries” and certain regions as “priority regions” for the Global Fragility Initiative—

(1) on the basis of—

(A) clearly defined indicators of the levels of violence or fragility in such country or region, such as the country or region’s—

(i) ranking on recognized global fragility lists, such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development States of Fragility report, the Fund for Peace Fragile States Index, the World Bank Harmonized List of Fragile Situations, the Institute for Economics and Peace Global Peace Index, and Holocaust Museum Early Warning Project Risk Assessment;

(ii) ranking on select United States Government conflict and atrocity early warning watch lists; and

(iii) levels of violence, such as violence committed by armed groups, violent extremist organizations, gender-based violence, and violence against children and youth; and

(B) an assessment of—

(i) the capacity and commitment of national and sub-national government entities and civil society partners in such country or region to work with Federal departments and agencies on the initiative, including by demonstrating the willingness and making demonstrable efforts to improve governance, enhance rule of law, and protect human rights; and

(ii) the likelihood that selection as a priority country or priority region would allow the initiative to measurably stabilize conflict-affected areas or prevent violence and fragility in such country or region; and

(2) in a manner that ensures that—

(A) not fewer than three countries or regions are designated as “Stabilization Countries” or “Stabilization Regions”, as the case may be, in which current levels of violence are among the highest in the world;

(B) not fewer than three countries or regions are designated as “Prevention Countries” or “Prevention Regions”, as the case may be, in which current levels of violence are lower than such levels in Stabilization Countries or Stabilization Regions but risk factors for violence or fragility are significant;

(C) countries and regions selected are in the areas of responsibility of at least three geographic bureaus of the Department of State; and

(D) regions, rather than individual countries, are selected where the threat or spillover of violence, conflict, or fragility threatens multiple countries within a single geographic region.

(d) COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PLANS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, the Atrocities Prevention Board (or any successor entity), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees ten-year plans to align and integrate under the Global Fragility Initiative required under subsection (a) all relevant diplomatic,

development, security assistance and cooperation, and other relevant activities of the United States Government with respect to each of the countries and regions selected pursuant to subsection (c). Each such country and regional plan shall include the following:

(1) Specific multi-year interagency plans for coordination and implementation under each such plan.

(2) An up-to-date baseline analysis for each such country or region, including an analysis of political dynamics, impacts of violence, and conditions that contribute to violence and fragility.

(3) Prioritized descriptions of the goals and objectives for stabilizing conflict-affected areas and preventing violence and fragility in each such country or region.

(4) Descriptions of how and when the relevant goals, objectives, plans, and benchmarks for each such country or region will be incorporated into relevant United States country plans and strategies, including Department of State Integrated Country Strategies, USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategies, and Department of Defense Campaign Plans, Operational Plans, and Regional Strategies, as well as any equivalent or successor plans or strategies.

(5) Interagency plans to ensure that appropriate local actors, including government and civil society entities and organizations led by women, youth, or under-represented communities, have an appropriate ownership stake in developing, implementing, assessing, monitoring, evaluating, and updating relevant activities under each such plan.

(6) Interagency plans to integrate existing and planned security assistance and cooperation programs in each such country or region with the initiative and to maximize positive outcomes and mitigate risks associated with such programs, including risks related to corruption, governance, and human rights.

(7) Assessment, monitoring, and evaluation frameworks for diplomatic, development, and security activities, which shall be informed by consultations with the stakeholders specified in subsection (a)(2), with clear, date-certain metrics for each such country or region, as well as interagency plans for using such frameworks to adapt such activities on a regular and iterative basis.

(8) Descriptions of available policy tools and how such tools will be used to stabilize conflict-affected areas or prevent violence and fragility in each such country or region.

(9) A description of how planning and implementation for each such country or region will be coordinated to ensure such planning and implementation are conducted in partnership between the United States Government and—

- (A) governments of such countries;
- (B) international development organizations;
- (C) relevant international donors;
- (D) multilateral organizations; and
- (E) the private sector.

(10) A regional component outlining plans to address relevant transnational issues in cases in which an individual country is selected and such country is affected by or at risk of regional fragility or violence.

(11) A component outlining plans to address national-level factors at the individual country level in cases in which a region is selected and such region is affected by or at risk of fragility or violence as a result of such national-level factors.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, and in consultation with the Atrocities Prevention Board (or any

successor entity), relevant United States ambassadors, USAID mission directors, geographic combatant commanders, and other relevant individuals with responsibility over activities in each priority country or region selected pursuant to subsection (c), shall ensure that—

(1) the Global Fragility Initiative required under subsection (a), including each of the country and regional plans under subsection (d), is implemented, updated, and coordinated on a regular and iterative basis; and

(2) such initiative is used to guide United States Government policy at a senior level and incorporated into relevant strategies and plans across the United States Government such that the activities of all Federal departments and agencies are consistent with such initiative.

SEC. 7. BIENNIAL REPORTS AND CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION.

(a) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act and every two years thereafter until the date that is ten years after such date of enactment, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of USAID, the Secretary of Defense, the Atrocities Prevention Board (or any successor entity), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an unclassified report, which may include a classified annex, on progress made and lessons learned with respect to the Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6, including each country and regional plan required as part of such initiative, including the following:

(1) Descriptions of steps taken to incorporate the initiative and such country and regional plans into relevant strategies and plans that affect such countries and regions.

(2) Accountings of all funding received and obligated to implement each such country and regional plan during the previous two years, as well as funding requested, planned, and projected for the following two years.

(3) Descriptions of progress made towards the goals and objectives established for each such country and region, including progress made towards achieving specific targets, metrics, and indicators.

(4) Descriptions of updates made during the previous two years to the goals, objectives, plans of action, and other elements described in each such country and regional plan, as well as any changes made to programs based on the results of assessment, monitoring, and evaluation.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of State, the Administrator of USAID, and the Secretary of Defense shall provide to any appropriate congressional committee upon the request of any such committee regular briefings on the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. GAO REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act and every two years thereafter until the date that is ten years after such date of enactment, the Comptroller General of the United States shall consult with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding opportunities for independent review of the activities under the Global Fragility Initiative established pursuant to section 6, including opportunities to—

(1) assess the extent to which United States Government activities in each country and region selected as part of the initiative are being implemented in accordance with the initiative and the relevant country or regional plan under the initiative;

(2) assess the processes and procedures for coordinating among and within each relevant Federal department or agency when implementing the initiative and each such country and regional plan;

(3) assess the monitoring and evaluation efforts under the initiative and each such country and regional plan, including assessments of the progress made and lessons learned with respect to each such plan, as well as any changes made to activities based on the results of such monitoring and evaluation;

(4) recommend changes necessary to better implement United States Government activities in accordance with the initiative, as well as recommendations for any changes to the initiative; and

(5) assess such other matters as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The heads of all relevant Federal departments and agencies shall ensure that all relevant data, documents, and other information is made available to the Comptroller General of the United States for purposes of conducting independent reviews pursuant to this section.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

(A) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Armed Services, and Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY.—The term “relevant Federal department or agency” means the Department of the Treasury and any other Federal department or agency the President determines is relevant to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Madam 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. 2116.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, on the Foreign Affairs Committee, we focus a great deal on the importance of diplomacy and development as pillars of American foreign policy. The reason why we to do this is simple: diplomacy and development advance our interests and values in a way that saves lives, that prevents war, that stops crises before they start, and helps stabilize countries where conflicts have occurred.

These efforts strengthen old friendships and build new bridges of understanding with people and cultures and governments throughout the world.

We will always need a strong military, but sending our servicemembers

into harm's way should, likewise, always be a measure of last resort. So, on our committee, we look for ways to make our diplomacy and development more effective. We try to give our diplomats and development experts the tools and resources they need to carry out their critical work.

Today, the House is taking up six bills aimed at doing just that. The first is a bill of mine that I am glad is moving forward.

Let me thank our ranking member, my friend, Mr. McCaul of Texas, for joining as a cosponsor. This legislation gets at the heart of what we want to see from our diplomatic and development efforts around the world: helping places already torn apart by violence to recover and preventing the start of violence in other places where factors are ripe for its outbreak.

Over the past two decades, we have learned a great deal about what drives violence and instability in what are called fragile states. We know that it takes clearly defined goals and strategies. We know that it takes strong, sustained investment over the long term. We know that it takes serious research and analysis. And we know that it takes agencies across government working together toward the same goals.

This bill takes all that knowledge and establishes an overarching policy framework for the United States Government. It will help ensure that our government is working in lockstep to prevent violence and extremism and that we are working closely with civil society groups to assess internal and external drivers of instability, to implement these initiatives on the ground, and to constantly monitor and evaluate the work.

This bill takes into account the fact that no two countries are alike. Some will be willing partners in this work; others will require more rigorous engagement to get them on board. For this reason, the bill requires the selection of priority countries and regions based on a number of indicators, such as the challenges at hand and the commitments of respective governments.

The bill also establishes and authorizes the Stabilization and Prevention Fund and authorizes the Complex Crises Fund for the next 5 years, important steps in making sure this initiative has the resources needed for success.

This bill will make a real difference in the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people and communities, and it will do so in a way that serves U.S. interests.

The United States must get ahead of the extremist threat if we want to ensure our own security. This bill helps us to do just that. I ask for the support of all Members to pass this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Global Fragility Act. I want to thank my good friend, Chairman ENGEL, for introducing this bill. I am proud to be the lead Republican on this vital bipartisan legislation.

Violent conflict costs the global economy more than \$14 trillion every year, killing tens of thousands of people and displacing millions from their homes. In the past, the United States has been investing billions of dollars to stabilize fragile states and conflict areas, often with little to show for it.

We are successful militarily. For example, we have destroyed the so-called caliphate in Iraq and Syria. But as former Secretary of Defense James Mattis once said: "The more that we put into the State Department's diplomacy, hopefully, the less we have to put into a military budget as we deal with the outcome. . . ."

Simply put, we need to be more effective in helping to prevent conflicts before they erupt. That is what this bill is designed to do.

Weak governance, corruption, and extreme poverty fuel instability. Jihadi groups prey on these conditions and plague key parts of the world with their violence and oppression. Fragile states provide fertile recruiting ground for these terrorists and, also, transnational criminal organizations.

Sadly, we are seeing jihadists expand in the Sahel region of Africa. Violent attacks linked to terror groups have doubled every year since 2016.

When I was in Africa last month, I heard tragic stories of this growing threat. I am glad that we are taking action here today to help bring stability to this vital region by passing the Global Fragility Act.

Our bill requires the administration to launch a new initiative to coordinate our assistance in fragile states. This will ensure that the United States takes a whole-of-government approach to preventing violent conflict rather than individual agencies funding piecemeal, uncoordinated activities.

The bill requires the State Department to coordinate with USAID, the Department of Defense, and other agencies in standing up a pilot program in a select number of countries. It also ensures consistent future funding in order to take a long-term approach to our programs and objectives in those key selected locations.

Madam Speaker, we must get this right. We are seeing unprecedented levels of instability, displacement, and humanitarian needs around the world in Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, the Sahel, South Sudan, and elsewhere. Preventing conflict and violence can save the U.S. taxpayer dollars and make our country and the rest of the world safer.

I want to recognize the development community and NGOs, like the ONE Campaign, for the important work that they have done on this critical humanitarian and national security issue. They have been extremely supportive of this bill, and I look forward to working with them to get to final passage.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to say that we have done a lot of good things in terms of defending this Nation. As chairman of Homeland Security, I think that we stopped probably 95 percent of the threats that we saw coming at us.

We have done very good offensively in our military, defeating and destroying extremist groups like al-Qaida and ISIS in Iraq and Syria and the collapse of the caliphate. But, Madam Speaker, I think where we have been probably not as good and where we need to do better is in prevention and getting at the root causes of the problems.

Getting to the root cause of the problems, particularly in Africa, is extremely important, as the military tells us the Sahel will be the next caliphate.

We have to pass this bill because it gets to the root cause. It is the prevention piece that the State Department, USAID, and the Department of Defense will work together to stop and prevent extremism at its core roots, and I believe it will make the world a safer place long term.

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

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

Madam Speaker, the United States works to prevent and stop violence when we help to build stronger, more secure communities around the world; when we try to make the most vulnerable regions more stable and prosperous, we are improving the lives of large numbers of people. We are also advancing our own interests by eliminating the root causes that allow extremism to fester and drive threats to our own security.

That is the aim of my bill. That is the aim of this bill we are considering today. It is a smart approach to a serious foreign policy challenge.

The House passed it in the last Congress. I hope the other body will take it up soon so we can get it to the President's desk.

Madam Speaker, I again thank the ranking member, Mr. McCaul.

Policies like this should always be bipartisan. As I always stress, as does Mr. McCaul, we try to work in a bipartisan way on the House Foreign Affairs Committee because, after all, the work we are doing is work for all Americans. It helps all Americans. It helps our great Nation.

So I again want to thank the ranking member, Mr. McCaul. I ask all Members to support this effort, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2116.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

REFUGEE SANITATION FACILITY
SAFETY ACT OF 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 615) to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 615

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 “Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. SECURE ACCESS TO SANITATION FACILITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Section 501 of the Foreign Relations Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 2601 note) is amended in subsection (a)—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (10);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (11) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(12) the provision of safe and secure access to sanitation facilities, with a special emphasis on women and girls, and vulnerable populations.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Madam 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. 615, the Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act 2019.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to thank Ms. MENG and Mr. ZELDIN for authoring this important bipartisan measure.

We are facing a devastating refugee crisis around the world right now. Over 25 million people are currently refugees having fled from violence, conflict, and crisis. Many of these people are now living in refugee camps.

And let me be clear, we need a foreign policy that addresses the root causes of this crisis.

So I am pleased we just considered my Global Fragility bill, which works to prevent the kind of conflict and instability that leads to these refugee crises.

The United States also needs to open its doors to more of these families who have fled violence in search of a better life. America should be leading the world to help in relocating these displaced people, so they can find new homes and start anew.

And we need to make sure that when people are living in refugee camps,

they are cared for and treated with dignity.

Sadly, far too many women and girls in these camps face danger right now. Bathrooms and shower facilities have often become dangerous places with predators taking advantage of poor lighting to stage attacks.

After facing the trauma of being driven from their homes, women and girls in refugee camps should not have to worry about being sexually assaulted, period.

We need to do what we can to make sure that refugee camps have safe, accessible sanitation facilities for everyone. So I am pleased that we are considering legislation today that works to do just that.

Madam Speaker, with H.R. 615, the State Department, when providing overseas assistance for refugees, will seek to ensure safe access to sanitation facilities, especially for those most vulnerable.

Madam Speaker, this is a good bipartisan bill. I am proud to support it, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act.

I want to commend my two colleagues from New York, Representatives MENG and ZELDIN, and also Chairman ENGEL for the good work on this bill.

Around the world, conflict and humanitarian disasters are causing unprecedented levels of displacement in places like South Sudan, Somalia, Syria, Nigeria, and Venezuela.

Some of these crises have dragged on for years and even decades. Generations of young people are growing up knowing only life in a refugee camp where conditions can be dire, and even dangerous, for women, children, and other vulnerable populations.

In these situations, things as basic as lights and locks can make a difference between safe restrooms and bathing facilities in dangerous environments where refugees are vulnerable to sexual violence and other crimes.

This bill amends the Foreign Relations Act to ensure support for safe sanitation facilities for refugees and displaced persons living in camps around the world.

The U.S. continues to be the largest donor to refugees and displaced persons around the world, and we will continue to lead, while encouraging other countries to step up and do more.

In closing, Madam Speaker, the United States is a leading donor of humanitarian assistance to refugees around the world. Through the work of UNHCR and NGO partners, we are saving millions of lives every day.

This bill does not increase those assistance levels but will help ensure that our funding is put to effective use

in protecting the safety and dignity of vulnerable refugees.

Madam Speaker, I want to, again, thank Chairman ENGEL and Representatives MENG and ZELDIN for their leadership, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, in closing, let me say that we are facing a refugee crisis around the world. Wars, violence, instability—millions of people have fled their homes in search of safety.

We need to do what we can to help these people find new homes and start anew. And while they are living in temporary refugee camps, we need to make sure they have the tools to stay safe and healthy.

The Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act of 2019 provides refugee women and girls with safe access to sanitation facilities.

This is one clear, straightforward way we can help those most vulnerable people. It is a good, commonsense bill; I am pleased to support it. And I thank Mr. McCaul as well for his support.

Madam 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 York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 615.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIGITAL GLOBAL ACCESS POLICY
ACT OF 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1359) to promote Internet access in developing countries and update foreign policy toward the Internet, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1359

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 “Digital Global Access Policy Act of 2019” or the “Digital GAP Act”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to—

(1) encourage the efforts of developing countries to improve and secure mobile and fixed access to the Internet in order to catalyze innovation, spur economic growth and job creation, improve health, education, and financial services, reduce poverty and gender inequality, mitigate disasters, and promote free speech, democracy, and good governance;

(2) promote build-once policies and approaches and the multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance; and

(3) ensure the effective use of United States foreign assistance resources toward that end.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Internet access has been a driver of economic activity around the world. Bringing Internet access to the more than 4,000,000,000 people who do not have it could increase global economic output by \$6,700,000,000 and raise 500,000,000 people out of poverty.

(2) The number of Internet users has more than tripled from 1,000,000,000 to over 3,000,000,000 since 2005, including 2,000,000,000 living in the developing world, yet more than half of the world's population remains offline, living without the economic and social benefits of the Internet. By the end of 2016, over 80 percent of households in the developed world had Internet access, compared with just 40 percent of households in developing countries and just 11 percent in the world's least developed countries. Of the world's offline population, an estimated 75 percent live in just 20 countries, and rural, female, elderly, illiterate, and low-income populations are being left behind.

(3) Studies suggest that women are disproportionately affected by a digital gap in developing countries, where there are on average 23 percent fewer women online than men. Bringing an additional 600,000,000 women online could contribute \$13,000,000,000 to \$18,000,000,000 to annual GDP across 144 developing countries.

(4) The United States has been a leader in promoting access to an open, secure, interoperable Internet around the world. Recognizing that support for expanded Internet access furthers United States economic and foreign policy interests, including efforts to end extreme global poverty and enabling resilient, democratic societies, the Department of State launched a diplomatic effort called "Global Connect".

(5) Internet access in developing countries is hampered, in part, by a lack of infrastructure and a poor regulatory environment for investment. Build-once policies and approaches, which seek to coordinate public and private sector investments in roads and other critical infrastructure, can reduce the number and scale of excavation and construction activities when installing telecommunications infrastructure in rights-of-way, thereby reducing installation costs for high-speed Internet networks and serving as a development best practice.

SEC. 4. EXPANDING INTERNET ACCESS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) BROADBAND.—The term "broadband" means an Internet Protocol-based transmission service that enables users to send and receive voice, video, data, graphics, or a combination thereof, using technologies including fiber optic, mobile, satellite, and Wi-Fi.

(3) BROADBAND CONDUIT.—The term "broadband conduit" means a conduit for fiber optic cables and other connectivity technologies that support broadband or wireless facilities for broadband service.

(4) BUILD-ONCE POLICIES AND APPROACHES.—The term "build-once policies and approaches" means policies or practices that encourage the integration of Internet infrastructure into traditional infrastructure projects that minimize the number and scale of excavation and construction activities when installing telecommunications infrastructure in rights-of-way to reduce costs,

such as by laying fiber optic cable simultaneously with road construction.

(5) STAKEHOLDERS.—The term "stakeholders" means the private sector, the public sector, cooperatives, civil society, the technical community that develops Internet technologies, standards, implementation, operations, and applications, and other groups that are working to increase Internet access or are impacted by the lack of Internet access in their communities.

(b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to consult, partner, and coordinate with the governments of foreign countries, international organizations, regional economic communities, businesses, civil society, and other stakeholders in a concerted effort to close the digital gap by increasing public and private investments in secure Internet infrastructure and creating conditions for universal Internet access and usage worldwide by promoting—

(1) first-time access to fixed or mobile broadband Internet by 2027 for at least 1,500,000,000 people living in urban and rural areas in developing countries;

(2) Internet deployment and related coordination, capacity building, and build-once policies and approaches in developing countries, including actions to encourage—

(A) standardization of build-once policies and approaches for the inclusion of broadband conduit in rights-of-way projects that are funded, co-funded, or partially financed by the United States or any international organization that includes the United States as a member, in consultation with telecommunications providers, unless a cost-benefit analysis determines that the cost of such approach outweighs the benefits;

(B) adoption and integration of build-once policies and approaches into the development and investment strategies of national and local government agencies of developing countries and donor governments and organizations that will enhance coordination with the private sector for road building, pipe laying, major infrastructure projects, and development-related construction such as schools, clinics, and civic buildings;

(C) provision of increased financial support by international organizations, including through grants, loans, technical assistance, and partnerships to expand information and communications access and Internet connectivity; and

(D) avoidance of vendors and contractors likely to be subject to extrajudicial direction from a foreign government;

(3) policy and regulatory approaches that promote a competitive market for investment and innovation in Internet infrastructure and service to encourage first-time, affordable access to the Internet in developing countries, including actions to encourage, as appropriate—

(A) the integration of universal and gender-equitable Internet access and adoption goals, to be informed by the collection of related gender disaggregated data and research on social norms that often limit women's and girls' use of the Internet, into national development plans and United States Government country-level strategies;

(B) effective, transparent, and efficient spectrum allocation processes and reforms of competition laws that may impede the ability of companies to provide Internet services; and

(C) efforts to improve procurement processes to help attract and incentivize investment in secure Internet infrastructure;

(4) the removal of tax and regulatory barriers to Internet access, as appropriate;

(5) the use of the Internet to increase economic growth and trade, including, as appropriate—

(A) policies and strategies to remove restrictions to e-commerce, cross-border information flows, and competitive marketplaces; and

(B) entrepreneurship and distance learning enabled by access to technology;

(6) the use of the Internet to bolster democracy, government accountability, transparency, gender equity, and human rights, including through the establishment of policies, initiatives, and investments that—

(A) support the development of national broadband plans or information and communication technologies strategies that are consistent with fundamental civil and political rights, including freedom of expression, religion, belief, assembly, and association;

(B) expand online access to government information and services to enhance government accountability and service delivery, including for areas in which government may have limited presence; and

(C) support expression of free speech and enable political organizing and activism in support of human rights and democracy through activities that expand access to independent sources of news and information and safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms online, in compliance with international human rights standards;

(7) programs and mechanisms that actively promote and advance access to and adoption of Internet and other information and communications technologies by women, people with disabilities, minorities, low-income and marginalized groups, and underserved populations, such as programs that address social norms and barriers to women's active participation in the digital economy or Internet policymaking;

(8) mechanisms for public and private financing of rural broadband connectivity and digital inclusion;

(9) public Internet access facilities and Wi-Fi networks in places such as libraries, government buildings, community centers, and schools;

(10) the creation and support of research and educational networks;

(11) cybersecurity, data protection, and privacy, including international use of the latest version of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity; and

(12) interagency coordination and cooperation across all executive branch agencies regarding the promotion of Internet initiatives as a part of United States foreign policy.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with other agencies, multilateral institutions, foreign countries, and stakeholders, shall advance the policy articulated in this Act and promote expanded Internet connectivity worldwide, as appropriate, by—

(1) encouraging foreign countries to prioritize secure Internet connectivity in development plans;

(2) promoting the formation of region-specific multi-sector working groups to ensure technical and regulatory best practices; and

(3) encouraging the development of digital literacy programs in developing countries.

(d) USAID.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) should advance the policy articulated in this Act and support expanded Internet connectivity worldwide, as appropriate, by—

(1) supporting efforts to expand secure Internet infrastructure and improve digital literacy, and other appropriate measures to improve Internet connectivity and usage, in close coordination with the Secretary of State;

(2) encouraging public and private investment in Internet infrastructure and services

of developing countries that takes into consideration the data security and integrity risks attendant to the products and services of vendors likely to be subject to extrajudicial direction from a foreign government;

(3) integrating efforts to expand Internet access, develop appropriate, sustainable, and equitable technologies, and enhance digital literacy and the availability of relevant local content across development sectors, such as USAID health, education, agriculture, and economic development programs;

(4) expanding the utilization of information and communications technologies in humanitarian aid and disaster relief responses and United States operations involving reconstruction and stabilization to improve donor coordination, reduce duplication and waste, capture and share lessons learned, and augment disaster preparedness and risk mitigation strategies;

(5) establishing and promoting guidelines for the protection of personal information of individuals served by humanitarian, disaster, and development programs directly through the United States Government, and through contracts funded by the United States Government and by international organizations; and

(6) establishing programs that directly address and seek to close gaps in access, adoption, and use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies by women, minorities, and other marginalized groups.

(e) PEACE CORPS.—Section 3 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2502) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (e); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) It is the sense of Congress that access to the Internet can transform agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health, and youth development, which are the sectors in which Peace Corps develops positions for volunteers.

“(g) In giving attention to the programs, projects, training, and other activities referred to in subsection (f), the Peace Corps should develop positions for volunteers that include leveraging the Internet, as appropriate, for development, education, and social and economic mobility.”.

(f) LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.—In pursuing the policy described in this Act, the President should direct United States representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the influence of the United States, consistent with the broad development goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body—

(1) commit to increase efforts and coordination to promote affordable, open, and gender-equitable Internet access, in partnership with stakeholders and consistent with host countries' absorptive capacity;

(2) integrate affordable and gender-equitable Internet access data into existing economic and business assessments, evaluations, and indexes such as the Millennium Challenge Corporation constraints analysis, the Doing Business reports, International Monetary Fund Article IV assessments and country reports, and the Affordability Drivers Index;

(3) standardize the inclusion of broadband conduit as part of highway or comparable construction projects in developing countries, in consultation with telecommunications providers, unless—

(A) such inclusion would create an undue burden;

(B) such inclusion is not necessary based on the availability of existing broadband infrastructure;

(C) such inclusion would require the incorporation of the hardware, software, or maintenance of vendors likely to be subject to extrajudicial direction from a foreign government; or

(D) a cost-benefit analysis determines that the cost of such inclusion outweighs the benefits;

(4) provide technical assistance to the regulatory authorities in developing countries to remove unnecessary barriers to investment and develop regulations to support market growth and development;

(5) utilize clear, accountable, and metric-based targets, including targets with gender-disaggregated data, to measure the effectiveness of efforts to promote Internet access; and

(6) promote and protect human rights online, such as the freedoms of expression, religion, belief, assembly, and association, through resolutions, public statements, projects, and initiatives, and advocating that member states of such bodies are held accountable for violations.

(g) REPORTING REQUIREMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on efforts to implement the policy described in this Act and, to the extent practicable, describe efforts by the United States Government to—

(1) provide technical and regulatory assistance to promote Internet access in developing countries;

(2) strengthen and support development of regulations that incentivize market growth that contributes to increased Internet access in developing countries;

(3) encourage public and private investment in Internet infrastructure, including broadband networks and services, in developing countries;

(4) increase gender-equitable Internet access and close gender gaps in Internet and other information and communications technology adoption and use, especially in countries in which social norms limit such adoption and use by women and girls, and otherwise encourage or support Internet deployment, competition, and adoption; and

(5) conduct outreach and explore partnership opportunities with the private sector on activities that advance the policy described in this Act.

SEC. 5. COST LIMITATION.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act may be construed to infringe upon the related functions of any Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code) vested in such agency under any other provision of law.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Madam 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. 1359.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, when we talk about our development efforts around the world, we often focus on very big concepts, promoting democracy and human rights, making governments more open and accountable, expanding economic opportunity.

Those are, of course, very important ideas, and we need to keep those big-picture goals in mind. But we also need to be working constantly to develop the specific day-to-day tools and efforts that will help us advance towards those goals.

In the 21st century, a lot of those tools have to do with technology. Think of the way the internet has changed the global economy; the way technology has improved communication; the sharing of information; the ability of people to participate in worldwide markets and conversations.

Now, think of the fact that 4 billion people around the developing world do not have access to the internet; think of the untapped potential, the number of people who cannot participate in a constantly expanding online marketplace of goods and services and ideas.

The number of people with stories to tell, whether they are about life in remote communities or the corruption of a repressive government, but who cannot get their hands on the modern-day tools we use to communicate with one another; the number of people who cannot get information about a new opportunity or an impending disaster because they don't have a laptop or a smart phone.

As technology continues to rush forward in so many aspects of modern life, unfortunately, far too many people are being left behind. This bill aims to help close that so-called digital gap.

This legislation would push the State Department, USAID, the Peace Corps, and American representatives in international bodies to incorporate internet access into development planning.

There are a number of ways we want to do this:

Through diplomacy, advising other governments to prioritize this issue; through development, by incorporating this priority into our work on the ground, especially with respect to women, minorities, and other marginalized groups; and in the international and multilateral groups conducting assessments and evaluations of development progress, we want to see access to the internet as an important goal and metric.

This legislation builds on our country's longstanding leadership role in this area.

Let's not forget, the United States created and advanced the internet in the first place, and Congress has been working on this for decades, starting with the High Performance Computing Act of 1991, which is credited for helping create the first internet browser.

It is an important legacy to build on. And it coincides with an important foreign policy goal.

So I want to thank Mr. WRIGHT of Texas, this bill's author, along with

Ranking Member McCaul and Representatives Lieu and BERA, two able members of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their hard work.

I am glad to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Digital GAP Act of 2019, which I was proud to introduce with Ranking Member McCaul and Representatives Lieu and BERA.

In our increasingly connected world, internet access is a tremendous driver of economic growth. But 60 percent of the world's population remains offline and out of reach of U.S. businesses, organizations, and educators—largely due to a lack of telecommunications infrastructure.

The Digital GAP Act will promote commonsense “build once” policies to help ensure that companies have opportunities to incorporate telecommunications into new infrastructure construction projects.

This will provide opportunities to the private sector and reduce the cost of bringing new communities online.

The bill also presses for the removal of onerous tax and regulatory barriers to Internet access, and calls on the State Department, USAID, and other government agencies, to partner with businesses to increase private investment in internet infrastructure in developing countries.

As we compete overseas with an increasingly aggressive China, we must make America's assistance and development strategies more effective.

Bills like the Digital GAP Act and the Championing American Business through Diplomacy Act, which passed 2 weeks ago, will do just that by strengthening the United States partnership with the private sector.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, the internet is an incredible tool that has shaped the world in the last generation.

It allows entrepreneurs in emerging markets to sell their products in global markets. It allows citizens and journalists living under oppressive regimes or in war zones to get information out to the world.

This bill will establish that our foreign policy is to help advance these positive developments.

I urge its passage. It passed the House in the last Congress, and I hope the other body will take it up soon.

Madam 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 York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1359.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1630

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION INFORMATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1952) to amend the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to 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. 1952

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 “Intercountry Adoption Information Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS.

(a) REPORT ELEMENTS.—Section 104(b) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(9) A list of countries that established or maintained a significant law or regulation that prevented or prohibited adoptions involving immigration to the United States, regardless of whether such adoptions occurred under the Convention.

“(10) For each country listed under paragraph (9), the date on which the law or regulation was initially implemented.

“(11) Information on efforts taken with respect to a country listed under paragraph (9) to encourage the resumption of halted or stalled adoption proceedings involving immigration to the United States, regardless of whether the adoptions would have occurred under the Convention.

“(12) Information on any action the Secretary carried out that prevented, prohibited, or halted any adoptions involving immigration to the United States, regardless of whether the adoptions occurred under the Convention.

“(13) For each country listed pursuant to paragraph (12), a description of—

“(A) what policies, procedures, resources, and safeguards the country lacks, or other shortcomings or circumstances, that caused the action to be carried out;

“(B) what progress the country has made to alleviate those shortcomings; and

“(C) what steps the Department of State has taken in order to assist the country to reopen intercountry adoptions.

“(14) An assessment of the impact of the fee schedule of the Intercountry Adoption Accreditation and Maintenance Entity on families seeking to adopt internationally, especially low-income families, families seeking to adopt sibling groups, or families seeking to adopt children with disabilities.”.

(b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—Section 104 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall make the information contained in the report required under subsection (a) available to the public on the website of the Department of State.”.

(c) PRIVACY CONCERN.—In complying with the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall avoid, to the maximum extent practicable, disclosing any personally identifiable information relating to United States citizens or the adoptees of such citizens.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 104(a) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914(a)) is amended by striking “International Relations” and inserting “Foreign Affairs”.

(e) APPLICATION DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to reports required to be submitted under section 104 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914) beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam 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. 1952, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I thank Mr. COLLINS and Mr. LANGEVIN for their hard work on this bill that would help ease some of the problems parents face when they are trying to adopt children from other countries.

Madam Speaker, the process of adopting a child is a tough one, especially when that child is overseas. It is expensive and often emotionally taxing for the parents. It is filled with legal twists and turns and often difficult requirements, but it is worth it for these loving parents who want to give children from faraway places a home and the chance to be part of a family and a good future.

What can make this process even more daunting is when foreign governments change their laws without any sort of notice or explanation. For parents who have to deal with this, it is like having the rug pulled out from under them.

In 2018, the number of intercountry adoptions to the United States declined by roughly 600. We saw a similar decline the year before. Part of the reason is that China and the Democratic Republic of the Congo changed their policies, for example.

I can't imagine the frustration and anxiety of parents who learned their adoption has been delayed or derailed. This bill helps to make things easier on those families.

It would require the State Department to stay up to date on laws and policies dealing with intercountry adoptions and make sure American

families get that information. This will make the adoption process safer and more transparent for both parents and children.

This is a good bill. It passed the House last Congress. After we pass it again today, I hope the other body, the Senate, will act quickly as well to pass it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Intercountry Adoption Information Act authored by my friend from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

The world today is full of orphaned children, but it is also full of loving families who are ready and eager to adopt them. All too often, American families encounter policy obstacles that delay and prevent those adoptions. Some countries have halted adoption processing, suspended foreign adoptions, or banned adoption altogether.

This information doesn't always make it across the world to waiting American families. Many times, they are already midway through the difficult adoption process when these policy changes occur.

Without full information, they cannot understand the impact on their own cases. This leaves adoptive parents in wrenching situations, separated from their child and unsure how to proceed.

This bill ensures that American families are not left in the dark by requiring the State Department to publicly report on legal and policy changes other countries make that may impact the adoption process. It also requires the State Department to explain its efforts to resume stalled adoption proceedings so that American parents know what their country is doing to successfully bring their children to their new home.

As a father of three, I can say that there is no greater feeling than being a dad. I know other parents in this Chamber feel the same way. This bill is an opportunity for both parties to come together to do something positive for American families.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we hear far too many gut-wrenching stories about American families who have trouble adopting children overseas. This legislation will help make that easier, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), the lead Republican on the Judiciary Committee and the author of this bill.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the two gentlemen from Texas, and I appreciate the kind words so far on this bill.

This is something, Madam Speaker, that we can definitely rise in support of, and I appreciate the kind words that have been spoken so far.

I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 1952, the Intercountry Adoption Information Act. This legislation is a critical step forward in ensuring American families have access to the information they need to pursue adoptions from a foreign country.

American families hoping to adopt internationally face many obstacles on the road to being united with their adoptive children. Too often, these challenges require parents to navigate confusing and complicated foreign adoption practices.

I have witnessed firsthand how families in my home State of Georgia have struggled to navigate shifting adoption policies and changing international standards.

In 2012, Pam and Mark Romano, a family in northwest Georgia, traveled to Russia in hopes of adopting a young boy named Bogdon. This was not a quick decision, but one that required months and months of thoughtful prayer and family discussion.

While overseas, the Romanos discovered that Bogdon had a brother, Yura. Although the boys were living separately, the family immediately felt a calling to welcome both boys into their home, and they began the process of adopting Yura as well.

The Romanos were in the midst of the adoption process when Russia instituted a ban on adoptions to the United States, tragically halting the Romanos from bringing both Bogdon and Yura home to Georgia.

The Romanos were, of course, left completely devastated. They had worked for months to be reunited with their sons, but they lacked concrete information about the intercountry adoption process and what was happening in Russia as well as diplomatically.

Since that time, Pam Romano has refused to give up on welcoming Yura and Bogdon into her family. Her boys' room is still furnished and ready for their arrival, and she won't stop fighting until her sons are home.

Pam and her family have been tireless advocates for their sons but also for families across the country who are facing similar threats. They have also taken up their cause.

Today, American families like the Romanos are still in need of the most accurate and up-to-date information as they labor to bring their adoptive children into loving homes. Changing foreign practices can leave the adoptive parents heartbroken and desperately seeking answers as they pursue intercountry adoption.

The Intercountry Adoption Information Act takes steps to shrink this information gap by ensuring families pursuing intercountry adoptions are equipped with a more thorough outlook on the status of intercountry adoptions in specific countries and on the State

Department's actions to resume adoptions that currently remain stalled.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member McCARTHY of the Foreign Affairs Committee for moving this critical bill forward. I also thank my cosponsors, Representatives LANGEVIN, FITZPATRICK, LAMBORN, LYNCH, SMITH, and others for their steadfast commitment to advocating on behalf of these loving families and innocent children in need of homes.

Most importantly, I would like to recognize my constituents, Pam and Mark Romano, and the entire Romano family for their advocacy not only for their own sons but for children all across the world who are waiting to be welcomed home.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the many American families who would greatly benefit from a consistent, reliable source of information as they seek to welcome some of the world's most vulnerable children into loving homes and support the Intercountry Adoption Information Act.

This is something we have done before. This is something that brings us together, and the families who are brought together by this make a lasting impact in the world in which we live.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I again thank Representative COLLINS for this bill. American parents ought to know how foreign policy decisions impact their lives. They also deserve to know what our government is doing to help unite them with their children.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, this is a bipartisan bill, and I urge support from all Members.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1952, the Intercountry Adoption Information Act, and thank my colleague from Georgia, Representative COLLINS, for his partnership on this bipartisan effort. I would also like to thank Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member McCARTHY for working together to ensure its expeditious consideration by their committee and by the full House.

Whether adopting at home or abroad, every family should have the information they need to navigate the process successfully. Yet, families hoping to adopt from foreign countries can be unaware of political and legal obstacles that may prevent them from doing so.

Russia's adoption ban in 2012 and the Democratic Republic of Congo's intercountry adoption ban in 2013 are just two examples of policies that left families in limbo while they were already in the process of adopting.

More recently, more than 200 American families and Ethiopian children with pending adoptions were stuck in heartbreaking uncertainty—unable to unite their families—when

the Ethiopian government halted all foreign adoption processing.

As countries like Russia and Ethiopia change intercountry adoption processes, or ban adoptions to the United States altogether, families must have up-to-date information regarding policies that could make the adoption process difficult, or even impossible. No family members should be left in the dark, oceans away from each other, wondering if they'll ever be united.

Under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, the State Department is required to provide an annual, public report on intercountry adoptions. H.R. 1952 is simple. It would ensure that this report also includes information on policies that may prevent or prohibit adoptions to the United States.

This information would help families navigate the adoption process successfully. I'm proud to lead this effort with Congressman COLLINS, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1952, 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. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE ACT OF 2019

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 753) to promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 753

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Global Electoral Exchange Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) recent elections globally have illustrated the urgent need for the promotion and exchange of international best election practices, particularly in the areas of cybersecurity, results transmission, transparency of electoral data, election dispute resolution, and the elimination of discriminatory registration practices and other electoral irregularities;

(2) the advancement of democracy worldwide promotes American interests, as stable democracies provide new market opportunities, improve global health outcomes, and promote economic freedom and regional security;

(3) credible elections are the cornerstone of a healthy democracy and enable all persons

to exercise their basic human right to have a say in how they are governed;

(4) inclusive elections strengthen the credibility and stability of democracies more broadly;

(5) at the heart of a strong election cycle is the professionalism of the election management body and an empowered civil society;

(6) the development of local expertise via peer-to-peer learning and exchanges promotes the independence of such bodies from internal and external influence; and

(7) supporting the efforts of peoples in democratizing societies to build more representative governments in their respective countries is in the national interest of the United States.

SEC. 3. GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.

(a) GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.—The Secretary of State is authorized to establish and administer a Global Electoral Exchange Program to promote the utilization of sound election administration practices around the world.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Global Electoral Exchange Program described in subsection (a) shall include the promotion and exchange of international best election practices, including in the areas of—

- (1) cybersecurity;
- (2) results transmission;
- (3) transparency of electoral data;
- (4) election dispute resolution;
- (5) the elimination of discriminatory registration practices and electoral irregularities;

(6) equitable access to polling places, voter education information, and voting mechanisms (including by persons with disabilities); and

(7) other sound election administration practices.

(c) EXCHANGE OF ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may, in consultation, as appropriate, with the United States Agency for International Development, make grants to any United States-based organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code with experience in and a primary focus on foreign comparative election systems or subject matter expertise in the administration or integrity of such systems that submits an application in such form, and satisfying such requirements, as the Secretary may require.

(2) TYPES OF GRANTS.—An organization described in paragraph (1) may receive a grant for one or more of the following purposes:

(A) To design and implement programs bringing election administrators and officials, including government officials, poll workers, civil society representatives, members of the judiciary, and others who participate in the organization and administration of public elections in a foreign country that faces challenges to its electoral process to the United States to study election procedures in the United States for educational purposes.

(B) To design and implement programs taking the United States or another country's election administrators and officials, including government officials, poll workers, civil society representatives, members of the judiciary, and others who participate in the organization and administration of public elections to study and discuss election procedures for educational purposes.

(3) LIMITS ON ACTIVITIES.—Activities administered under the Global Electoral Exchange Program may not—

(A) include observation of an election for the purposes of assessing the validity or legitimacy of that election;

(B) facilitate any advocacy for a certain electoral result by a grantee when participating in the Program; or

(C) be carried out without proper consultation with State and local authorities in the United States that administer elections.

(4) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should establish and maintain a network of Global Electoral Exchange Program alumni, to promote communication and further exchange of information regarding sound election administration practices among current and former program participants.

(5) FURTHER LIMITS.—A recipient of a grant under the Global Electoral Exchange Program may use such grant for only the purpose for which such grant was awarded, unless otherwise authorized by the Secretary of State.

(6) NOT DUPLICATIVE.—Grants made under this subsection may not be duplicative of any other grants made under any other provision of law for similar or related purposes.

SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and in each of the following two years thereafter, the Secretary of State shall provide to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a briefing on the status of any activities carried out pursuant to this Act during the preceding year, which shall include, among other information, the following:

(1) A summary of all exchanges conducted under the Global Electoral Exchange Program, including information regarding grantees, participants, and the locations where program activities were held.

(2) A description of the criteria used to select grantees under the Global Electoral Exchange Program.

(3) Any recommendations for the improvement of the Global Electoral Exchange Program, based on the purpose specified in section 3(b).

SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam 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. 753.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 753, the Global Electoral Exchange Act of 2019. I would first like to thank my colleague Representative MARK MEADOWS for his important work on this measure that he and I introduced.

We passed this bill last Congress, and I urge my colleagues to do the same

this Congress. This time, I hope that the Senate acts on this small but important measure that will promote best practices in election administration worldwide.

This bill authorizes the Secretary of State to establish an exchange program for election officials like poll workers, judges, ballot designers, and civil society to promote best practices in election administration around the world.

We would send U.S.-based election administrators and officials abroad or bring foreign administrators and officials to the United States in order to train and exchange best practices when it comes to election administration.

This bill is a good idea and is needed now more than ever. Election irregularities, voter fraud, election manipulation, discriminatory registration, access to polls, intimidation and harassment while voting, and violence at polling stations are problems that have plagued countries around the world. This bill brings people together to tackle some of these problems and to ensure that best practices are promoted worldwide.

Credible, transparent, and peaceful elections are the cornerstones of a stable and robust democracy. This bill furthers that principle.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support the passage of H.R. 753, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Global Electoral Exchange Act authored by my friend and fellow Texan, Mr. CASTRO.

Authoritarian regimes are a threat to personal liberty, international security, and economic progress all around the world. Countries like China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, and Venezuela present major roadblocks to global peace and prosperity, but there is nothing that dictators fear more than free markets and free people. This is why tyrants use repressive tactics to stifle dissent and crack down on public protests.

The world is a safer, more prosperous place when individuals are governed as citizens, not subjects. This is why promoting democracy abroad has always been a bipartisan cause.

The United States must maintain its leadership in keeping the flame of freedom burning. This legislation gives us another opportunity to be that leader.

The Global Electoral Exchange Act would facilitate the international exchange of election monitors, poll workers, and civil society leaders who participate in the administration of elections. By promoting best practices and empowering foreign societies to conduct elections that truly recognize the will of the people, these exchanges will strengthen democratic institutions in other countries.

Let's pass this bill and demonstrate that America remains a beacon of hope

and freedom to the world by empowering free and fair elections.

Madam Speaker, I do want to thank my colleague from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) for their hard work on this bill. Friends of democracy have an interest in free and fair elections that are credible and protected from manipulation. This bill promotes that and deserves our unanimous support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure. Once again, I thank my colleague MARK MEADOWS from North Carolina for his support and hard work on this bill.

The exchanges under this bill would be administered by the State Department and by USAID and would promote best practices and strengthen electoral institutions around the world.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 753.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1645

DENOUNCING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING AS VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 106) denouncing female genital mutilation/cutting as a violation of the human rights of women and girls and urging the international community and the Federal Government to increase efforts to eliminate the harmful practice.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 106

Whereas female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of women and girls;

Whereas FGM/C comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for nonmedical reasons;

Whereas an estimated 200 million girls and women alive today have been victims of FGM/C, with girls 14 and younger representing 44 million of those who have been cut;

Whereas more than 3 million girls are estimated to be at risk of FGM/C annually;

Whereas the practice is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15;

Whereas the practice is rooted in gender inequality and is often linked to other elements of gender-based violence and discrimination, such as child marriage;

Whereas the World Health Organization asserts that FGM/C has no health benefits for women and girls, and can have long-term impacts on their physical, psychological, sexual, and reproductive health;

Whereas the impacts of FGM/C on the physical health of women and girls can include bleeding, infection, obstetric fistula, complications during childbirth, and death;

Whereas, according to UNICEF, FGM/C is reported to occur in all parts of the world, but is most prevalent in parts of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia;

Whereas, although the practice of FGM/C is highly concentrated in specific regions and associated with several cultural traditions, it is not tied to any one religion;

Whereas, in 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published a report estimating that 513,000 women and girls in the United States were at risk or may have been subjected to FGM/C;

Whereas, in 2015, the United Nations adopted a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 that includes a target to eliminate FGM/C, having previously recognized in 2010 that “the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society”;

Whereas the elimination of FGM/C has been called for by numerous intergovernmental organizations, including the African Union, the European Union, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, as well as in 3 resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly;

Whereas the Department of State reports on FGM/C in its Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, including information on whether FGM/C is prevalent, the type and category of genital cutting that is most common, as well as international and governmental efforts being taken to address the practice;

Whereas the Federal Government recognized FGM/C as a form of gender-based violence in the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally, released in August 2012 and updated in June 2016, and the United States Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls, released in March 2016;

Whereas a Government Accountability Office report released in 2016 concluded that “State and USAID currently have limited international assistance efforts to address FGM/C.”; and

Whereas, in 2012, the United Nations General Assembly designated February 6 as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation to enhance awareness of and encourage concrete actions by states and individuals against the practice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) denounces female genital mutilation/cutting as a violation of the human rights of women and girls;

(2) affirms the importance of ending the practice of female genital mutilation/cutting globally for the safety and security of women;

(3) calls upon the international community to increase efforts to accelerate the elimination of female genital mutilation/cutting; and

(4) urges the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in their gender programming to incorporate coordinated efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation/cutting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) and the gentleman

from Texas (Mr. WRIGHT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam 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. Res. 106, denouncing female genital mutilation, or cutting.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this resolution.

First, I want to thank my colleagues, Ms. FRANKEL and Mr. PERRY, for introducing this important bipartisan measure.

Every year, 3 million girls around the world are at risk of facing female genital mutilation, or cutting, also known as FGMC. It is a horrific practice that mutilates girls without their consent and can lead to chronic, long-term health problems, and it can even be fatal.

Madam Speaker, the United States rightly considers female genital mutilation, or cutting, a violation of women's rights. Here in the United States, it is a Federal crime to perform this procedure on girls under the age of 18, and many other countries have similar laws banning the practice.

But despite a rising global awareness about the egregious nature of FGMC, it is still a reality for millions of women around the world. It is estimated that over 200 million women and girls today have been subjected to this heinous mistreatment.

We need to speak out against this injustice. That is why I am pleased to support H. Res. 106, a resolution that denounces female genital mutilation, cutting, as a violation of the human rights of women and girls and urges the international community and the Federal Government to ramp up our efforts to eliminate this harmful practice.

We need to do everything we can to combat the systemic mistreatment and injustice women face around the world. So I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to denounce FGMC.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution to denounce female genital mutilation as a violation of the human rights of women and girls.

I want to thank my committee colleagues, Congresswoman LOIS FRANKEL and Congressman SCOTT PERRY, for introducing the resolution and for their sustained engagement on the issue.

An estimated 200 million women and girls have been victims of FGM, which

has dangerous and lasting health implications. The United States and many other countries and international organizations have called for an end to this highly invasive practice.

Every year, the Department of State reports on the prevalence of FGM as part of the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, and this is an important tool for raising awareness of where this abuse persists.

This resolution urges the Department of State and USAID to go further and to incorporate anti-FGM efforts into their existing programming around the world. U.S. leadership is important to putting an end to this human rights violation.

Speaking as the father of a daughter and a grandfather of five granddaughters, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL), the author of this resolution.

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Speaker, let me start by first of all thanking my colleague, Mr. CASTRO, for yielding time, and Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member McCaul for their bipartisan leadership.

I am rising in support of a bipartisan resolution brought by myself and Representative SCOTT PERRY of Pennsylvania denouncing female genital mutilation and cutting, known as FGM.

Every girl, no matter where she is born, has a right to be free of violence, and FGM is a barbaric violation of girls' and women's human rights. It is defined by the World Health Organization as any procedure that involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for nonmedical reasons.

Madam Speaker, there is no developmental, religious, or health-related justification for this harmful practice. FGM poses immediate risks to girls' health, including severe pain and bleeding, difficulty in passing urine, infections, and even death due to hemorrhage or shock.

The practice often leaves girls with long-term scars as well: post-traumatic stress disorder, chronic pain, HIV infection, cysts, abscess, genital ulcers. I could go on.

Girls who have undergone FGM also face an increased risk of complications affecting their menstrual cycles, sometimes resulting in infertility. And as my colleagues pointed out, more than 200 million women and girls living today around the world, including women right here in the United States of America, have been cut.

And now here is a horrible statistic: UNICEF predicts that, if there is no reduction in this practice within the next 30 years, the number of girls being mutilated each year is going to grow from 3.6 million a year to 6.6 million a year.

Madam Speaker, I want you to know that, with resources and advocacy, we

can stop this horrific practice. Just look at Jaha, a very, very courageous young woman from Gambia who was a week old when she was mutilated and forced into marriage at age 15. Now, she escaped that marriage. She could easily have fallen into despair. Instead, she spoke out because she never wanted her daughter or any other child to go through the suffering of FGM. Because of her hard-fought efforts, FGM is now banned in her home country.

Like Jaha, we must all do more. So, today, I am asking the United States Congress to pass this bipartisan resolution denouncing female genital mutilation, recognizing it as a violation of the human rights of women and girls, affirming the importance of ending its practice for the safety and security of women, calling upon the international community to increase its efforts to accelerate the elimination, and urging our State Department of the United States, in their gender programming, to incorporate coordinated efforts to eliminate FGM.

Today, we are going to send a clear message that this practice must stop; and the United States, as one of the largest donors in the global health programs, can help end this cruel practice.

There are things that we can do, like allocating resources annually to continue our efforts to eliminate FGM, codifying the U.S. strategies to prevent and respond to gender-based violence; and we must—I want to say this emphatically—we must restore funding to the U.N. Population Fund, the world's largest program to end FGM, that works with 17 countries and more than 3 million survivors.

Madam Speaker, ending FGM will help millions of girls have a better life. And when they have a better life, that means that their communities will be more prosperous and more peaceful, because when women succeed, the world succeeds.

It is imperative that we end female genital mutilation now. And I thank my colleagues for joining me in support of this critical resolution.

Mr. WRIGHT. In closing, I again want to thank Representative FRANKEL and Representative PERRY for their persistence in this fight.

Every case of female genital mutilation is one too many. This resolution calls on the nations of the world to do more to stop this awful violation of the dignity and safety of women and girls. It deserves our unanimous support.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We all agree that female genital mutilation, or cutting, is a horrific form of child abuse and a violation of women's rights.

The resolution before us today is a signal to the rest of the world that the United States Congress is paying attention to this issue; we stand with the millions of women who are still being

subjected to this practice; and we will not stop fighting for their right to dignity and respect.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 106, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 106.

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. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

STRONGER CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2480) to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2480

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 “Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROGRAM

Sec. 101. Repeal of findings.

Sec. 102. Repeal of Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Sec. 103. National clearinghouse for information relating to child abuse.

Sec. 104. Research and assistance activities.

Sec. 105. Grants to States, Indian Tribes or tribal organizations, and public or private agencies and organizations.

Sec. 106. Grants to States for child abuse or neglect prevention and treatment programs.

Sec. 107. Miscellaneous requirements.

Sec. 108. Reports.

Sec. 109. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 110. Monitoring and oversight.

Sec. 111. Electronic interstate data exchange system.

Sec. 112. Technical and conforming amendments.

TITLE II—COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Sec. 201. Purpose and authority.

Sec. 202. Eligibility.

Sec. 203. Amount of grant.

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TITLE III—ADOPTION OPPORTUNITIES

Sec. 301. Purpose.

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Sec. 305. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS

Sec. 401. Technical and conforming amendments to other laws.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROGRAM

SEC. 101. REPEAL OF FINDINGS.

Section 2 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is repealed.

SEC. 102. REPEAL OF ADVISORY BOARD ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

Section 102 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5102) is repealed.

SEC. 103. NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO CHILD ABUSE.

Section 103 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5104) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “early learning programs and” after “including”;

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(C)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in clause (iv), by adding “and” at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) the number of child fatalities and near fatalities due to maltreatment, as reported by States in accordance with the uniform standards established pursuant to subsection (d), and any other relevant information related to such fatalities;”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR TRACKING AND REPORTING OF CHILD FATALITIES RESULTING FROM MALTREATMENT.

“(1) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall develop and issue final regulations establishing uniform standards for the tracking and reporting of child fatalities and near-fatalities resulting from maltreatment. As a condition on eligibility for receipt of funds under section 106, the standards established under this paragraph shall be used by States for the tracking and reporting of such fatalities under subsection (d) of such section.

“(2) MAINTENANCE OF STATE LAW.—Notwithstanding the uniform standards developed under paragraph (1), a State that defines or describes such fatalities for any purpose other than tracking and reporting under this subsection may continue to use that definition or description for such purpose.

“(3) NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING.—In developing regulations under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit such regulations to a negotiated rulemaking process, which shall include the participants described in paragraph (4).

“(4) PARTICIPANTS DESCRIBED.—The participants described in this paragraph are—

“(A) State and county officials responsible for administering the State plans under this Act and parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et seq.);

“(B) child welfare professionals with field experience;

“(C) child welfare researchers;

“(D) domestic violence researchers;

“(E) domestic violence professionals;

“(F) child development professionals;

“(G) mental health professionals;

“(H) pediatric emergency medicine physicians;

“(I) child abuse pediatricians, as certified by the American Board of Pediatrics, who specialize in treating victims of child abuse;

“(J) forensic pathologists;

“(K) public health administrators;

“(L) public health researchers;

“(M) law enforcement;

“(N) family court judges;

“(O) prosecutors;

“(P) medical examiners and coroners;

“(Q) a representative from the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention; and

“(R) such other individuals and entities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.”.

SEC. 104. RESEARCH AND ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES.

Section 104 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5105) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) TOPICS.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with other Federal agencies and recognized experts in the field, carry out a continuing interdisciplinary program of research, including longitudinal research, that is designed to provide information needed to improve primary prevention of child abuse and neglect, better protect children from child abuse or neglect, and improve the well-being of victims of child abuse or neglect, with at least a portion of such research being field initiated. Such research program may focus on—

“(A) disseminating evidence-based treatment directed to individuals and families experiencing trauma due to child abuse and neglect, including efforts to improve the scalability of the treatments and programs being researched;

“(B) developing a set of evidence-based approaches to support child and family well-being and developing ways to identify, relieve, and mitigate stressors affecting families in rural, urban, and suburban communities;

“(C) establishing methods to promote racial equity in the child welfare system, including a focus on how neglect is defined, how services are provided, and the unique impact on Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities;

“(D) improving service delivery or outcomes for child welfare service agencies engaged with families experiencing domestic violence, substance use disorder, or other complex needs;

“(E) the extent to which the number of unsubstantiated, unfounded, and false reported cases of child abuse or neglect have contributed to the inability of a State to respond effectively to serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

“(F) the extent to which the lack of adequate resources and the lack of adequate professional development of individuals required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect have contributed to the inability of a State to respond effectively to serious cases of child abuse and neglect;

“(G) the extent to which unsubstantiated reports return as more serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

“(H) the incidence and outcomes of child abuse and neglect allegations reported within the context of divorce, custody, or other

family court proceedings, and the interaction between family courts and the child protective services system;

“(I) the information on the national incidence of child abuse and neglect specified in clauses (i) through (xi) of subparagraph (J); and

“(J) the national incidence of child abuse and neglect, including—

“(i) the extent to which incidents of child abuse and neglect are increasing or decreasing in number and severity;

“(ii) the incidence of substantiated and unsubstantiated reported child abuse and neglect cases;

“(iii) the number of substantiated cases that result in a judicial finding of child abuse or neglect or related criminal court convictions;

“(iv) the extent to which the number of unsubstantiated, unfounded and false reported cases of child abuse or neglect have contributed to the inability of a State to respond effectively to serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

“(v) the extent to which the lack of adequate resources and the lack of adequate education of individuals required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect have contributed to the inability of a State to respond effectively to serious cases of child abuse and neglect;

“(vi) the number of unsubstantiated, false, or unfounded reports that have resulted in a child being placed in substitute care, and the duration of such placement;

“(vii) the extent to which unsubstantiated reports return as more serious cases of child abuse or neglect;

“(viii) the incidence and prevalence of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and physical and emotional neglect in substitute care;

“(ix) the incidence and prevalence of child maltreatment by a wide array of demographic characteristics such as age, sex, race, family structure, household relationship (including the living arrangement of the resident parent and family size), school enrollment and education attainment, disability, grandparents as caregivers, labor force status, work status in previous year, and income in previous year;

“(x) the extent to which reports of suspected or known instances of child abuse or neglect involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as intrastate, interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, are being screened out solely on the basis of the cross-jurisdictional complications; and

“(xi) the incidence and outcomes of child abuse and neglect allegations reported within the context of divorce, custody, or other family court proceedings, and the interaction between family courts and the child protective services system.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraph (1)(O)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(J)”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate a report that contains the results of the research conducted under paragraph (2).

“(B) NATIONAL INCIDENCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that research conducted, and data collected, under paragraph (1)(J) are reported in a way that will allow longitudinal comparisons as well as comparisons to the

national incidence studies conducted under this title.”; and

(D) by striking the second paragraph (4);

(2) in subsection (b), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) AREAS OF EMPHASIS.—Such technical assistance—

“(A) shall focus on—

“(i) implementing strategies that can leverage existing community-based and State funded resources to prevent child abuse and neglect and providing education for individuals involved in prevention activities;

“(ii) reducing racial bias in child welfare systems, including how such systems interact with health, law enforcement, and education systems;

“(iii) promoting best practices for families experiencing domestic violence, substance use disorder, or other complex needs; and

“(iv) providing professional development and other technical assistance to child welfare agencies to improve the understanding of and to help address the effects of trauma and adverse childhood experiences in parents and children in contact with the child welfare system; and

“(B) may include the identification of—

“(i) various methods and procedures for the investigation, assessment, and prosecution of child physical and sexual abuse cases;

“(ii) ways to mitigate psychological trauma to the child victim;

“(iii) effective programs carried out by the States under titles I and II; and

“(iv) effective approaches being utilized to link child protective service agencies with health care, mental health care, and developmental services and early intervention to improve forensic diagnosis and health evaluations, and barriers and shortages to such linkages.”;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (3); and

(4) by striking subsection (e).

SEC. 105. GRANTS TO STATES, INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 105 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (11);

(B) by striking paragraphs (1) through (6) and inserting the following:

“(1) PREVENTION SERVICES.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to establish or expand prevention services that reduce incidences of child maltreatment and strengthen families.

“(2) TRAUMATIC STRESS.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to address instances of traumatic stress in families due to child abuse and neglect, especially for families with complex needs or families that exhibit high levels of adverse childhood experiences.

“(3) PROMOTING A HIGH-QUALITY WORKFORCE.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out programs or strategies that promote a high-quality workforce in the child welfare system through—

“(A) improvements to recruitment, support, or retention efforts; or

“(B) education for professionals and paraprofessionals in the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

“(4) IMPROVING COORDINATION.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out activities to improve intrastate coordination within the child welfare system. Such activities may include—

“(A) aligning information technology systems;

“(B) improving information sharing regarding child and family referrals; or

“(C) creating collaborative voluntary partnerships among public and private agencies, the State’s child protective services, local social service agencies, community-based family support programs, State and local legal agencies, developmental disability agencies, substance use disorder treatment providers, health care providers and agencies, domestic violence prevention programs, mental health services, schools and early learning providers, religious entities, and other community-based programs.

“(5) PRIMARY PREVENTION.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out or expand primary prevention programs or strategies that address family or community protective factors.

“(6) NEGLECT DUE TO ECONOMIC INSECURITY.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out programs or strategies that reduce findings of child neglect due in full or in part to family economic insecurity.

“(7) EDUCATION OF MANDATORY REPORTERS.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities for projects that involve research-based strategies for innovative education of mandated child abuse and neglect reporters, and for victims to understand mandatory reporting.

“(8) SENTINEL INJURIES.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to identify and test effective practices to improve early detection and management of injuries indicative of potential abuse in infants to prevent future cases of child abuse and related fatalities.

“(9) INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out innovative programs or strategies to coordinate the delivery of services to help reduce child abuse and neglect via partnerships among health, mental health, education (including early learning and care programs as appropriate), and child welfare agencies and providers.

“(10) REDUCING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT DUE TO THE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OF A PARENT OR CAREGIVER.—The Secretary may award grants under this subsection to entities to carry out activities to reduce child abuse and neglect due to the substance use disorder of a parent or caregiver.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(12) NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award a grant under this subsection to a nonprofit entity to provide for the ongoing operation of a 24-hour, national, toll-free telephone hotline to provide information and assistance to youth victims of child abuse or neglect, parents, caregivers, mandated reporters, and other concerned community members, including through alternative modalities for communications (such as texting or chat services) with such victims and other information seekers.

“(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants described in this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to applicants with experience in operating a hotline that provides assistance to victims of child abuse, parents, caregivers, and mandated reporters.

“(C) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant described in this paragraph, a nonprofit entity shall submit an application to the Secretary that shall—

“(i) contain such assurances and information, be in such form, and be submitted in such manner, as the Secretary shall prescribe;

“(ii) include a complete description of the entity’s plan for the operation of a national

child abuse hotline, including descriptions of—

“(I) the professional development program for hotline personnel, including technology professional development to ensure that all persons affiliated with the hotline are able to effectively operate any technological systems used by the hotline;

“(II) the qualifications for hotline personnel;

“(III) the methods for the creation, maintenance, and updating of a comprehensive list of prevention and treatment service providers;

“(IV) a plan for publicizing the availability of the hotline throughout the United States;

“(V) a plan for providing service to non-English speaking callers, including service through hotline personnel who have non-English language capability;

“(VI) a plan for facilitating access to the hotline and alternative modality services by persons with hearing impairments and disabilities;

“(VII) a plan for providing crisis counseling, general assistance, and referrals to youth victims of child abuse; and

“(VIII) a plan to offer alternative services to calling, such as texting or live chat;

“(iii) demonstrate that the entity has the capacity and the expertise to maintain a child abuse hotline and a comprehensive list of service providers;

“(iv) demonstrate the ability to provide information and referrals for contacts, directly connect contacts to service providers, and employ crisis interventions;

“(v) demonstrate that the entity has a commitment to providing services to individuals in need; and

“(vi) demonstrate that the entity complies with State privacy laws and has established quality assurance practices.”; and

(2) by striking subsections (b) and (c) and inserting the following:

“(B) GOALS AND PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary shall ensure that each entity receiving a grant under this section—

“(1) establishes quantifiable goals for the outcome of the project funded with the grant; and

“(2) adequately measures the performance of the project relative to such goals.

“(C) PERFORMANCE REPORT REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each entity that receives a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a performance report that includes—

“(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the project funded with the grant relative to the goals established for such project under subsection (b)(1); and

“(B) data supporting such evaluation.

“(2) SUBMISSION.—The report under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(d) CONTINUING GRANTS.—The Secretary may only award a continuing grant to an entity under this section if such entity submits a performance report required under subsection (c) that demonstrates effectiveness of the project funded.”.

SEC. 106. GRANTS TO STATES FOR CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT PREVENTION AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION GRANTS.—Subsection (a) of section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants to the States, from allotments under subsection (f) for each State that applies for a grant under this section, for purposes of assisting the States in improving and imple-

menting a child protective services system that is family-centered, integrates community services, and is capable of providing rapid response to high-risk cases, by carrying out the following:

“(1) Conducting the intake, assessment, screening, and investigation of reports of child abuse or neglect.

“(2) Ensuring that reports concerning a child's living arrangements or subsistence needs are addressed through services or benefits and that no child is separated from such child's parent for reasons of poverty.

“(3) Creating and improving the use of multidisciplinary teams and interagency, intra-agency, interstate, and intrastate protocols to enhance fair investigations; and improving legal preparation and representation.

“(4) Complying with the assurances in section 106(b)(2).

“(5) Establishing State and local networks of child and family service providers that support child and family well-being, which shall—

“(A) include child protective services, as well as agencies and service providers, that address family-strengthening, parenting skills, child development, early childhood care and learning, child advocacy, public health, mental health, substance use disorder treatment, domestic violence, developmental disabilities, housing, juvenile justice, elementary and secondary education, and child placement; and

“(B) address instances of child abuse and neglect by incorporating evaluations that assess the development of a child, including language and communication, cognitive, physical, and social and emotional development, the need for mental health services, including trauma-related services, trauma-informed care, and parental needs.

“(6) Ensuring child protective services is addressing the safety of children and responding to parent and family needs, which shall include—

“(A) family-oriented efforts that emphasize case assessment and follow up casework focused on child safety and child and parent well-being, which may include—

“(i) ensuring parents and children undergo physical and mental health assessments, as appropriate, and ongoing developmental monitoring;

“(ii) multidisciplinary approaches to assessing family needs and connecting the family with services, including prevention services under section 471 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671);

“(iii) organizing a treatment team with the goal of preventing child abuse and neglect, and improving parent and child well-being;

“(iv) case monitoring that supports child well-being; and

“(v) differential response efforts; and

“(B) establishing and maintaining a rapid response system that responds promptly to all reports of child abuse or neglect, with special attention to cases involving children under 3 years of age.

“(7) Educating caseworkers, community service providers, attorneys, health care professionals, parents, and others engaged in the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect, which shall include education on—

“(A) practices that help ensure child safety and well-being;

“(B) approaches to family-oriented prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

“(C) early childhood, child, and adolescent development, and the impact of adverse childhood experiences on such development;

“(D) the relationship between child abuse and domestic violence, and support for non-abusing parents;

“(E) strategies to work with families impacted by substance use disorder and mental health issues (and, when appropriate, be coordinated with prevention efforts funded under section 471 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671));

“(F) effective use of multiple services to address family and child needs, including needs resulting from trauma;

“(G) efforts to improve family and child well-being;

“(H) support for child welfare workers affected by secondary trauma; and

“(I) supporting families and caregivers to combat and prevent unsubstantiated, unfounded, or false reports, including through education on the rights of families and caregivers.

“(8) Creating or improving data systems that allow for—

“(A) the identification of cases requiring prompt responses;

“(B) real-time case monitoring that tracks assessments, service referrals, follow-up, case reviews, and progress toward parent and child goals; and

“(C) sharing basic identifying data with law enforcement, as necessary.

“(9) Improving the general child protective system by developing, improving, and implementing safety assessment tools, providing that such tools, protocols, and systems shall not authorize the separation of any child from the legal parent or guardian of such child solely on the basis of poverty, or without a judicial order, except in the case of imminent harm.”.

(B) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) STATE PLAN.—Paragraph (1) of section 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) STATE PLAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a State shall submit to the Secretary a State plan that—

“(i) specifies how the grant will be used, and the State's strategic plan, to treat child abuse and neglect and enhance community-based, prevention-centered approaches that attempt to prevent child abuse and neglect while strengthening and supporting families whenever possible; and

“(ii) meets the requirements of this subsection.

(B) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—

“(i) COORDINATION.—Each State, to the maximum extent practicable, shall coordinate its State plan under this subsection with its State plan under part B of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) relating to child and family services and, in States electing to provide services under part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) relating to foster care prevention services, its State plan under such part E.

“(ii) CONSULTATION.—In developing a State plan under this subsection, a State shall consult with community-based prevention and service agencies, parents and families affected by child abuse or neglect in the State, law enforcement, family court judges, prosecutors who handle criminal child abuse cases, and medical professionals engaged in the treatment of child abuse and neglect.

“(C) DURATION AND SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Each State plan shall—

“(i) be submitted not less than every 5 years; and

“(ii) if necessary, revised by the State to inform the Secretary of any substantive changes, including—

“(I) any changes to State law or regulations, relating to the prevention of child

abuse and neglect that may affect the eligibility of the State under this section; or

“(II) any changes in the State's activities, strategies, or programs under this section.”.

(2) CONTENTS.—Paragraph (2) of section 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) CONTENTS.—A State plan submitted under paragraph (1) shall contain a description of the activities that the State will carry out using amounts received under the grant to achieve the objectives of this title, including—

“(A) an assurance in the form of a certification by the Governor of the State that the State has in effect and is enforcing a State law, or has in effect and is operating a statewide program, relating to child abuse and neglect that includes—

“(i) provisions or procedures for an individual to report known and suspected instances of child abuse and neglect, including a State law for mandatory reporting by individuals required to report such instances;

“(ii) procedures for the immediate screening, risk and safety assessment, and prompt investigation of such reports of alleged abuse and neglect in order to ensure the well-being and safety of children;

“(iii) procedures for immediate steps to be taken to ensure and protect the safety of a victim of child abuse or neglect and of any other child under the same care who may also be in danger of child abuse or neglect and ensuring their placement in a safe environment;

“(iv) methods to preserve the confidentiality of all records in order to protect the rights of the child and of the child's parents or guardians, including requirements ensuring that reports and records made and maintained pursuant to the purposes of this Act shall only be made available to—

“(I) individuals who are the subject of the report;

“(II) Federal, State, or local government entities, or any agent of such entities, as described in clause (xi) of this subparagraph;

“(III) child abuse citizen review panels;

“(IV) child fatality review panels;

“(V) a grand jury or court, upon a finding that information in the record is necessary for the determination of an issue before the court or grand jury; and

“(VI) other entities or classes of individuals statutorily authorized by the State to receive such information pursuant to a legitimate State purpose;

“(v) provisions and procedures requiring that in every case involving a victim of child abuse or neglect which results in a judicial proceeding, a guardian ad litem, who has received education appropriate to the role, including education in early childhood, child, and adolescent development, and domestic violence, and who may be an attorney or a court appointed special advocate who has received education appropriate to that role (or both), shall be appointed to represent the child (who, for purposes of this section, shall have any age limit elected by the State pursuant to section 475(8)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 675(8)(B)(iii)) in such proceedings—

“(I) to obtain first-hand, a clear understanding of the situation and needs of such child; and

“(II) to make recommendations to the court concerning the best interests of such child;

“(vi) the establishment of citizen review panels in accordance with subsection (c);

“(vii) provisions and procedures to require that a representative of the child protective services agency shall, at the initial time of contact with the individual subject to a child abuse or neglect investigation, advise the in-

dividual of the complaints or allegations made against the individual, in a manner that is consistent with laws protecting the rights of the informant;

“(viii) provisions, procedures, and mechanisms—

“(I) for the expedited termination of parental rights in the case of any infant determined to be abandoned under State law; and

“(II) by which individuals who disagree with an official finding of child abuse or neglect can appeal such finding;

“(ix) provisions addressing the professional development of representatives of the child protective services system regarding the legal duties of the representatives, which may consist of various methods of informing such representatives of such duties (including providing such education in different languages if necessary), in order to protect the legal rights and safety of children and their parents and caregivers from the initial time of contact during investigation through treatment;

“(x) provisions for immunity from civil or criminal liability under State and local laws and regulations for individuals making good faith reports of suspected or known instances of child abuse or neglect, or who otherwise provide information or assistance, including medical evaluations or consultations, in connection with a report, investigation, or legal intervention pursuant to a good faith report of child abuse or neglect;

“(xi) provisions to require the State to disclose confidential information to any Federal, State, or local government entity, or any agent of such entity, that has a need for such information in order to carry out its responsibilities under law to protect children from child abuse and neglect;

“(xii) provisions requiring, and procedures in place that facilitate the prompt expungement of any records that are accessible to the general public or are used for purposes of employment or other background checks in cases determined to be unsubstantiated or false, except that nothing in this section shall prevent State child protective services agencies from keeping information on unsubstantiated reports in their casework files to assist in future risk and safety assessment;

“(xiii) provisions and procedures for requiring criminal background record checks that meet the requirements of section 471(a)(20) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(20)) for prospective foster and adoptive parents and other adult relatives and non-relatives residing in the household;

“(xiv) provisions for systems of technology that support the State child protective services system and track reports of child abuse and neglect from intake through final disposition;

“(xv) provisions and procedures requiring identification and assessment of all reports involving children known or suspected to be victims of sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(12) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102 (12));

“(xvi) provisions, procedures, and mechanisms that assure that the State does not require reunification of a surviving child with a parent who has been found by a court of competent jurisdiction—

“(I) to have committed murder (which would have been an offense under section 1111(a) of title 18, United States Code, if the offense had occurred in the special maritime or territorial jurisdiction of the United States) of another child of such parent;

“(II) to have committed voluntary manslaughter (which would have been an offense under section 1112(a) of title 18, United States Code, if the offense had occurred in the special maritime or territorial jurisdiction

of the United States) of another child of such parent;

“(III) to have aided or abetted, attempted, conspired, or solicited to commit such murder or voluntary manslaughter;

“(IV) to have committed a felony assault that results in the serious bodily injury to the surviving child or another child of such parent;

“(V) to have committed sexual abuse against the surviving child or another child of such parent; or

“(VI) to be required to register with a sex offender registry under section 113(a) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16913(a)); and

“(xvii) an assurance that, upon the implementation by the State of the provisions, procedures, and mechanisms under clause (xvi), conviction of any one of the felonies listed in clause (xvi) constitute grounds under State law for the termination of parental rights of the convicted parent as to the surviving children (although case-by-case determinations of whether or not to seek termination of parental rights shall be within the sole discretion of the State);

“(B) an assurance that the State has in place procedures for responding to the reporting of medical neglect (including instances of withholding of medically indicated treatment from infants with disabilities who have life-threatening conditions), procedures or programs, or both (within the State child protective services system), to provide for—

“(i) coordination and consultation with individuals designated by and within appropriate health-care facilities;

“(ii) prompt notification by individuals designated by and within appropriate health-care facilities of cases of suspected medical neglect (including instances of withholding of medically indicated treatment from infants with disabilities who have life-threatening conditions); and

“(iii) authority, under State law, for the State child protective services system to pursue any legal remedies, including the authority to initiate legal proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction, as may be necessary to prevent the withholding of medically indicated treatment from infants with disabilities who have life-threatening conditions;

“(C) an assurance or certification that programs and education conducted under this title address the unique needs of unaccompanied homeless youth, including access to enrollment and support services and that such youth are eligible for under parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 670 et seq.) and meet the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11301 et seq.);

“(D) a description of—

“(i) policies and procedures (including appropriate referrals to child welfare service systems and for other appropriate services (including home visiting services and mutual support and parent partner programs) determined by a family assessment) to address the needs of infants born with and identified as being affected by substance use or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, including a requirement that health care providers involved in the delivery or care of such infants notify the child protective welfare service system of the occurrence of such condition in such infants, except that—

“(I) child protective services shall undertake an investigation only when the findings of a family assessment warrant such investigation; and

“(II) such notification shall not be construed to—

“(aa) establish a definition under Federal law of what constitutes child abuse or neglect; or

“(bb) require prosecution for any illegal action;

“(ii) the development of a multi-disciplinary plan of safe care for the infant born and identified as being affected by substance use or withdrawal symptoms or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder to ensure the safety and well-being of such infant following release from the care of health care providers, including through—

“(I) using a risk-based approach to develop each plan of safe care;

“(II) addressing, through coordinated service delivery, the health and substance use disorder treatment needs of the infant and affected family or caregiver as determined by a family assessment; and

“(III) the development and implementation by the State of monitoring systems regarding the implementation of such plans of safe care to determine whether and in what manner local entities are providing, in accordance with State requirements, referrals to and delivery of appropriate services for the infant and affected family or caregiver;

“(iii) policies and procedures to make available to the public on the State website the data, findings, and information about all cases of child abuse or neglect resulting in a child fatality or near fatality, including a description of—

“(I) how the State will not create an exception to such public disclosure, except in a case in which—

“(aa) the State would like to delay public release of case-specific findings or information (including any previous reports of domestic violence and subsequent actions taken to assess and address such reports) while a criminal investigation or prosecution of such a fatality or near fatality is pending;

“(bb) the State is protecting the identity of a reporter of child abuse or neglect; or

“(cc) the State is withholding identifying information of members of the victim's family who are not perpetrators of the fatality or near fatality; and

“(II) how the State will ensure that in providing the public disclosure required under this clause, the State will include—

“(aa) the cause and circumstances of the fatality or near fatality;

“(bb) the age and gender of the child; and

“(cc) any previous reports of child abuse or neglect investigations that are relevant to the child abuse or neglect that led to the fatality or near fatality;

“(iv) how the State will use data collected on child abuse or neglect to prevent child fatalities and near fatalities;

“(v) how the State will implement efforts to prevent child fatalities and near fatalities;

“(vi) the cooperation of State law enforcement officials, court of competent jurisdiction, and appropriate State agencies providing human services in the investigation, assessment, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

“(vii) the steps the State will take to improve the professional development, retention, and supervision of caseworkers and how the State will measure the effectiveness of such efforts;

“(viii) the State's plan to ensure each child under the age of 3 who is involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect will be referred to the State's child find system under section 635(a)(5) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1435(a)(5)) in order to determine if the child is an infant or toddler with a disability (as defined in section 632(5) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1432(5));

“(ix) the State's plan to improve, as part of a comprehensive State strategy led by law enforcement, professional development for child protective services workers and their appropriate role in identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims, in coordination with law enforcement, juvenile justice agencies, runaway and homeless youth shelters, and health, mental health, and other social service agencies and providers;

“(x) the services to be provided under the grant to individuals, families, or communities, either directly or through referrals, aimed at preventing the occurrence of child abuse and neglect;

“(xi) the State's efforts to ensure professionals who are required to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect are aware of their responsibilities under subparagraph (A)(i) and receive professional development relating to performing such responsibilities that is specific to their profession and workplace;

“(xii) policies and procedures encouraging the appropriate involvement of families in decisionmaking pertaining to children who experienced child abuse or neglect;

“(xiii) the State's efforts to improve appropriate collaboration among child protective services agencies, domestic violence services agencies, substance use disorder treatment agencies, and other agencies in investigations, interventions, and the delivery of services and treatment provided to children and families affected by child abuse or neglect, including children exposed to domestic violence, where appropriate;

“(xiv) policies and procedures regarding the use of differential response, as applicable, to improve outcomes for children; and

“(xv) the State's efforts to reduce racial bias in its child protective services system.”.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—Paragraph (3) of section 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “LIMITATION” and inserting “LIMITATIONS”;

(B) by striking “With regard to clauses (vi) and (vii) of paragraph (2)(B),” and inserting the following:

“(A) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—With regard to subparagraphs (A)(iv) and (D)(iii) of paragraph (2),”;

(C) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall be construed to limit the State's flexibility to determine State policies relating to public access to court proceedings to determine child abuse and neglect, except that such policies shall, at a minimum, ensure the safety and well-being of the child, parents, and families.”.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—Paragraph (4) of section 106(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “DEFINITIONS” and inserting “DEFINITION”;

(B) by striking “this subsection” and all that follows through “means an act” and inserting the following: “this subsection, the term ‘near fatality’ means an act”;

(C) by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(D) by striking subparagraph (B).

(c) CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS.—Section 106(c) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “EXCEPTIONS,” and all that follows through “A State may” and inserting “EXCEPTION.—A State may”;

(2) in paragraph (4)(A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “and where appropriate, specific cases”; and

(B) in clause (iii)(I), by striking “foster care and adoption programs” and inserting “foster care, prevention, and permanency programs”; and

(3) by amending the first sentence of paragraph (6) to read as follows: “Each panel established under paragraph (1) shall prepare and make available to the State and the public, on an annual basis, a report containing a summary of the activities of the panel, the criteria used for determining which activities the panel engaged in, and recommendations or observations to improve the child protective services system at the State and local levels, and the data upon which these recommendations or observations are based.”.

(d) ANNUAL STATE DATA REPORTS.—Section 106(d) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(d)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (13) to read as follows:

“(13) The annual report containing the summary of the activities and recommendations of the citizen review panels of the State required by subsection (c)(6), and the actions taken by the State as a result of such recommendations.”;

(2) in paragraph (15), by striking “subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(D)(i)”;

(3) in paragraph (16), by striking “subsection (b)(2)(B)(xxi)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(D)(viii)”;

(4) in paragraph (17), by striking “subsection (b)(2)(B)(xxiv)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(A)(xv)”;

(5) in paragraph (18)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(D)(i)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “subsection (b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “subsection (b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(19) The number of child fatalities and near fatalities from maltreatment and related information in accordance with the uniform standards established under section 103(d).”.

(e) ALLOTMENTS.—Section 106(f) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) LIMITATION.—For any fiscal year for which the amount allotted to a State or territory under this subsection exceeds the amount allotted to the State or territory under such subsection for fiscal year 2019, the State or territory may use not more than 2 percent of such excess amount for administrative expenses.”.

SEC. 107. MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS.

Section 108 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting “Indian tribes, and tribal organizations,” after “States.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e) as subsections (d) through (f), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) PROTECTING AGAINST SYSTEMIC CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.—

“(1) REPORTING AND TASK FORCE.—Not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention

and Treatment Act, each State task force established under section 107(c) and expanded as described in paragraph (2) shall study and make recommendations on the following, with a focus on preventing systemic child sexual abuse:

“(A) How to detect systemic child sexual abuse that occurs in an organization.

“(B) How to prevent child sexual abuse and systemic child sexual abuse from occurring in organizations, which shall include recommendations to improve—

“(i) practices and policies for the education of parents, caregivers, and victims, and age appropriate education of children, about risk factors or signs of potential child sexual abuse; and

“(ii) the efficacy of applicable State laws and the role such laws play in deterring or preventing incidences of child sexual abuse.

“(C) The feasibility of making available the disposition of a perpetrator within an organization to—

“(i) the child alleging sexual abuse or the child’s family; or

“(ii) an adult who was a child at the time of the sexual abuse claim in question or the adult’s family.

“(2) TASK FORCE COMPOSITION.—For purposes of this subsection, a State task force shall include—

“(A) the members of the State task force described in section 107(c) for the State; and

“(B) the following:

“(i) Family court judges.

“(ii) Individuals from religious organizations.

“(iii) Individuals from youth-serving organizations, including youth athletics organizations.

“(3) REPORTING ON RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after a State task force makes recommendations under paragraph (1), the State maintaining such State task force shall—

“(A) make public the recommendations of such report;

“(B) report to the Secretary on the status of adopting such recommendations; and

“(C) in a case in which the State declines to adopt a particular recommendation, make public the explanation for such declination.

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) the terms ‘child sexual abuse’ and ‘sexual abuse’ shall not be limited to an act or a failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker;

“(B) the term ‘organization’ means any entity that serves children; and

“(C) the term ‘systemic child sexual abuse’ means—

“(i) a pattern of informal or formal policy or de facto policy to not follow State and local requirements to report instances of child sexual abuse in violation of State and local mandatory reporting laws or policy; or

“(ii) a pattern of assisting individual perpetrators in maintaining their careers despite substantiated evidence of child sexual abuse.”.

SEC. 108. REPORTS.

(a) SCALING EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.—Section 110 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106f) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 110. STUDY AND REPORT RELATING TO SCALING EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT; STUDY AND REPORT ON MARITAL AGE OF CONSENT; STUDY AND REPORT ON STATE MANDATORY REPORTING LAWS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study that examines challenges to, and best practices for, the scalability of treatments that reduce the trauma resulting

from child abuse and neglect and reduce the risk of revictimization, such as those allowable under sections 105 and 106.

“(b) CONTENT OF STUDY.—The study described in subsection (a) shall be completed in a manner that considers the variability among treatment programs and among populations vulnerable to child abuse and neglect. The study shall include, at minimum:

“(1) A detailed synthesis of the existing research literature examining barriers and challenges to, and best practices for the scalability of child welfare programs and services as well as programs and services for vulnerable children and families in related fields, including healthcare and education.

“(2) Data describing state and local providers’ experiences with scaling treatments that reduce the trauma resulting from child abuse and neglect and reduce the risk of revictimization.

“(3) Consultation with experts in child welfare, healthcare, and education.

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a report that contains the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), including recommendations for best practices for scaling treatments that reduce the trauma resulting from child abuse and neglect and reduce the risk of revictimization.

“(d) STUDY AND REPORT ON MARITAL AGE OF CONSENT.—

“(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall study, with respect to each State—

“(A) the State law regarding the minimum marriage age; and

“(B) the prevalence of marriage involving a child who is under the age of such minimum marriage age.

“(2) FACTORS.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall include an examination of—

“(A) the extent to which any statutory exceptions to the minimum marriage age in such laws contribute to the prevalence of marriage involving a child described in paragraph (1)(B);

“(B) whether such exceptions allow such a child to be married without the consent of such child; and

“(C) the impact of such exceptions on the safety of such children.

“(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a report containing the findings of the study required by this subsection, including any best practices.

“(e) STUDY AND REPORT ON STATE MANDATORY REPORTING LAWS.—

“(1) STUDY.—The Secretary shall collect information on and otherwise study State laws for mandatory reporting of incidents of child abuse or neglect. Such study shall examine trends in referrals and investigations of child abuse and neglect due to differences in such State laws with respect to the inclusion, as mandatory reporters, of the following individuals:

“(A) Individuals licensed or certified to practice in any health-related field licensed by the State, employees of health care facilities or providers licensed by the State, who are engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of individuals, including mental health and emergency medical service providers.

“(B) Individuals employed by a school who have direct contact with children, including teachers, administrators, and independent contractors.

“(C) Peace officers and law enforcement personnel.

“(D) Clergy, including Christian Science practitioners, except where prohibited on account of clergy-penitent privilege.

“(E) Day care and child care operators and employees.

“(F) Employees of social services agencies who have direct contact with children in the course of employment.

“(G) Foster parents.

“(H) Court appointed special advocates (employees and volunteers).

“(I) Camp and after-school employees.

“(J) An individual, paid or unpaid, who, on the basis of the individual’s role as an integral part of a regularly scheduled program, activity, or service, accepts responsibility for a child.

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a report containing the findings of the study required by this subsection, including any best practices related to the inclusion, as mandatory reporters, of individuals described in paragraph (1).”.

(b) REPORT ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN INDIAN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General, in consultation with the Indian tribes from each of the 12 regions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, shall study child abuse and neglect in Indian Tribal communities for the purpose of identifying vital information and making recommendations concerning issues relating to child abuse and neglect in such communities, and submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report on such study, which shall include—

(A) the number of Indian tribes providing primary child abuse and neglect prevention activities;

(B) the number of Indian tribes providing secondary child abuse and neglect prevention activities;

(C) promising practices of Indian tribes with respect to child abuse and neglect prevention that are culturally-based or culturally-adapted;

(D) information and recommendations on how such culturally-based or culturally-adapted child abuse and neglect prevention activities could become evidence-based;

(E) the number of Indian tribes that have accessed Federal child abuse and neglect prevention programs;

(F) child abuse and neglect prevention activities that Indian tribes provide using State funds;

(G) child abuse and neglect prevention activities that Indian tribes provide using Tribal funds;

(H) Tribal access to State children’s trust fund resources, as described in section 202 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116a);

(I) how a children’s trust fund model could be used to support prevention efforts regarding child abuse and neglect of American Indian and Alaska Native children;

(J) Federal agency technical assistance efforts to address child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment of American Indian and Alaska Native children;

(K) Federal agency cross-system collaboration to address child abuse and neglect prevention and treatment of American Indian and Alaska Native children;

(L) Tribal access to child abuse and neglect prevention research and demonstration grants under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.); and

(M) an examination of child abuse and neglect data systems to identify what Tribal data is being submitted, barriers to submitting data, and recommendations on improving the collection of data from Indian Tribes.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term “Alaska Native” has the meaning given the term in section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g); and

(B) the terms “child abuse and neglect” and “Indian tribe” have the meaning given the terms in section 3 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

SEC. 109. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 112(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106h(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “to carry out” through “fiscal year 2010” and inserting “to carry out this title \$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2020”; and

(B) by striking “2011 through 2015” and inserting “2021 through 2025”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2)(A) and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts appropriated for a fiscal year under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make available 30 percent of such amounts, or \$100,000,000, whichever is less, to fund discretionary activities under this title.”.

SEC. 110. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT.

Section 114(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5108(1)) is amended—

(1) in each of subparagraphs (A) and (B), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) include written guidance and technical assistance to support States, which shall include guidance on the requirements of this Act with respect to infants born with and identified as being affected by substance use or withdrawal symptoms, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, as described in clauses (i) and (ii) of section 106(b)(2)(D), including by—

“(i) enhancing States’ understanding of requirements and flexibilities under the law, including by clarifying key terms;

“(ii) addressing State-identified challenges with developing, implementing, and monitoring plans of safe care; and

“(iii) disseminating best practices on implementation of plans of safe care, on such topics as differential response, collaboration and coordination, and identification and delivery of services for different populations, while recognizing needs of different populations and varying community approaches across States; and

“(D) include the submission of a report to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act that contains a description of the activities taken by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (C); and”.

SEC. 111. ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.

Title I of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 115. ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.

“(a) INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consider the recommendations included in the reports required under paragraph (8)(A) and subsection (b)(2) in developing an electronic interstate data exchange system that allows State entities responsible under State law for maintaining child abuse and neglect registries to communicate information across State lines.

“(2) STANDARDS.—In developing the electronic interstate data exchange system under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) use interoperable standards developed and maintained by intergovernmental partnerships, such as the National Information Exchange Model;

“(B) develop policies and governance standards that—

“(i) ensure consistency in types of information shared and not shared; and

“(ii) specify circumstances under which data should be shared through the interstate data exchange system; and

“(C) ensure that all standards and policies adhere to the privacy, security, and civil rights laws of each State and Federal law.

“(3) LIMITATION ON USE OF ELECTRONIC INTERSTATE DATA EXCHANGE SYSTEM.—The electronic interstate data exchange system established under subsection (a), to allow for more accurate and efficient exchange of child abuse and neglect records.

“(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—

“(A) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall begin implementation of a pilot program to generate recommendations for the full integration of the electronic interstate data exchange system. Such pilot program shall include not less than 10 States and not more than 15 States.

“(B) COMPLETION.—Not later than 30 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall complete the pilot program described in subparagraph (A).

“(5) INTEGRATION.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may assist States in the integration of this system into the infrastructure of each State using funds appropriated under this subsection.

“(6) PARTICIPATION.—As a condition on eligibility for receipt of funds under section 106, each State shall—

“(A) participate in the electronic interstate data exchange system to the fullest extent possible in accordance with State law (as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services) not later than December 31, 2027; and

“(B) prior to the participation described in subparagraph (A), provide to the Secretary of Health and Human Services an assurance that the child abuse and neglect registry of such State provides procedural due process protections with respect to including individuals on such registry.

“(7) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may not access or store data from the electronic interstate data exchange system, unless the State to which such data pertains voluntarily shares such data with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

“(8) REPORTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall prepare and submit to Congress—

“(A) not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this section, a report on

the recommendations from the pilot program described in paragraph (4); and

“(B) not later than January 31, 2025, a report on the progress made in implementing this subsection.

“(9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the funds appropriated under section 112 for a fiscal year—

“(A) for each of fiscal years 2020 and 2021, \$2,000,000 shall be reserved to carry out this section; and

“(B) for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2025, \$1,000,000 shall be reserved to carry out this section.

“(b) WORKING GROUP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall convene a working group to study and make recommendations on the following:

“(A) The feasibility of making publicly available on the website of each State definitions and standards of substantiated child abuse and neglect for the State.

“(B) Whether background check requirements under this Act, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), and part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670 et seq.) are complementary or if there are discrepancies that need to be addressed.

“(C) How to improve communication between and across States, including through the use of technology and the use of the electronic interstate data exchange system established under subsection (a), to allow for more accurate and efficient exchange of child abuse and neglect records.

“(D) How to reduce barriers and establish best practices for the State to provide timely responses to requests from other States for information contained in the State’s child abuse and neglect registry through the electronic interstate data exchange system established under subsection (a).

“(E) How to ensure due process for any individual included in a State’s child abuse and neglect registry, including the following:

“(i) The level of evidence necessary for inclusion in the State’s child abuse and neglect registry.

“(ii) The process for notifying such individual of inclusion in the State’s child abuse and neglect registry and the implications of such inclusion.

“(iii) The process for providing such individual the opportunity to challenge such inclusion, and the procedures for resolving such challenge.

“(iv) The length of time an individual’s record is to remain in the State’s child abuse and neglect registry, and the process for removing such individual’s record.

“(v) The criteria for when such individual’s child abuse and neglect registry record may be—

“(I) made accessible to the general public;

“(II) made available for purposes of an employment check; and

“(III) be shared for the purposes of participation in the electronic interstate data exchange system described in subsection (a).

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the working group convened under paragraph (1) shall submit a report containing its recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

“(3) CONSTRUCTION.—There shall be no requirement for any State to adopt the recommendations of the working group, nor shall the Secretary of Health and Human

Services incentivize or coerce any State to adopt any such recommendation.”.

SEC. 112. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**— The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by striking “Committee on Education and the Workforce” each place it appears and inserting “Committee on Education and Labor”; and

(2) in section 103(c)(1)(F), by striking “abused and neglected children” and inserting “victims of child abuse or neglect”; and

(3) in section 107(f), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 10603a)” and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 20104)”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) **SECTION 103.**—Section 103(b)(5) (42 U.S.C. 5104(b)(5)) is amended by striking “section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”.

(2) **SECTION 105.**—Section 105(a)(11) (42 U.S.C. 5106(a)(11) (as redesignated by section 105(1)(A) of this Act) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in clause (i)(II), by striking “section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

(ii) in clause (i)(IV), by striking “section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)(II)” and inserting “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(II)”; and

(iii) in clause (i), by striking “clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)” and inserting “clauses (i) and (ii) of section 106(b)(2)(D)”;

(C) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in clause (i)(I), by striking “section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)(I)” and inserting “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)(I)”;

(ii) in clause (ii)(I), by striking “section 106(b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

(iii) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

(iv) in clause (iii)(I), by striking “section 106(b)(2)(B)(i)” and inserting “section 106(b)(2)(A)(i)”;

(v) in clause (iii)(IV), by striking “section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”; and

(vi) in clause (v), by striking “section 106(b)(2)(B)(iii)” and inserting “section 106(b)(2)(D)(ii)”;

(D) in subparagraph (E), by striking “section 106(b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “section 106(b)(2)(D)(i)”; and

(E) in subparagraph (G)(ii), by striking “clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)” and inserting “clauses (i) and (ii) of section 106(b)(2)(D)”.

(3) **SECTION 114.**—Section 114(1)(B) (42 U.S.C. 5108(1)(B)) is amended by striking “clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 106(b)(2)(B)” and inserting “clauses (i) and (ii) of section 106(b)(2)(D)”.

(4) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act is amended—

(A) by striking the items relating to sections 2 and 102;

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 114 the following:

“Sec. 115. Electronic interstate data exchange system.”; and

(C) by striking the item relating to section 110, and inserting the following:

“Sec. 110. Study and report relating to scaling evidence-based treatment of child abuse and neglect; study and report on marital age of consent; study and report on State mandatory reporting laws.”.

TITLE II—COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SEC. 201. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.

Subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116) are amended to read as follows:

“(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this title are—

(1) to establish and maintain support for community-based family strengthening services and statewide systems-building approaches to the extent practicable, to ensure the development, operation, expansion, coordination, and evaluation of quality services, initiatives, programs, and activities to prevent child abuse and neglect; and

(2) to promote improved access for diverse populations with demonstrated need, including low-income families, racial and ethnic minorities, families with children or caregivers with disabilities, underserved communities, and rural communities, to family strengthening services in order to more effectively prevent child abuse and neglect.

“(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall make grants under this title on a formula basis to the entity designated by the State as the lead entity (referred to in this title as the ‘lead entity’) under section 202(1) for the following purposes:

(1) Providing programs, activities, and initiatives to help families build protective factors linked to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, such as knowledge of parenting and child development, parental resilience, social connections, time-limited and need-based concrete support, and social and emotional development of children, that—

(A) are accessible to diverse populations, effective, and culturally appropriate;

(B) build upon existing strengths;

(C) offer assistance to families;

(D) provide early, comprehensive support for parents;

(E) promote the development of healthy familial relationships and parenting skills, especially in young parents and parents with very young children;

(F) increase family stability;

(G) improve family access to formal and informal community-based resources, including health and mental health services, time-limited and need-based concrete supports, and services and supports to meet the needs of families with children or caregivers with disabilities; and

(H) support the additional needs of families with children with disabilities, including through respite care.

(2) Fostering the development of a continuum of preventive services to strengthen families through State- and community-based collaborations and both public and private partnerships.

(3) Financing the start-up, maintenance, expansion, or redesign of core services described in section 205, where communities have identified gaps and decided to prioritize the establishment of such services, to the extent practicable given funding levels and community priorities.

(4) Maximizing funding through leveraging Federal, State, local, public, and private funds to carry out the purposes of this title.

(5) Developing or enhancing statewide and local networks to operate, expand, or enhance community-based family strengthening services, initiatives, and activities that promote child, parent, family, and community health and well-being and prevent child abuse and neglect.

(6) Promoting the development of, and coordination with, existing community coalitions of networks of family strengthening

services that utilize culturally responsive providers in order to enhance child, family, and community well-being and prevent child abuse and neglect in all families.

“(7) Financing public information activities that focus on parent and child development and child abuse and neglect prevention.

“(8) To the extent practicable—

“(A) promoting the development and implementation of a statewide systems-building strategy to address the unmet needs identified in the inventory described in section 204(3), including the participation of public and private stakeholders, community-based organizations, legislators, parents and other relevant stakeholders, and State agencies, including the child welfare agency, the public health agency, housing agency, and the State education agency, to scale evidence-based, evidence-informed, and promising programs that expand access to family strengthening services and reduce the numbers of children entering the foster care system;

(B) developing comprehensive outreach strategies to engage families with various risk factors, including families who have experienced trauma or domestic violence, parents with substance use disorder, and families with children or caregivers with disabilities; and

(C) providing capacity-building supports to local programs to improve desired outcomes for children and families, such as—

(i) technical assistance, including support for local programs to collect outcome data that helps improve service delivery;

(ii) professional development; and

(iii) peer support networks, including through developing a problem-solving forum.”.

SEC. 202. ELIGIBILITY.

Section 202 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) the Governor of the State has designated a lead entity to administer funds under this title for the purposes identified under the authority of this title, including to develop, implement, operate, enhance, or expand community-based family strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) the Governor of the State has given consideration to the capacity and expertise of all entities requesting to be designated under subparagraph (A); and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) has demonstrated ongoing meaningful partnerships with parents in the development, operation, and oversight of State- and community-based family strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect;”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families” and inserting “community-based family strengthening services designed”; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) has the capacity to provide operational support (both financial and programmatic), professional development, technical assistance, and evaluation assistance, to community-based organizations;”; and

(D) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) will integrate efforts with individuals and organizations experienced in working in

partnership with low-income families, racial and ethnic minorities, families with children or caregivers with disabilities, sexual and gender minority youth, victims of domestic violence, and with the child abuse and neglect prevention activities in the State, and demonstrate a financial commitment to those activities; and

“(E) will take into consideration access for diverse populations and unmet need when distributing funds to local programs under section 205.”.

SEC. 203. AMOUNT OF GRANT.

Section 203 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116b) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) RESERVATION.—For the purpose of making allotments to Indian tribes and tribal organizations and migrant programs, the Secretary shall reserve 5 percent of the amount appropriated under section 210(a) for each fiscal year, except that, if making such reservation would cause the total amount allotted to States under this section for a fiscal year to be less than such total for fiscal year 2019, the Secretary shall reserve 1 percent of the amount appropriated under section 210(a) for the year for such purpose.”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) LIMITATION.—For any fiscal year for which the amount allotted to a State under subsection (b) exceeds the amount allotted to the State under such subsection for fiscal year 2019, the State's lead entity may use not more than 10 percent of such excess amount for administrative expenses.”.

SEC. 204. APPLICATION.

Section 204 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116d) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “specified by the Secretary as essential to carrying out the provisions of section 202, including” and inserting “and assurances required in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 202 and types of information specified by the Secretary as essential in carrying out the provisions of section 201(b), including”;

(2) in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4), by striking “community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families” and inserting “community-based family strengthening services designed”;

(3) in paragraph (3) by striking “community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities” and inserting “community-based family strengthening services designed”;

(4) in paragraph (5), by striking “and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect;” and inserting “services and statewide strategies designed to strengthen and support families to promote child, family, and community well-being and prevent child abuse and neglect;”;

(5) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) a description of the State's capacity and commitment to ensure the meaningful involvement of parents who are or have been consumers of preventative supports, including the involvement of parents of diverse populations, such as low-income families, families with children or caregivers with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, and members of other underrepresented or underserved groups, family advocates, and adult victims of child abuse or neglect who can provide leadership in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the programs and policy decisions of the applicant agency in accomplishing the desired outcomes for such efforts.”;

(6) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (15);

(7) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (11) as paragraphs (8) through (12), respectively;

(8) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) a description of the process and criteria the lead entity will use to identify and select communities in which to build a continuum of family strengthening services, including an assurance that the process will ensure access for all families, including families in communities with high rates of child abuse and neglect relative to other communities in the State;”;

(9) by striking paragraph (9), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(9) a description of outreach activities that the lead entity and local grantees will undertake to maximize the participation of low-income families, racial and ethnic minorities, families with children or caregivers with disabilities, sexual and gender minority youth, victims of domestic violence, homeless families and those at risk of homelessness, and members of other underserved or underrepresented groups;”.

(10) by striking paragraph (10), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(10) a plan for providing operational support, professional development, and technical assistance to grantees, other State and local programs and providers, families, and other entities involved in strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect;”;

(11) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated, by striking “and its members (where appropriate)” and inserting “of community-based family strengthening services and statewide initiatives”; and

(12) by striking paragraph (12), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(12) a description of the actions that the applicant entity will take to inform systemic changes in State policies, practices, procedures, and regulations to improve the delivery of community-based family strengthening services designed to promote child, family, and community well-being, and to prevent child abuse and neglect;”;

“(13) a description of how the lead entity will incorporate research evidence in its process for selecting community-based family strengthening services;

“(14) an assurance that, in issuing regulations to improve the delivery of community-based family strengthening services designed to promote child, family, and community well-being, and to prevent child abuse and neglect, the State will—

“(A) take into account how such regulations will impact activities funded under this Act; and

“(B) where appropriate, attempt to avoid duplication of efforts, minimize costs of compliance with such regulations, and maximize local flexibility with respect to such regulations; and”.

SEC. 205. LOCAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

Section 205 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116e) is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 205. LOCAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Grants from the lead entity made under this title shall be used to develop, implement, operate, expand, and enhance community-based family strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect that—

“(1) assess community assets and needs and develop a strategy to create a comprehensive continuum of effective services that strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect, through a planning process involving parents, local and

public agencies, local nonprofit organizations and service providers, and private sector representatives in meaningful ways;

“(2) develop or enhance existing place-based family strengthening services, other parenting support services, and connections and coordination among key family services in the community by reaching spaces familiar to such families; and

“(3) help families build protective factors that support child and family well-being and help prevent child abuse and neglect, including knowledge of parenting and child development, parental resilience, social connections, time-limited and need-based concrete support, and social and emotional development of children.

“(b) LOCAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants, the lead entity shall consider, consistent with the needs of the State and community, how the grantee—

“(1) demonstrates the ability to form collaborations across a range of services or initiatives and the commitment to engage in long-term planning and strategic development for community-based family strengthening services as well as provide on-going problem solving support;

“(2) involves parents, including parents of children with disabilities, diverse racial and ethnic groups, and members of other underrepresented or underserved populations, in the development, implementation, oversight, and evaluation of services;

“(3) addresses the need for place-based services and the need to reach families in hard-to-reach areas through approaches that provide core family strengthening services;

“(4) promotes improved access to family strengthening services for diverse populations and ensures that the services address identified needs of all families; and

“(5) demonstrates an understanding of the sources of child and family trauma and the strategies that mitigate the impact of and prevent adverse childhood experiences.

“(c) LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.—Grant funds from the lead entity shall be used for community-based family strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect, which may include the following:

“(1) Developing a strategy based on supporting a comprehensive continuum of preventive, family-centered services that strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect, especially to young parents, to parents with young children, and to parents who are adult victims of domestic violence or child abuse or neglect, through public-private partnerships.

“(2) Addressing the needs of families in hard-to-reach areas by creating access to place-based family strengthening services.

“(3) Performing an assessment of community needs, including by partnering, at the option of the grantee, with an organization that already has performed a needs assessment (such as a Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting program under section 511 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 711) or a Head Start program under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

“(4) Supporting outreach for services, including by coordinating with existing family strengthening services such as home visiting and other early intervention programs.

“(5) Providing, promoting the development or enhancement of, or connecting families to, core services that include—

“(A) parenting support and parent education programs, including services that help parents and other caregivers support children's development;

“(B) parent leadership skills development programs that support parents' personal growth as leaders in their families and communities;

“(C) mutual support groups for parents, children, and parent partners;

“(D) respite and crisis care; and

“(E) referrals to optional community and social services, including—

“(i) domestic violence services;

“(ii) screening and referrals to early intervention;

“(iii) voluntary home visiting programs;

“(iv) health and mental health services, including referrals for information on the State Medicaid plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.);

“(v) early care and learning programs including child care and Head Start programs and Early Head Start programs under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);

“(vi) nutrition programs, including the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786) and the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

“(vii) education and workforce development programs, including adult literacy, child development, wellness, and family socioeconomic mobility programs; and

“(viii) services and supports to meet the needs of families with children or caregivers with disabilities, such as early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, as early intervention services are defined in section 632 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1432).

“(6) Providing leadership in mobilizing local public and private resources to support the provision of community-based family strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect.

“(7) Developing and maintaining meaningful partnerships with parents relating to the development, operation, evaluation, and oversight of the programs and services.

“(8) Coordinating with other community-based family strengthening services designed to prevent child abuse and neglect in the development, operation, and expansion of networks where appropriate.

“(d) PRIORITY.—When awarding grants, a lead entity shall give priority to effective community-based efforts that serve low-income communities and are focused on comprehensive approaches to serving young parents or parents with young children.”.

SEC. 206. PERFORMANCE MEASURES.

Section 206 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116f) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1), (5), (6), and (8), by striking “community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families” and inserting “community-based family strengthening services designed”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “meets” and inserting “meet”;

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking “including core and optional services as described in section 202”;

(4) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) shall demonstrate how they have addressed unmet needs identified by the inventory required under section 204;”.

(5) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) shall describe the number of families served, including families with children or caregivers with disabilities, and the involvement of a diverse representation of families in the design, operation, and evaluation of both community-based family strengthening services and networks of such services;”;

(6) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

“(7) shall describe—

“(A) the number of programs funded disaggregated by urban, suburban, and rural community type;

“(B) the number of children and families served under each such program disaggregated by urban, suburban, and rural community type; and

“(C) the number of programs that partner with outside entities and the services such outside entities provide;”;

(7) in paragraph (8)—

(A) by striking “leadership of” and insert “partnership with”; and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(8) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) shall describe the extent to which there is evidence to support the effectiveness of activities conducted under this title for the program’s intended purpose, or, in instances where such evidence is not available, shall describe barriers and challenges to developing evidence of effectiveness.”.

SEC. 207. NATIONAL NETWORK FOR COMMUNITY-BASED FAMILY RESOURCE PROGRAMS.

Section 207 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116g) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “such sums as may be necessary” and inserting “not more than 5 percent”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families” and inserting “community-based family strengthening services designed”.

SEC. 208. DEFINITIONS.

Section 208 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116h) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as paragraphs (2) and (1), respectively, and transferring paragraph (1) as redesignated to appear before paragraph (2) as redesignated; and

(2) by striking paragraph (1) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

“(1) COMMUNITY-BASED FAMILY STRENGTHENING SERVICES.—The term ‘community-based family strengthening services’ includes organizations such as family resource programs, family support programs, voluntary home visiting programs, respite care services, parenting education, mutual support groups for parents, children, parent partner programs, and other community programs or networks of such programs that provide activities that are designed to prevent child abuse and neglect.”.

SEC. 209. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 209 as section 210; and

(2) by inserting after section 208 the following:

SEC. 209. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

“Nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit grandparents, kinship care providers, foster parents, adoptive parents, or any other individual in a parenting role from receiving or participating in services and programs under this title.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act is amended by striking the item relating to section 209 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 209. Rule of construction.”.

“Sec. 210. Authorization of appropriations.”.

SEC. 210. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 210 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.), as

redesignated by section 209 of this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking “There are” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are”;

(2) by striking “to carry out” through “fiscal year 2010” and inserting “to carry out this title \$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2020”;

(3) by striking “2011 through 2015” and inserting “2021 through 2025”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) TREATMENT OF NON-FEDERAL FUNDS IN CERTAIN FISCAL YEARS.—For any fiscal year for which the amount appropriated under subsection (a) exceeds the amount appropriated under such subsection for fiscal year 2019, the Secretary shall consider non-Federal funds and in-kind contributions as part of the State contribution for the activities specified in section 204(4).”.

SEC. 211. STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY RELATING TO NEW PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall complete a study, using data reported by States to the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 206 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116f), as amended by this Act—

(A) to determine how many families and children in the first 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act are served annually through programs funded under title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.); and

(B) to compare the number of such families and children served annually in the first 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act to the number of such families and children served in fiscal year 2019.

(2) CONTENTS.—The study required under paragraph (1) shall include the following for each of the first 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act:

(A) An examination of how many families received evidence-based programming under title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5116 et seq.).

(B) An examination of the extent to which local programs conduct evaluations using funds provided under such title and the findings of such evaluations.

(C) An examination of whether findings of effectiveness in evaluation studies vary by urban, suburban, or rural community type.

(D) An examination of whether programs partnering with other entities are more effective than those that do not partner with other entities.

(E) An examination of barriers to implement evidence-based programming or to conduct evaluations in instances where such activities do not occur.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a report that contains the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

TITLE III—ADOPTION OPPORTUNITIES

SEC. 301. PURPOSE.

Section 201 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 511) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE” and inserting “PURPOSE”;

(2) by striking subsection (a); and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “(b) PURPOSE.—”;

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “sexual and gender minority youth” after “particularly older children, minority children,”; and

(C) in paragraph (1), by inserting “services and,” after “post-legal adoption”.

SEC. 302. REPORT AND GUIDANCE ON UNREGULATED CUSTODY TRANSFERS.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5111 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 201 the following:

“SEC. 202. REPORT AND GUIDANCE ON UNREGULATED CUSTODY TRANSFERS.

“(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that:

“(1) Some adopted children may be at risk of experiencing an unregulated custody transfer because the challenges associated with adoptions (including the child’s mental health needs and the difficulties many families face in acquiring support services) may lead families to seek out unregulated custody transfers.

“(2) Some adopted children experience trauma, and the disruption and placement in another home by unregulated custody transfer creates additional trauma and instability for children.

“(3) Children who experience an unregulated custody transfer may be placed with families who have not completed required child welfare or criminal background checks or clearances.

“(4) Social services agencies and courts are often unaware of the placement of children through unregulated custody transfer and therefore do not conduct assessments on the child’s safety and well-being in such placements.

“(5) Such lack of placement oversight places a child at risk for future abuse and increases the chance that the child may experience—

“(A) abuse or neglect;

“(B) contact with unsafe adults or youth; and

“(C) exposure to unsafe or isolated environments.

“(6) The caregivers with whom a child is placed through unregulated custody transfer often have no legal responsibility with respect to such child, placing the child at risk for additional unregulated custody transfers.

“(7) Such caregivers also may not have complete records with respect to such child, including the child’s birth, medical, or immigration records.

“(8) A child adopted through intercountry adoption may be at risk of not acquiring United States citizenship if an unregulated custody transfer occurs before the adoptive parents complete all necessary steps to finalize the adoption of such child.

“(9) Engaging in, or offering to engage in, unregulated custody transfer places children at risk of harm.

“(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of the Senate a report on unregulated custody transfers of children, including of adopted children.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) the causes, methods, and characteristics of unregulated custody transfers, including the use of social media and the internet;

“(B) the effects of unregulated custody transfers on children, including the lack of assessment of a child’s safety and well-being by social services agencies and courts due to such unregulated custody transfer;

“(C) the prevalence of unregulated custody transfers within each State and across all States; and

“(D) recommended policies for preventing, identifying, and responding to unregulated custody transfers, including of adopted children, that include—

“(i) amendments to Federal and State law to address unregulated custody transfers;

“(ii) amendments to child protection practices to address unregulated custody transfers; and

“(iii) methods of providing the public information regarding adoption and child protection.

“(c) GUIDANCE TO STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date specified in subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall issue guidance and technical assistance to States related to preventing, identifying, and responding to unregulated custody transfers, including of adopted children.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—The guidance required under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) education materials related to preventing, identifying, and responding to unregulated custody transfers for employees of State, local, and Tribal agencies that provide child welfare services;

“(B) guidance on appropriate pre-adoption education and post-adoption services for domestic and international adoptive families to promote child permanency; and

“(C) the assistance available through the National Resource Center for Special Needs Adoption under section 203(b)(9).

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

“(2) UNREGULATED CUSTODY TRANSFER.—The term ‘unregulated custody transfer’ means the abandonment of a child, by the child’s parent, legal guardian, or a person or entity acting on behalf, and with the consent, of such parent or guardian—

“(A) by placing a child with a person who is not—

“(i) the child’s parent, step-parent, grandparent, adult sibling, legal guardian, or other adult relative;

“(ii) a friend of the family who is an adult and with whom the child is familiar; or

“(iii) a member of the Federally recognized Indian tribe of which the child is also a member;

“(B) with the intent of severing the relationship between the child and the parent or guardian of such child; and

“(C) without—

“(i) reasonably ensuring the safety of the child and permanency of the placement of the child, including by conducting an official home study, background check, and supervision; and

“(ii) transferring the legal rights and responsibilities of parenthood or guardianship under applicable Federal and State law to a person described in subparagraph (A).”

SEC. 303. INFORMATION AND SERVICES.

(a) NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ADOPTION.—Section 203(b)(9) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(b)(9)) is amended by inserting “not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, establish and” before “maintain”.

(b) PLACEMENT WITH ADOPTIVE FAMILIES.—Section 203(b)(11)(C) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(b)(11)(C)) is amended by striking “such children” and inserting “the children and youth described in the

matter preceding paragraph (1) of section 201”.

(c) PRE-ADOPTION SERVICES.—Section 203(c)(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(c)(1)) is amended by striking “post” and inserting “pre- and post-”.

(d) SERVICES.—Section 203(c)(2) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(c)(2)) is amended by inserting “and the development of such services,” after “not supplant, services”.

(e) ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS TO ADOPTION ACROSS JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES.—Section 203(e)(1) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5113(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “with, States,” and inserting “with States, Indian Tribes,”; and

(2) by inserting “, including through the use of web-based tools such as the electronic interstate case-processing system referred to in section 437(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 629g(g))” before the period at the end.

SEC. 304. STUDY AND REPORT ON SUCCESSFUL ADOPTIONS.

Section 204 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5114) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 204. STUDY AND REPORT ON SUCCESSFUL ADOPTIONS.

“(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study (directly or by grant to, or contract with, public or private nonprofit research agencies or organizations) on adoption outcomes and the factors (including parental substance use disorder) affecting those outcomes.

“(b) REPORT.—Not later than the date that is 36 months after the date of the enactment of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that includes the results of the study required under subsection (a).”

SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 205(a) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Adoption Reform Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 5115(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “fiscal year 2010” and inserting “fiscal year 2020”; and

(2) by striking “fiscal years 2011 through 2015” and inserting “fiscal years 2021 through 2025”.

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS

SEC. 401. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) HEAD START ACT.—Section 658E(c)(2)(L) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9858c(c)(2)(L)) is amended by striking “will comply with the child abuse reporting requirements of section 106(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)(2)(B)(i))” and inserting “will comply with the child abuse reporting requirements of section 106(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a(b)(2)(A)(i))”.

(b) VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT OF 1984.—Section 1404A of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 2004) is amended by striking “section 109” and inserting “section 107”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to

revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am excited that the House of Representatives is considering this bill, Stronger CAPTA, today, a bipartisan bill I urge my colleagues to support.

Stronger CAPTA is a reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, CAPTA, that will revamp already existing Federal supports for preventing child abuse and neglect.

It has been 9 years since Congress comprehensively reauthorized CAPTA. This Congress, I partnered with several of my Democratic and Republican colleagues to introduce the bipartisan Stronger CAPTA, which would help States and communities address the recent rise in cases of child neglect, abuse, and death, many of which can be linked to an increasing number of parents affected by substance abuse and the opioid crisis.

Stronger CAPTA will overhaul a prevention system that has always been overworked and underresourced. In Washington State, only 11 of about 125 programs that apply receive funding. The support my State gets from the Federal Government is about 50 cents per child per year.

□ 1700

Stronger CAPTA will increase funding so that more programs can ensure families in need receive their services.

It will also create a local system in which families who are seeking services but have not yet been identified as needing those services can receive the help they need.

Currently, a family who knows they need help can't get it unless something bad happens to the child. Parents are the most informed regarding the needs of their children, and we should not punish families who are proactively seeking assistance. Stronger CAPTA will help these families before harm occurs.

I am hopeful that, because of this legislation, Washington State will build on their efforts to support new mothers with parenting, help families teach social-emotional and early literacy skills, expand programs for Tribal families, counsel families and children exposed to violence and homelessness, and expand the countless other programs in place to help families seeking support.

I am also excited that the bill I introduced with my Republican colleague STEVE STIVERS, the Early Detection to Stop Infant Abuse and Prevent Fatalities Act, is included in this legislation. With passage of Stronger CAPTA, States will be able to help medical professionals, early childhood educators,

and others better identify early signs of infant abuse and neglect that might look harmless to the untrained eye.

As a pediatrician, I take care of the children and families we are talking about today. I want every parent to have the support they need to parent well. My bill will go a long way to making sure every family gets the support they need.

I thank my colleagues, Representatives TRAHAN, JOHNSON, STEFANIK, BONAMICI, and COMER; Chairman SCOTT, and Ranking Member FOXX, for co-leading this legislation with me.

The well-being of children and their opportunity to grow up in stable, loving environments will be improved with the passage of Stronger CAPTA.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, as lead Republican for the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services, and as its lead Republican sponsor, I am happy to rise today to celebrate this bipartisan legislation, the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. This legislation will help target, prevent, and treat child abuse and neglect.

The statistics of children in the United States who are abused and/or neglected are staggering. In 2016, child protective services determined approximately 676,000 children to be victims of abuse or neglect. This is simply heartbreaking.

CAPTA was originally enacted in 1974 to support the development of programs aimed at prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Stronger CAPTA seeks to continue this important work while putting more emphasis on prevention so that abuse and neglect can be stopped before they happen.

Prevention takes a holistic approach to combating neglect and abuse by focusing on strengthening communities and educating parents and caregivers on how to keep their children safe. In addition to bolstering our prevention efforts, Stronger CAPTA streamlines current assurances and requirements so States can focus on serving and providing treatment to children rather than spending more time filling out paperwork.

State agencies benefit from increased flexibility that allows them to respond more swiftly and effectively to reports of abuse and neglect. We must equip States with the tools and resources needed to address maltreatment and keep kids safe.

I am very proud of the hard work done on both sides of the aisle to champion this bipartisan legislation aimed at protecting some of our most vulnerable citizens.

Keeping America's children safe from the detrimental harm of abuse and neglect is something we can all agree is paramount, and I am glad that we could work together on such an important initiative.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2480, the bipartisan Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Child maltreatment is a public health crisis and a threat to our country. Although we have made progress toward reducing cases of child maltreatment since passage of the original CAPTA, in recent years, the rates at which children are abused and neglected have steadily increased. Evidence suggests that the opioid crisis is responsible for new challenges in protecting vulnerable children.

Stronger CAPTA is an important step toward making sure that all children grow up in safe and healthy environments that allow them to reach their full potential.

The bill will strengthen Federal investments in community-based prevention services so families across the country can receive help before children suffer.

It will build networks of wraparound services that lower the risk of child maltreatment by helping families navigate complex health, education, and financial hardships.

It will seek to reduce rates of child maltreatment exacerbated by the opioid crisis by supporting the development of best practices and strategies.

Importantly, the bill will streamline communication between and among States so child protection agencies across the country can work together and prevent cases of maltreatment from slipping through the cracks, no matter where they occur.

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

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Oregon an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman SCOTT and Ranking Member FOXX but also especially Ranking Member COMER of the subcommittee and Representatives SCHRIER, TRAHAN, JOHNSON, and STEFANIK for their leadership.

I strongly urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment.

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for the work that they have done on this bill, and I rise today in strong support of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Not only will this bill strengthen our laws to help keep children safe, but this legislation also makes needed investments to help ensure children impacted by the opioid epidemic do not face abuse, maltreatment, and neglect.

Every one of our communities, sadly, has been impacted by the opioid epidemic. Sadly, our children are suffering the consequences.

This bill includes a bipartisan amendment that I was pleased to offer in committee with Representative UNDERWOOD to study and learn more about how parental substance abuse affects the outcomes on adoption. This study is necessary to help States better serve children in need, and I was proud to see it unanimously adopted.

Last Congress, I introduced legislation that was passed to reduce known barriers for foster placement, which was signed into law. This amendment builds on that important work to help States detect additional barriers to better serve children caught up by the opioid epidemic.

Madam Speaker, child abuse is not a partisan issue, and I am proud of the strong bipartisan work my colleagues have done on the Committee on Education and Labor to strengthen prevention efforts.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of my colleague Representative SCHRIER's Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, which increases funding for under-resourced child protection agencies.

I am particularly proud that we could reach bipartisan agreement on a top priority of mine in this bill, which is ensuring that State plans of safe care for infants exposed to substances in utero do not unfairly target pregnant women who need to remain on medication in order to stay healthy.

Prior to 2016, States only developed plans of safe care for infants exposed to illegal substances in utero. It became clear during the opioid crisis that we needed to look at the abuse of legal drugs during pregnancy.

In 2016, Congress updated the law to ensure that all infants and families impacted by substance abuse could get the care they need. Unfortunately, as an unintended consequence, some States are now referring all infants exposed to substances in utero to child protective services and opening CPS investigations even if the mom was using the substance in a treatment plan that was prescribed by a doctor.

In some States, new mothers using antidepressants during pregnancy are being referred automatically to CPS for investigation. This is not only unjust but also a waste of limited resources.

Untreated depression during pregnancy is linked to premature birth, low birth weight, and developmental problems, not to mention increased risk of postpartum depression and poor health for pregnant mothers.

There is already incredible stigma that prevents people from seeking treatment for mental illness, with

communities of color facing greater barriers to that treatment.

What is more, mothers who made a safe choice to transition to medication-assisted treatment for opioid withdrawal shouldn't automatically be investigated by CPS.

I am so grateful to Representative GUTHRIE on the other side of the aisle, the chair and ranking member, and experts in pediatric medicine for finding a solution. This bill clarifies that CPS will only undertake an investigation when the findings of a family assessment warrant it, not when moms are simply following their doctors' advice to stay healthy.

Stronger CAPTA will prevent unnecessary trauma to families.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2480, the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, which includes my provision asking for a study of forced child marriages in the United States.

It is shocking to think that the Tahirih Justice Center estimates that, between 2000 and 2015, more than 207,000 children were married in this country. In Texas alone, 40,000 minors were married between 2000 and 2014.

I hope we can all agree that marriage should be between consenting individuals and that children should not be married without their consent.

I was proud, on a bipartisan basis in Texas, to end forced child marriages in Texas. I know that States, red and blue, have addressed this problem and solved it. But we need to work harder here in the United States Congress.

I am grateful to my colleague from Washington for accepting this amendment to work on studying forced child marriage in the 43 States that have not adjusted their laws to end what I would consider to be a barbaric practice.

I look forward to supporting this bill.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I rise today in support of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Children are our future teachers, doctors, police officers, and Members of Congress. It is our responsibility to ensure that they are able to live, learn, and grow in a safe environment.

My home State of Georgia ranked fifth in the Nation for the highest number of child abuse-related deaths in 2017 and third for calls to hotlines to report abuse.

I was proud to introduce an amendment in the Education and Labor Committee with my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), that would establish a national child abuse hotline.

Stronger CAPTA is bipartisan legislation that will provide critical protections and resources to families and

children across our Nation to prevent and end child abuse. Together, we can and we should ensure the safety of our Nation's children.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WRIGHT).

Mr. WRIGHT. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2480. I thank all of those who had any part in drafting this important legislation.

The Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act takes an important step in improving the lives of children in every State.

This bill authorizes important programs that will provide essential support for child protective service systems and communities fighting against child abuse and neglect.

This legislation before us comes at a time when State child protective services around the country are seeing resources increasingly strained due to the opioid crisis. H.R. 2480 provides the resources and reforms needed for States to combat this crisis and ensure that abused or neglected children are getting the help they deserve.

Under this bill, States and local providers can focus on serving children and families by streamlining duplicative and burdensome paperwork requirements. It also ensures community and parent involvement in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of prevention services.

I am pleased that the bill before us today includes an amendment that I introduced with my colleague from Maryland (Mr. TRONE). The amendment ensures those working in the child welfare system are of the highest professional quality.

As has been said before, this work is critical. We want to ensure these people are ready to tackle this challenging work, and States need to know how to recruit the right people for the job.

The child welfare system contains some of the most vulnerable citizens in our society, which makes it so important that those working in the field get the education and professional development that is needed.

H.R. 2480 will allow State and local providers to better serve the almost 700,000 children who are victims of abuse and neglect every year.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

□ 1715

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD).

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this bipartisan bill. I thank Representative SCHRIER, an amazing woman, pediatrician, and fellow member of our freshman class, for leading this bipartisan effort.

Preventing child abuse is an issue that is front-of-mind for our community in Illinois' 14th District, with the recent death of AJ Freund, a 5-year-old

boy from Crystal Lake, who was tragically killed.

AJ's heartbreaking death was a result of a system that failed him. I am committed to honoring his life with action.

Child abuse prevention is an issue that calls for big policy solutions, and this bill offers those, as my colleagues have outlined.

Rates of child abuse have recently been rising as the opioid epidemic has devastated communities across the country; and children who are adopted after being removed from homes with substance abuse issues have special kinds of trauma.

My bipartisan amendment, with Representative SMUCKER, looks out for those kids. It would allow us to track their outcomes and ensure we have the information we need to make informed policy decisions to best serve them and set them up for success.

With my amendment, a Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act will help keep kids safe and make sure families get the services they need. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK).

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

In 2016, there were 4.1 million referrals to child protective services. Far too many children experience some form of abuse or neglect in their lifetime, a sad reality that deserves our utmost attention.

The Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act strengthens the original law in order to further protect our children. The bill provides for evidence-based support for the victims of abuse, establishes national reporting requirements to more accurately track child abuse trends, expands research into child welfare, and improves the grant funding process.

As Representatives in Congress, protecting our children and most vulnerable members of society is an obligation we each take very seriously. This issue rises above party lines and, as an original cosponsor of the bill, I am grateful for my colleagues coming together to support this important legislation.

I am also proud that this bill includes an amendment that I introduced with my colleague across the aisle, Mrs. McBATH, to establish a National Abuse Hotline. This amendment offers grant funding to nonprofit entities to establish and maintain a 24-hour, national, toll-free, abuse hotline that gives at risk individuals the opportunity to report instances of abuse and receive immediate assistance without fear of retribution.

I thank my colleagues for the unanimous support of this amendment, and I encourage all of my colleagues today to support this lifesaving bill.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE).

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my support for a Stronger CAPTA.

The opioid crisis is devastating communities across the country, and we are seeing rising rates of child abuse and neglect as a result of this crisis. In order to reverse these trends, we must invest in smart primary prevention efforts like those included in this bill.

Passing Stronger CAPTA will mean stronger networks of prevention services that will benefit children and communities for decades to come.

It will also mean a stronger child welfare workforce. Some States see a 40 percent annual turnover rate among the child welfare workforce. We must do more to equip our workers to better serve our most vulnerable children and families.

That is why I am pleased this bill includes a provision I authored with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WRIGHT), my colleague, that will help develop and retain a high-quality workforce in the child welfare system.

I urge a "yes" vote from my colleagues on this commonsense bill.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), ranking member of the Education and Labor Committee.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Kentucky for yielding, and for handling this bill today. I also commend my friend, Representative COMER, for his outstanding leadership of the Republicans on the Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee, and for his leadership on this bill.

I have served on the committee under its different names for a long time. It was a great honor to serve as the Committee's chairwoman during the last Congress, and as Republican leader during this Congress because, from this perspective, I have seen just how much we are able to get done together that doesn't always capture the attention of the rest of this body or the public.

It should be a great encouragement to all of us that when it comes to serving the most vulnerable Americans, children and youth, Republicans and Democrats on the Education and Labor Committee have been able to come together on numerous occasions and produce bipartisan legislation that is forward-looking and aims at prevention first.

We did this last Congress with the Juvenile Justice Reform Act and with the reauthorization of the Missing Children's Assistance Act.

In a perfect world, we would not need laws addressing child abuse. We certainly would not need stronger laws addressing child abuse. But this world is far from perfect.

Today, members of the Education and Labor Committee have brought before the House an update to the Child

Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act which, since 1974, has helped States combat child abuse and neglect. This bill, aptly named Stronger CAPTA, looks to those who spend their professional and personal lives fulfilling what can only be described as a deep calling to stand between children and abuse, to lead us forward in our efforts to serve families.

Last year, we saw a House-wide effort to address the scourge of opioid abuse in communities across the country. As our committee met for hearings and worked to determine our own contributions to that effort, the impact opioid abuse and addiction is having on innocent children came into sharper focus. In many ways, today's legislation has its roots in those informative proceedings.

This bill recognizes the power of community in supporting at-risk families. Leaders in Washington and in State capitals, more than anything, want to protect children in danger. But it is friends, neighbors, fellow church members, and community volunteers who can spot real trouble, hopefully, before it will start.

This legislation strengthens and expands coordination among local agencies to help ensure families have access to physical and mental health services, domestic violence prevention programs, disability supports, and substance abuse treatment, when necessary.

As opioid addiction continues its hold in communities in every single congressional district represented here, we must look at Stronger CAPTA as another way we can fight back.

This bill puts families and children before bureaucracies and paperwork. I am proud of the members of the Education and Labor Committee on both sides of the aisle who worked together to bring this bill to the floor.

I urge all Members to support the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman SCOTT and Ranking Member FOXX for their work in bringing this bipartisan Stronger CAPTA to the floor; as well as Representative WATKINS, for drafting our bipartisan amendment that ensures that poverty alone cannot be used as evidence of abuse and neglect.

The fight against intergenerational poverty has many fronts, but one of the most important things we can do is preserve family stability for as many children as possible. Families struggling with poverty need supports to preserve stability, not additional toxic stress that can alter child development.

Let me be clear: Abuse and neglect know no socioeconomic barriers. Poverty alone is neither abuse nor neglect. I am proud that our amendment will ensure that no child is removed from

their family solely because that family is living in poverty.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

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

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I am so happy that H.R. 2480 includes several noteworthy improvements to the CAPTA Act. One is a bill that I introduced last Congress called Family Poverty is Not Child Neglect Act. It recognizes that 75 percent of child abuse referrals are not because of malicious abuse, but because of symptoms of poverty that officials categorize as neglect.

It would mandate States to treat those conditions of poverty with service-based remedies that will reduce the parental separation risk disproportionately affecting low-income children and families.

I am so pleased that federally-supported distinctions between poverty-based lack and parental maltreatment unrelated to poverty has been added to our Stronger CAPTA bill.

Poverty-related conditions should be met with poverty-alleviating solutions, not child separation.

Madam Speaker, I just want to share my own personal story. My own experience, at age 18, was that I was separated from my child, who was placed in foster care, because my scholarship money would not cover living expenses. And while she was placed in a loving foster home, this was traumatic for me, and constituted an adverse childhood experience for my daughter.

So I am so pleased to stand here today to say, as a witness, that we should do everything we can to avoid child separations, and this bill addresses it.

Madam Speaker, I thank all of the authors on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD).

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in proud support of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, a bill that will help protect children from abuse and neglect.

Across our country, more than 670,000 children were reported to be victims of child abuse or neglect. In 2016, almost 1,500 children in the United States died as a result of abuse or neglect.

It is past time for us to act to prevent child abuse and neglect. That is why, earlier this month, I introduced the Speak Up to Protect Every Abused Kid Act. I am proud that portions of the Speak Up Act are included in the Stronger CAPTA Act.

The Speak Up Act would take commonsense steps to increase reporting of child abuse or neglect by requiring States to implement a consistent

standard for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

The Speak Up Act would require individuals with professional responsibilities over children to report suspected child abuse and neglect directly to State authorities. We have heard too many stories of children being abused or neglected and not getting the help they need because adults do not report it to the proper authorities.

I was proud to support the Stronger CAPTA Act in the Education and Labor Committee, and I am proud to vote for it on the floor today. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this important bill.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

□ 1730

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Stronger CAPTA, which includes provisions from the Safe Home Act, which is bipartisan legislation I introduced with Representative DON BACON.

These provisions address unregulated custody transfers. This is the frightening practice of transferring a child, usually an adopted child, to a stranger outside the safeguards of the child welfare system.

Known as rehoming, this phenomenon occurs when parents lack the supports to meet their children's needs and, instead, place them with individuals who haven't undergone background checks, home studies or supervision, where they are at risk of further abuse.

Unregulated custody transfers are a form of child abuse and neglect, and Stronger CAPTA removes any ambiguity that might prevent child welfare agencies from being able to investigate these cases. So it will give States the tools to prevent, identify, and respond to such dangers so that they can safeguard our most vulnerable youth.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SCHRIER for her leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support Stronger CAPTA.

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

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), my colleague and the chair of our committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. SCHRIER and Mr. COMER for sponsoring this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, or Stronger CAPTA.

Congress has a vital role in helping States protect children from physical injury and emotional trauma associated with child abuse and neglect.

Stronger CAPTA will fulfill that role by increasing investment in both treat-

ment of child abuse and neglect, and programs designed to prevent maltreatment from happening in the first place.

Specifically, this bill would provide States with resources to strengthen prevention programs, invest in child protective service agencies, and streamline communication between those agencies across this country. It would also build upon the bipartisan commitment to keep families together when it is in the best interests of the child.

Last Saturday, May 18, was the 1-year anniversary of the tragic death of Heaven Watkins, an 11-year-old girl in my community who lost her life because of child abuse. Had the reforms in this bill been in place, Heaven's death could have been prevented.

Specifically, investing in prevention strategies and improving the collection and sharing of vital information can help children like Heaven from slipping through the cracks.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank, again, Dr. SCHRIER and Mr. COMER for their leadership, as well as Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. STEFANIK, and, of course, the ranking member, Dr. FOXX, for their work in bringing this bill to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support Stronger CAPTA.

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

Madam Speaker, I just want to conclude by again thanking everyone for working together in a bipartisan way on this bill. This is very important. This is something that we can do to prove Congress can work together, can come together on issues of the utmost importance, and preventing child abuse and neglect is an issue that is bipartisan and of the utmost importance.

This bill streamlines the process. It does just exactly the things that the States have asked us to do with the bill.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following: first, a letter from the National Child Abuse Coalition supporting H.R. 2480, which praises the legislation's improvements to interstate data sharing and increases to authorization levels; second, a letter from the American Academy of Pediatrics endorsing H.R. 2480, which praises the legislation's public health focus; and third, a letter from the American Psychological Association supporting H.R. 2480, which praises this legislation's improvement to research on helping families experiencing substance use disorders.

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE COALITION,
May 7, 2019.

Chairman BOBBY SCOTT,
House Committee on Education and Labor,
Washington, DC.
Representative KIM SCHRIER,
Washington, DC.
Ranking Member VIRGINIA FOXX,
House Committee on Education and Labor,
Washington, DC.
Representative JAMES COMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SCOTT, RANKING MEMBER FOXX, REPRESENTATIVE SCHRIER, and REPRESENTATIVE COMER: On behalf of the National Child Abuse Coalition, thank you for your outstanding leadership on the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. The reforms and funding levels you have proposed in this legislation are extremely important, and we strongly encourage all members of the House Committee on Education and Labor to support its passage. If appropriately funded, this legislation will reduce child abuse and neglect, strengthen families through community-driven solutions, improve local responses to child trauma, increase states' child safety tools, and bring much improved data and transparency around abuse and neglect fatalities so that states can make tailored reforms to prevent future fatalities. Though some changes to the bill are still needed, we look forward to continuing to work with you as the legislation moves forward.

In particular, we strongly support the following elements of the proposal:

Authorization levels. Meaningful increases to CAPTA funding are essential to ensure this bill's important reforms will make children safer and families stronger. For too long, Congress has sought key improvements to this law but has failed to appropriate the funds that would allow states to successfully implement them. The Coalition believes at least \$500 million for each title is critical, but we recognize the authorization levels in this legislation reflect your strong commitment to keeping children from being harmed. We were very disappointed to learn that the House Labor-H bill released today does not reflect the important investments you have included in the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. We look forward to working with you to ensure the funding levels included in this legislation are executed in the appropriations process. The reforms this Committee envisions for CAPTA will not be realized without robust increases to funding.

Emphasis on family strengthening. We also applaud the bill's focus on family strengthening, a clear reflection of what we know to be true: that healthy and strong families are key to ensuring children are healthy and can achieve their full potential. The Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act reflects the entire continuum of supports to families, starting with primary prevention at the heart of Title II and extending into the identification and treatment of abuse and neglect in Title I. All are essential to creating systems of support that both prevent child abuse and neglect and keep families together whenever possible, and also ensure timely and appropriate action when child abuse or neglect does occur.

Improvements to child protection systems to reduce child fatalities and near fatalities from abuse and neglect. Experts estimate nearly 3,000 children die every year from child abuse and neglect. Without proper data and disclosure, efforts to reduce these fatalities will not succeed. The legislation's reforms in Section 103 to develop uniform standards for tracking and reporting of child fatalities resulting from maltreatment are absolutely essential to making sure federal,

state, and local governments have the information they need to keep more vulnerable children alive. The bill's reforms to clarify and strengthen disclosure about fatalities and near fatalities in Section 106 are also very important to these efforts. Both of these reforms were proposed by the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities, a bipartisan Commission devised by Congress to put an end to these tragic child deaths. We also commend you for taking steps to improve interstate data exchange.

Thoughtful attention to children and families impacted by substance use disorders. As the national rise in substance use disorders continues to drive more children and families into the child welfare system, we appreciate the thoughtful attention paid by the Committee to these issues. In particular, the bill incorporates new language reflecting the intersection between child abuse and neglect and substance use disorders, the needs of children and families with substance use disorders, and how critical collaboration across multiple public and community partners is to effectively connect families to needed treatment services.

Improved transparency, accountability, and focus on key priorities. We greatly appreciate the legislation's much-needed streamlining and updating of CAPTA in ways that will prioritize key needs from the experts working in states and communities, and that will improve transparency and accountability to ensure better implementation of the law. The revisions to Sections 104 and 105 reflect a more focused approach to key priorities in child welfare. The use of funds in Section 106 presents a much more cohesive and coordinated vision to help states in their efforts to prevent, treat, and intervene in child abuse and neglect. The bill's revisions specifying the state mandates in Section 106 will bring much-needed improvements to CAPTA's transparency and accountability.

Finally, as the bill advances, we look forward to working with you so that the following provisions in Title II strike the right balance to ensure effective use of taxpayer dollars, reduce bureaucratic requirements for states, and reflect the importance of a universal, or public health, approach to primary prevention:

Administrative cap. Thank you for working with the Coalition and its members on this provision in between introduction and mark-up. We appreciate your willingness to respond to deep concerns from the states that the initial proposed cap would hinder states' ability to carry out the provisions of the legislation. CBCAP lead agencies are committed to running their programs efficiently, and most of them operate as part of larger agencies and do not always control what shared expenses are charged to them. We heard from numerous CBCAP lead agencies that a four percent cap would greatly limit their ability to provide adequate oversight and support in implementing the bold vision that is proposed in the underlying legislation. As the legislation advances, we hope to work with you to ensure that the administrative cap is consistent with guidance from Office of Management and Budget related to federally negotiated indirect cost rates for federal funding, in a manner that does not undermine state flexibility to effectively implement the law.

70/30 funding formula. The Coalition urges Congress to simplify the Title II formula to be entirely population based. Currently, thirty percent of the funding formula is determined by a very complicated set of rules that burdens states with onerous bureaucracy, reduces state flexibility, produces accounting incentives that do not necessarily

reflect state investments, and creates a situation where states that might benefit the most are the least able to leverage funds. As a result, just three states receive nearly one-third of the funding from this portion of the formula. We hope that you will continue to work with us to create a more appropriate formula for this Title.

Public health approach. As the Committee repeatedly heard from the witnesses at its March 26th hearing, a universal approach to primary prevention services is essential to the success of Title II. Primary prevention of child abuse is most effective when it takes a universal approach to building protective factors and reducing risks in families and communities. It is important that CAPTA strike the right balance between emphasizing building a universal—or public health—approach and targeting higher risk communities. We look forward to working with you to make sure the final law addresses this in the best manner possible.

Thank you for your commitment to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect, and to improving the lives of children and families in the United States. The National Child Abuse Coalition and its twenty-five organizational members stand ready to continue to help support your efforts as the critical bill moves through Congress.

Sincerely,
RUTH J. FRIEDMAN, Ph.D.,
Executive Director, National Child
Abuse Coalition.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS.

May 8, 2019.

Hon. KIM SCHRIER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. JAMES COMER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES SCHRIER AND COMER: On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I am writing to share our endorsement of the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2019 (H.R. 2480).

As many as 25 percent of children in the United States have experienced some form of maltreatment. Pediatricians have long supported the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) because it is an essential federal policy tool for preventing and responding to child maltreatment. CAPTA provides critical support to states and non-profit community-based organizations for services to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect. While CAPTA is critically important, limited federal funding has historically impeded its ability to create meaningful change for vulnerable children and families. This bipartisan legislation would create major progress and support efforts to apply a public health approach to preventing and addressing child maltreatment.

The Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act would reauthorize and strengthen CAPTA to better promote child health and well-being. Crucially, the bill authorizes \$270 million for Title I state grants and \$270 million for Title II community-based prevention and state system improvement in FY2020. The AAP strongly supports this critical funding increase, which would improve CAPTA's ability to create meaningful change for vulnerable children and families. In addition, the AAP supports the bill's restructuring of CAPTA to shift away from lists of state assurances to intentional strategic planning. This will improve the quality

and accountability of CAPTA-financed activities.

H.R. 2480 also shifts CAPTA toward a public health focus on prevention of child abuse. The bill streamlines CAPTA research topics to focus on understudied areas such as how to best address trauma, promote racial equity, and serve families with substance use disorders in child welfare systems. The Academy strongly supports the inclusion of a provision to allow funds for research into “sentinel” injuries. This will help develop practices for improving early detection and management of injuries indicative of potential abuse, preventing further maltreatment and fatalities.

The AAP also supports the bill’s requirement for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create standardized definitions for fatalities and near-fatalities related to maltreatment, and to require data tracking on those incidents. These data will be essential to applying a public health approach to child maltreatment, enabling researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to learn how to better prevent maltreatment from studying the most tragic outcomes.

The AAP also supports the bill’s creation of a new interstate maltreatment registry system. This policy would support essential information sharing to ensure that information about maltreatment a child has experienced can cross state lines. Currently, states do not readily share this information, which can lead to missed opportunities to intervene and protect children from further harm. This is vital to protecting children and preventing child fatalities.

Child maltreatment is a preventable but pervasive public health problem. This bipartisan legislation offers critically needed innovative approaches to improving child welfare systems. The Academy supports this legislation and looks forward to working with you to advance these important policies.

Sincerely,
KYLE E. YASUDA, MD, FAAP,
President.

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION SERVICES, INC.,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2019.

Chairman BOBBY SCOTT,
House Committee on Education and Labor,
Washington, DC.

Representative KIM SCHRIER,
Washington, DC.

Ranking Member VIRGINIA FOXX,
House Committee on Education and Labor,
Washington, DC.

Representative JAMES COMER,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SCOTT, RANKING MEMBER FOXX, REPRESENTATIVE SCHRIER, and REPRESENTATIVE COMER: On behalf of the nearly 118,4000 members and affiliates of the American Psychological Association (APA), thank you for your extraordinary leadership on H.R. 2480, the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Stronger CAPTA). The reforms in this legislation, in concert with the increased funding authorization, are powerful steps toward preventing child abuse and neglect and improving access to treatment and essential services for children and families, especially those recovering from trauma.

APA is a scientific and professional organization representing psychology, comprised of clinicians, researchers, educators, consultants and students across the United States and around the world. APA works to advance the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve people’s lives. Many psychologists are specialized in child development and work across research and practice

to serve children and families, including children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

The Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act takes a streamlined and family-oriented approach to addressing key priorities in child welfare. The bill thoroughly emphasizes the importance of strengthening families through a continuum of services and supports including treating traumatic stress, connecting parents and children to mental and physical health services, programs to develop parenting skills, and other core services. Building on the Family First Prevention Services Act, the new Stronger CAPTA includes a greater focus on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. APA is particularly pleased to see trauma and adverse childhood experiences highlighted across the bill’s, research and technical assistance components, as well as the state grants in both Titles I and II. While there is much to be commended in the proposal, APA strongly supports the following elements:

IMPROVEMENTS IN RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

The priorities set in section 104 focus on key areas of research to identify evidence-based approaches that improve primary prevention efforts, service delivery to children and families, and the wellbeing of victims of child abuse and neglect. The bill emphasizes scalability with an eye toward better serving more children and families, particularly those who have experienced trauma or have complex needs. APA strongly supports the promotion of racial equity within the child welfare system and the development of evidence-based approaches that consider the unique needs of rural, urban, and suburban families. In addition to streamlining research priorities, Stronger CAPTA enables much needed improvements in transparency and state data reporting through an update to the state plan mandates in section 106.

REDUCING FINDINGS OF NEGLECT DUE TO POVERTY

Consistent with APA’s Presidential Initiative on Deep Poverty, APA applauds the new provisions aimed at preventing and reducing findings of child neglect that result from a family’s economic insecurity. Keeping families together, whenever possible, is critically important for healthy development and children should not be separated from loving families due to poverty. As the section 106 grants suggest, families in financial need are better served by connecting them to services, such as nutrition assistance benefits.

ADDRESSING COMPLEX FAMILY NEEDS

GI Stronger CAPTA recognizes the challenges of adequately supporting and improving outcomes for families with complex needs. Some of America’s most vulnerable families are those with multiple risk factors for child abuse and neglect, such as parents with substance use disorders, parents who have experienced domestic violence, caregivers and children with disabilities, and young parents. Across both Titles, the bill encourages comprehensive outreach and treatment strategies to identify and support families with complex needs.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

The national epidemic of opioid use disorders has driven a substantial increase in findings of child abuse and neglect that has resulted in more children in the child welfare system. This bill acknowledges the intersection of substance use disorders and child maltreatment and incorporates new provisions to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration across community and public partners, with the goal of ensuring families are connected to the mental health services and additional supports that they need.

These reforms reflect a responsiveness to current needs identified by state and local agencies and service providers.

INCREASED AUTHORIZATION LEVELS

Congress has long sought myriad improvements to CAPTA but has historically failed to appropriate adequate funds for proper implementation. Additional funding is vital to ensure that the meaningful reforms of this legislation are fully realized, to the benefit of vulnerable children and families. The significant increases to authorization levels in H.R. 2480 illustrate a renewed commitment protecting children from harm. The importance of the increases proposed cannot be overstated, and the changes must be incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations legislation accordingly, so as to not risk delays in implementation.

The Stronger Child Abuse and Prevention and Treatment Act represents an encouraging federal commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect before it occurs and proving the best possible continuum of services to support to children and families who have experienced child abuse and neglect. We welcome opportunities to work together to strengthen and advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

KATHERINE MCGUIRE,
Chief Advocacy Officer.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2480. I am so pleased that we worked together in a bipartisan fashion.

Parenting is the hardest job we have, and yet we have no training for it. This bill ensures that parents will have the support they need. It will save lives and prevent child mistreatment, maltreatment, abuse, and neglect.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2480, 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.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE STABILIZATION OF IRAQ—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-36)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the

emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2019.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13303 with respect to the stabilization of Iraq.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 20, 2019.

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 36 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 (Ms. TITUS) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and:

Pass H.R. 1952; and

Agree to H. Res. 106.

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

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION INFORMATION ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1952) to amend the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, 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 Texas (Mr. CASTRO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 0, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 218]

YEAS—397

Adams	Cummings	Hollingsworth	Meeks	Roe, David P.	Suozzi
Aderholt	Cunningham	Horn, Kendra S.	Miller	Rogers (AL)	Takano
Aguilar	Curtis	Horsford	Mitchell	Rogers (KY)	Taylor
Allen	Davids (KS)	Houlahan	Moolenaar	Rose (NY)	Thompson (CA)
Allred	Davidson (OH)	Hoyer	Mooney (WV)	Rose, John W.	Thompson (MS)
Amash	Davis (CA)	Hudson	Moore	Rouda	Thornberry
Amodei	Davis, Danny K.	Hunter	Morelle	Royal	Timmons
Armstrong	Davis, Rodney	Hurd (TX)	Moulton	Roybal-Allard	Tipton
Arrington	Dean	Jackson Lee	Mucarsel-Powell	Ruiz	Titus
Axne	DeFazio	Jayapal	Mullin	Ruppersberger	Tonko
Babin	DeGette	Jeffries	Murphy	Rutherford	Torres (CA)
Bacon	DelBene	Johnson (GA)	Nadler	Sánchez	Torres Small
Baird	Delgado	Johnson (LA)	Napolitano	Sarbanes	(NM)
Balderson	Demings	Johnson (OH)	Neal	Scalise	Trahan
Banks	DeSaulnier	Johnson (SD)	Newhouse	Scanlon	Trone
Barr	DesJarlais	Johnson (TX)	Norcross	Schakowsky	Turner
Barragán	Deutch	Jordan	O'Halleran	Schiff	Underwood
Bass	Diaz-Balart	Joyce (OH)	Olson	Schneider	Upton
Beatty	Dingell	Joyce (PA)	Omar	Schrader	Van Drew
Bera	Doyle, Michael	Katko	Palazzo	Scofield, Austin	Vargas
Bergman	F.	Keating	Palmer	Sensenbrenner	Veasey
Beyer	Duffy	Kelly (IL)	Pence	Simpson	Vela
Biggs	Duncan	Kelly (MS)	Perlmutter	Sires	Velázquez
Bilirakis	Dunn	Kelly (PA)	Peters	Slotkin	Viscosky
Bishop (GA)	Emmer	Kennedy	Peterson	Smith (AL)	Walberg
Bishop (UT)	Engel	Khanna	Pappas	Shalala	Walker
Blumenauer	Escobar	Kildee	Pascrill	Sherman	Waltz
Blunt Rochester	Eshoo	Kilmer	Payne	Sherrill	Wasserman
Bonamici	Espallat	Kim	Pence	Simpson	Schultz
Bost	Estes	Kind	Perlmutter	Sires	Waters
Boyle, Brendan F.	Evans	King (IA)	Peters	Slotkin	Watkins
Brady	Ferguson	King (NY)	Peterson	Smith (MO)	Watson Coleman
Brindisi	Finkenauer	Kinzinger	Phillips	Smith (NE)	Weber (TX)
Brooks (AL)	Fitzpatrick	Kirkpatrick	Pingree	Smith (NJ)	Webster (FL)
Brooks (IN)	Fleischmann	Krishnamoorthi	Posey	Smucker	Welch
Brown (MD)	Fletcher	Kuster (NH)	Pressley	Soto	Wenstrup
Brownley (CA)	Flores	Kustoff (TN)	Price (NC)	Spanberger	Westerman
Buchanan	Fortenberry	LaHood	Quigley	Spano	Wexton
Buck	Foster	LaMalfa	Raskin	Speier	Wild
Bushadow	Foxx (NC)	Lamb	Ratcliffe	Stanton	Williams
Budd	Frankel	Lamborn	Reed	Stauber	Wittman
Burchett	Fudge	Langevin	Reschenthaler	Stefanik	Womack
Burgess	Fulcher	Larsen (WA)	Rice (SC)	Steil	Woodall
Bustos	Gabbard	Larson (CT)	Richmond	Steube	Wright
Butterfield	Gaetz	Latta	Riggleman	Stevens	Yarmuth
Byrne	Gallagher	Lawrence	Roby	Stewart	Yoho
Calvert	Gallego	Lawson (FL)	Rodgers (WA)	Stivers	Zeldin
Carbalaj	Garamendi	Lee (CA)			
Cárdenas	García (IL)	Lee (NV)			
Carson (IN)	García (TX)	Lesko			
Carter (GA)	Gianforte	Levin (CA)			
Carter (TX)	Gibbs	Levin (MI)			
Case	Gohmert	Lewis			
Casten (IL)	Golden	Lieu, Ted			
Castro (TX)	Gomez	Lipinski			
Chabot	Gonzalez (OH)	Loebbsack			
Cheney	Gonzalez (TX)	Lofgren			
Chu, Judy	Gooden	Long			
Cicilline	Gosar	Loudermilk			
Cisneros	Gottheimer	Lowenthal			
Clark (MA)	Granger	Lowe			
Clarke (NY)	Graves (GA)	Lucas			
Clay	Graves (LA)	Luetkemeyer			
Cleaver	Graves (MO)	Luján			
Cline	Green (TN)	Luria			
Cloud	Green (TX)	Lynch			
Clyburn	Griffith	Malinowski			
Cohen	Grothman	Maloney,			
Cole	Guest	Carolyn B.			
Collins (GA)	Guthrie	Maloney, Sean			
Collins (NY)	Haaland	Marchant			
Comer	Hagedorn	Massie			
Conaway	Harder (CA)	Mast			
Connolly	Harris	Matsui			
Cook	Hartzler	McAdams			
Cooper	Hastings	McBath			
Correa	Hayes	McCarthy			
Costa	Heck	McCaull			
Courtney	Hern, Kevin	McClintock			
Cox (CA)	Hice (GA)	McCollum			
Craig	Higgins (LA)	McEachin			
Crenshaw	Higgins (NY)	McGovern			
Crist	Hill (AR)	McHenry			
Crow	Hill (CA)	McKinley			
Cuellar	Himes	McNerney			
	Holding	Meadows			

NOT VOTING—34

Abraham	Meng	Shimkus
Cartwright	Meuser	Smith (WA)
Castor (FL)	Pallone	Swalwell (CA)
Crawford	Perry	Thompson (PA)
DeLauro	Pocan	Tlaib
Doggett	Porter	Walden
Grijalva	Rice (NY)	Walorski
Herrera Beutler	Rooney (FL)	Wilson (FL)
Huffman	Rouzer	Wilson (SC)
Huizenga	Rush	Young
Kaptur	Ryan	
Marshall	Schrader	

□ 1904

Mr. LEWIS changed his 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 218.

CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS ANNUAL CLAY COMPETITION

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I am here today to talk about the Annual Clay Competition held by the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. I would like to take the time now to congratulate my good friend, AUSTIN SCOTT,

who was the captain of the Republican team.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT).

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), and encourage those of you who are sportsmen who have not had the opportunity to join the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus to join. It is a wonderful organization. It is the largest bipartisan caucus in the House. We even allow Senators to participate in the skeet shoot.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize RICHARD HUDSON, who was our team captain this year. I sent the B team captain, and I look forward to being there next year.

I want to congratulate JOHN RUTHERFORD, Sheriff Rutherford, who was top gun over all, with a score of 63; JODY HICE, who was the top Republican from Georgia; and MARK MEADOWS, from North Carolina was top trap. "GT", GLENN THOMPSON, from Pennsylvania, was top sporting clays.

It is a wonderful event every year. I hope that if Members weren't able to join us this year, that they will be able to join us next.

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I really appreciate Representative SCOTT, Representative HUDSON, and just everybody that makes this competition very special.

I would like to announce the Democratic nominees: from Northern California, the top gun on the Democratic side, with 53 shots, was MIKE THOMPSON; and also on the Democratic side, top skeet, from Minnesota, was COLLIN PETERSON.

Madam Speaker, I would like to maybe step it up a little bit for next year's competition and use this time to maybe encourage my Republican colleagues, because we didn't have any women at all participate on the Republican or the Democratic side this year. So I am going to encourage Mr. SCOTT, and I am going to encourage them to recruit some women shooters. I am going to do the same thing; and I think that that is going to be the key to us winning next year; so good luck.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I just wanted Mr. VEASEY to get a good look at the trophy. We will certainly be recruiting women next year, but we intend to keep the trophy in good safekeeping for a long time.

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, 2020 is right around the corner.

DENOUNCING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING AS VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 106) denouncing

female genital mutilation/cutting as a violation of the human rights of women and girls and urging the international community and the Federal Government to increase efforts to eliminate the harmful practice, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 219]

YEAS—393

Adams	Cook	Graves (MO)	Levin (CA)	Panetta	Spanberger
Aderholt	Cooper	Green (TN)	Levin (MI)	Pappas	Spano
Aguilar	Correa	Green (TX)	Lewis	Pascrall	Speier
Allen	Costa	Griffith	Lieu, Ted	Payne	Stanton
Allred	Courtney	Grothman	Lipinski	Pence	Stauber
Amash	Cox (CA)	Guest	Loebssack	Perlmutter	Stefanik
Amodei	Craig	Guthrie	Lofgren	Peters	Steil
Armstrong	Crenshaw	Haaland	Long	Peterson	Steube
Arrington	Crist	Hagedorn	Loudermilk	Phillips	Stevens
Axne	Crow	Harder (CA)	Lowenthal	Pingree	Stewart
Babin	Cuellar	Harris	Lowey	Posey	Stivers
Bacon	Cummings	Hartzler	Lucas	Pressley	Suozzi
Balderson	Cunningham	Hastings	Luetkemeyer	Price (NC)	Takano
Banks	Curtis	Hayes	Lujan	Quigley	Taylor
Barr	Davids (KS)	Heck	Luria	Raskin	Thompson (CA)
Barragán	Davidson (OH)	Hern, Kevin	Lynch	Ratcliffe	Thompson (MS)
Bass	Davis (CA)	Hice (GA)	Maloney	Reed	Timmons
Beatty	Davis, Danny K.	Higgins (LA)	Maloney, Carolyn B.	Reschenthaler	Tipton
Bera	Davis, Rodney	Higgins (NY)	Maloney, Sean	Rice (SC)	Titus
Bergman	Dean	Hill (AR)	Marchant	Richmond	Tlaib
Beyer	DeGette	Hill (CA)	Massie	Riggleman	Tonko
Biggs	DelBene	Himes	Mast	Roby	Torres (CA)
Bilirakis	Delgado	Holding	Matsui	Rodgers (WA)	Torres Small
Bishop (GA)	Demings	Hollingsworth	McAdams	Roe, David P.	(NM)
Bishop (UT)	DeSaulnier	Horn, Kendra S.	McBath	Rogers (AL)	Trahan
Blumenauer	DesJarlais	Horsford	McCarthy	Rogers (KY)	Trone
Blunt Rochester	Deutch	Houlahan	McCaul	Rose (NY)	Turner
Bonamici	Diaz-Balart	Hoyer	McClintock	Rose, John W.	Underwood
Bost	Dingell	Hudson	McCullum	Rouda	Upton
Boyle, Brendan F.	Doggett	Hunter	McEachin	Roy	Van Drew
Brady	F.	Hurd (TX)	McGovern	Royal-Allard	Vargas
Brindisi	Duffy	Jackson Lee	McHenry	Ruppersberger	Veasey
Brooks (AL)	Duncan	Jayapal	McKinley	Rutherford	Vela
Brooks (IN)	Dunn	Jeffries	McNeerney	Sánchez	Velazquez
Brown (MD)	Emmer	Johnson (GA)	Meeks	Sarbanes	Visclosky
Brownley (CA)	Engel	Johnson (IA)	Miller	Scalise	Wagner
Buchanan	Escobar	Johnson (OH)	Moulton	Schweikert	Waters
Buck	Eshoo	Johnson (SD)	Mucchelli-Powell	Scott (VA)	Watkins
Buchanon	Espaillet	Johnson (TX)	Mullin	Scott, Austin	Watson Coleman
Budd	Estes	Jordan	Norcross	Roy	Weber (TX)
Burchett	Evans	Joyce (OH)	Norman	Sensenbrenner	Webster (FL)
Burgess	Ferguson	Joyce (PA)	Nunes	Serrano	Wasserman
Bustos	Finkenauer	Katko	O'Halleran	Slotkin	Schultz
Byrne	Fitzpatrick	Keating	Castor (FL)	Smith (MO)	Wenstrup
Calvert	Fleischmann	Kelly (IL)	Crawford	Woodall	Westerman
Carbajal	Fletcher	Kelly (MS)	DeFazio	Smith (NE)	Watson
Cárdenas	Flores	Kelly (PA)	DeLauro	Smith (NJ)	Weber
Carson (IN)	Fortenberry	Khanna	Goetheimer	Smucker	Yarmuth
Carter (GA)	Foster	Kildee	Grijalva	Soto	Yoho
Carter (TX)	Fox (NC)	Kilmer	Herrera Beutler	Palazzo	Zeldin
Case	Frankel	Kim	Huffman	Olson	
Casten (IL)	Fudge	Kind	Huizenga	Omar	
Castro (TX)	Fulcher	King (IA)		Palmer	
Chabot	Gabbard	King (NY)			
Cheney	Gaetz	Kinzinger			
Chu, Judy	Gallagher	Kirkpatrick			
Cicilline	Gallego	Krishnamoorthi			
Cisneros	Garamendi	Kuster (NH)			
Clark (MA)	Garcia (IL)	Kustoff (TN)			
Clarke (NY)	Garcia (TX)	LaHood			
Clay	Gianforo	LaMalfa			
Cleaver	Gibbs	Lamb			
Cline	Gohmert	Lamborn			
Cloud	Golden	Langevin			
Clyburn	Gomez	Larsen (WA)			
Cohen	Gonzalez (OH)	Larson (CT)			
Cole	Gonzalez (TX)	Latta			
Collins (GA)	Gooden	Lawrence			
Collins (NY)	Gosar	Lawson (FL)			
Comer	Granger	Lee (CA)			
Conaway	Graves (GA)	Lee (NV)			
Connolly	Graves (LA)	Lesko			

Levin (CA)	Panetta	Spanberger
Levin (MI)	Pappas	Spano
Lewis	Pascrall	Speier
Lieu, Ted	Payne	Stanton
Lipinski	Pence	Stauber
Loebssack	Perlmutter	Stefanik
Lofgren	Peters	Steil
Long	Peterson	Steube
Loudermilk	Phillips	Stevens
Lowenthal	Pingree	Stewart
Lowey	Posey	Stivers
Lucas	Pressley	Suozzi
Luetkemeyer	Price (NC)	Takano
Lujan	Quigley	Taylor
Luria	Raskin	Thompson (CA)
Lynch	Ratcliffe	Thompson (MS)
Malinowski	Reed	Timmons
Maloney	Reschenthaler	Tipton
Maloney, Carolyn B.	Rice (SC)	Titus
Maloney, Sean	Richmond	Tlaib
Marchant	Riggleman	Tonko
Massie	Roby	Torres (CA)
Mast	Rodgers (WA)	Torres Small
Matsui	Roe, David P.	(NM)
McAdams	Rogers (AL)	Trahan
McBath	Rogers (KY)	Trone
McCarthy	Rose (NY)	Turner
McCaul	Rose, John W.	Underwood
McClintock	Rouda	Upton
McCollum	Roy	Van Drew
McEachin	Royal-Allard	Vargas
McGovern	Ruiz	Veasey
McHenry	Ruppersberger	Walter
McKinley	Rutherford	Waltz
McNeerney	Sánchez	Wasserman
Meeks	Sarbanes	Williams
Miller	Scalise	Wittman
Mitchell	Shakowsky	Womack
Mullin	Scanlon	Worrell
Moolenaar	Schakowsky	Wright
Murphy	Schiff	Wasserman
Nadler	Schneider	Schultz
Hill (CA)	Schrier	Waters
Napolitano	Serrano	Watkins
Nunes	Slotkin	Watson Coleman
Sires	Smith (MO)	Weber (TX)
Nunes	Woodall	Webster (FL)
O'Halleran	Smith (NE)	Wright
Slotkin	Smith (NJ)	Yarmuth
Castor (FL)	Yarmouth	Yoho
Crawford	Yost	Zeldin
DeFazio	Young	

NOT VOTING—38

Abraham	Kaptur	Ryan
Baird	Marshall	Schrader
Butterfield	Meadows	Shimkus
Cartwright	Meng	Smith (WA)
Castor (FL)	Meuser	Swalwell (CA)
Crawford	Pallone	Thompson (PA)
DeFazio	Perry	Thornberry
DeLauro	Pocan	Walden
Goetheimer	Porter	Walorski
Grijalva	Rice (NY)	Wilson (FL)
Herrera Beutler	Rooney (FL)	Wilson (SC)
Huffman	Rouzer	Rush
Huizenga	Rush	Young

□ 1920

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON H.R. 2839, DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2020

Mrs. LOWEY, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-78) on the bill

(H.R. 2839) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. 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. 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. RIGGLEMAN. 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.

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

HONORING REVEREND JOSEPH L. JONES, SR.

(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 Reverend Joseph L. Jones of Monumental Baptist Church in Jersey City, New Jersey, on the occasion of his retirement.

Reverend Jones has been a part of the Monumental Baptist Church family for 54 years. He spent the last 23 years as its pastor.

Reverend Jones helped grow the church's Sunday school, Bible school, and prayer service programs, but he also helped grow educational opportunities in the community at large.

Under Reverend Jones' leadership, Monumental Baptist Church has gone out into the community to expand career and educational opportunities for everyone. That is something to be proud of.

As Reverend Jones says, he has always lived by the motto: "Do something good for someone else."

I am proud to represent Monumental Baptist Church, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of Reverend Joseph L. Jones.

AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE TRANSPARENCY

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, thus far, I have released several transcripts of interviews from the Judiciary Committee's investigation into the apparent wrongdoing at the FBI and Justice Department. Today, I am releasing a final collection of those transcripts.

The American people deserve transparency. They deserve to know what transpired at the highest levels of the FBI at the origin of the probe of President Trump's campaign.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the link www.dougcollins.house.gov/transparency so the American people can review the transcripts of these interviews.

Out of an abundance of caution, these transcripts have a limited number of narrowly tailored redactions relating only to confidential sources and methods, nonpublic information about ongoing investigations, and nonmaterial personal information.

I have worked to release as many transcripts as possible because the American people deserve the truth.

D.C. STATEHOOD

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, women who celebrate 100 years of suffrage this year have in common with the residents of the Nation's Capital this: denial of equal rights in their democracy, requiring decades of fighting.

It took 132 years since the Nation's founding for women to get the vote.

It has taken 218 years, and still counting, for D.C. residents to achieve statehood, which includes voting rights and all the rights that come with equal citizenship.

We are grateful that as we move forward to a formal vote on statehood, the House has already endorsed D.C. statehood in H.R. 1.

Today, women set the pace in our democracy, outvoting men in national elections. D.C. residents yearn to join them in showing that those who are denied their rights know how to use them after fighting to achieve them.

DEMANDING CONGRESS ACT TO SECURE OUR BORDER

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, we have a crisis on our southern border, even if Democrat leaders try desperately to deny it. Nearly 100,000 peo-

ple were detained last month trying to illegally cross our southern border.

Mr. Speaker, imagine if the population of Billings, Montana, was caught crossing the border in just 1 month. That is the crisis our country faces.

Last week, a U.S. district court judge in Billings sentenced a Mexican citizen to prison for possession of 34 pounds of meth with the intent to distribute. That is nearly 125,000 doses. With Montana facing a meth epidemic, we must secure our border and stop the flow of Mexican meth into our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I saw firsthand the crisis on our southern border. Congress has an obligation to act. I have stood with President Trump to secure it. Let's build the wall where feasible. The safety and security of our country and our communities depend on it.

HONORING MUHLAYSIA BOOKER

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Muhlaysia Booker, a courageous 23-year-old Black transgender woman in Dallas who was found fatally shot this weekend.

Muhlaysia's name has been in the news a lot. Recently, she suffered a brutal beating by a group of men who screamed transphobic slurs at her as they assaulted her. The attack was captured on video, and it made you sick to your stomach to see the level of transgender hate that is so strong and prevalent in this country.

Muhlaysia's death is devastating for the Black transgender community in Dallas, but it is also part of a much larger trend that shows the violence, discrimination, and fear that the transgender and LGBTQ communities face on a daily basis.

Deaths in the trans community are underreported, and the adversity they face is on clear display.

The unemployment rate for the Black transgender community is 20 percent, close to four times the national average; 38 percent have lived in poverty, and 42 percent have experienced homelessness.

Even with all the odds stacked against them, Black transgender women like Muhlaysia choose to live their life in truth. They show courage, strength, and great personal sacrifice in the fight for equality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the Senate to join the House by passing the Equality Act. We must do everything in our power to stop the discrimination and violence in our neighborhoods.

Our brothers and sisters are dying out there. We need the inaction to stop.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IN GROVELAND, FLORIDA

(Mr. SPANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Zion Lutheran Church in Groveland, Florida, for celebrating 100 years of service to the community.

For the past 100 years, Zion has stood as a shining example to the people of Groveland of what it means to be a Christian. Under Reverend Werley's leadership, the congregation has actively shown God's love through service.

The church regularly provides backpacks and school supplies to four schools in the area, which are then given to students who need them most.

Additionally, many women in the church also operate a knitting ministry, where they knit prayer shawls and blankets for people who are spending time in hospitals and nursing homes. Many of these gifts come with a prayer so that the recipient knows that they are not alone in their time of need.

Beyond these and many other acts of kindness, Zion has consistently spread the good news to the people of Florida. The church has led by example and shown what it means to live like Christ for generations of Floridians.

You may be small in numbers, but you are, indeed, large in spirit.

100 YEARS CELEBRATING WOMEN GETTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, today, over 68 million women participate in elections. This would not be possible without the brave and brilliant suffragettes who never gave up the fight for equal rights.

Tomorrow, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of House passage of an Amendment to the United States Constitution guaranteeing women the right to vote. This historic centennial offers an unparalleled opportunity to commemorate this victorious milestone of the women's suffrage movement.

A vibrant democracy requires that all voices are heard, and when all voices are heard, we have a stronger and better America.

These women fought to be heard and to make our Nation a better place, and, for that, we are forever grateful.

□ 1930

BUDGET DEADLINE MISSED

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it has been 35 days since the deadline for Congress to pass a budget, but the majority party has

done nothing. The American people's government has no plan to rein in spending, while Members of this body are proposing trillions of dollars in new spending.

Families in Missouri live within their means and balance their books every day, and they expect their government to do the same, which is why it is troubling that Members are advocating for the Green New Deal and a government takeover of healthcare without any way to pay for it.

To pay for just these two items alone, we would have to take every penny from every American household, and we would still come up \$20 trillion short. This is why the majority has failed to put forth a budget, because there is simply no way to pay for these wild ideas.

Mr. Speaker, a budget is the primary responsibility of governing, which is why I serve on the Budget Committee.

The Speaker of the House likes to say that a budget is a statement of your values, so what does it say about their party?

MARKING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the passage of the 19th Amendment out of this very Chamber 100 years ago.

As I join with my colleagues to celebrate this historic vote on May 21, I will wear a yellow rose on my lapel. This is reminiscent of a scene in the Tennessee State House.

At that time, one more State was needed to ratify the 19th Amendment. All eyes were on Tennessee.

State Representative Harry T. Burn of Tennessee's Third District donned a red rose signaling his opposition to the pro-suffrage movement. However, after reading a letter from his mother, Ms. Phoebe Ensminger Burn, Representative Burn cast the tie-breaking vote, joining with his colleagues in yellow roses to vote in support of women's suffrage.

The resolution passed. Tennessee became the final State needed to ratify the 19th Amendment.

I will wear a yellow rose in honor of women like Ms. Burn, who demanded to be heard, to honor Members of the 66th Congress who championed change and for the enfranchisement of all American women. Without their voices, our Nation would not be what it is today.

REMEMBERING PIONEERING EFFORTS OF WOMEN 100 YEARS AGO

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

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anni-

versary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment of the United States Constitution, prohibiting the government from denying the right to vote to citizens on the basis of sex.

In the year 1893, the first attempt to organize the women's suffrage movement in the State of Texas took place in Dallas with the formation of the Texas Equal Rights Association. Twenty-six years later, Texas became the first State in the South to ratify the 19th Amendment.

From raising families to organizing political movements to fighting overseas, our country could not thrive without the influence of so many strong and determined women. It is with great admiration that I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the pioneering efforts of women 100 years ago that are still shaping our Nation today.

RECOGNIZING MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

(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 month of May as Mental Health Month for the 70th consecutive year.

Unfortunately, throughout our history in the United States, many mental health conditions have been overlooked and often met with rejection, shame, and more. But mental health conditions truly touch us all. Between family members and friends, we all are either affected ourselves or we know someone with a mental health condition.

Currently, 46.6 million adults in the U.S. have a mental health condition. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S., and 90 percent of those who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness revealed by psychological autopsy.

Less than half of adults in the U.S. are receiving adequate treatment for mental health.

During the month of May, I encourage everyone to get a mental health checkup and to remember that your mental health is as important as your physical health.

Please know, you are not alone, and it is okay to open up and share what you are going through.

STRONGER CAPTA TO HELP PROTECT ABUSED, NEGLECTED CHILDREN

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the importance of H.R. 2480, the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, which we just passed in the House with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Although we are facing challenging times and political divide in our Nation, one thing we can absolutely agree on is this: Child abuse and neglect are heartbreaking, immoral, and simply inexcusable.

As many of you know, the opioid epidemic has devastated families and communities across our country, which has been a major factor in the recent uptick in child abuse and neglect cases.

H.R. 2480 assists States in addressing this recent increase in child neglect by improving data collaboration between States, strengthening accountability, supporting evidence-based services, and developing best practices for reducing child neglect linked to parental substance abuse.

Most importantly, it provides parents with parental education and leadership skills developed to help keep them and their families safe and together.

We have a duty to ensure that American children are protected from maltreatment and neglect, and the Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act sets us on the right path to do so.

CELEBRATING CENTENNIAL OF SECURING WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to celebrate the centennial of the House passing an amendment granting women the right to vote in all States in this country.

One hundred years ago, the unrelenting efforts of women suffragists over the course of a 72-year campaign paid off in the passage of the 19th Amendment.

For example, the first woman to hold Federal office, Republican Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana, was actually elected 3 years before women were allowed to vote at the Federal level in all the States at the time. She went on to introduce legislation similar to what would eventually become the 19th Amendment.

My home State Republican Senator, Aaron Sargent from California, introduced the first legislation to amend the Constitution and grant women the right to vote. It failed on the Senate floor, but it represented the beginning of an unstoppable movement that culminated in the ratification of the 19th Amendment in August 1920.

This Chamber is where it all began. I am proud to be standing here today and joining my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this great victory for women and the values of our Republic.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: HONORING JUDGE DAMON J. KEITH, DISCUSSING ROLLCBACK OF SAFETY NET PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour. For the next 60 minutes, we have a chance to speak directly to the American people on issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, Congress, the constituents we represent, and all Americans.

Tonight, we will discuss and honor the legacy of Judge Damon J. Keith from Detroit, Michigan, and discuss, as well, this administration's, President Trump's, recent attempts to roll back safety net programs.

Damon Keith, a Federal judge in the Midwest whose rulings championed equality and civil rights, notably in a landmark Supreme Court decision striking down Nixon administration wiretapping in domestic security cases without a court order, died April 28 of this year in Detroit, Michigan. He was 96 years old.

In one of the Federal judiciary's longest and most prolific careers, Judge Keith was a fountainhead of regional rulings with national implications. He attacked racial segregation in education, housing, and employment; conservative efforts to limit African American voting; and after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, secret hearings to deport hundreds of immigrants deemed suspicious.

Judge Keith's tenure spanned more than a half century, first as President Lyndon B. Johnson's choice for a district court judgeship in Detroit, with jurisdiction in eastern Michigan, and then as President Jimmy Carter's selection for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, presiding in Cincinnati over cases arising in Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, and Tennessee.

In a blistering 2016 dissent in an Ohio case that restricted early and absentee voting, Judge Keith, even in the later years, worked tirelessly and accused two circuit court colleagues of scorning African American voters and the memory of Black people slain in the struggle for voting rights.

In a, frankly, emotional rebuke, he incorporated into his opinion photo-

graphs and biographies of 36 such victims, including the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "By denying the most vulnerable the right to vote, the majority shuts minorities out of our political process. . . . The unfettered right to vote is the bedrock of a free and democratic society. Without it, such a society cannot stand."

One of America's oldest Federal jurists, Mr. Keith served in the segregated Army in World War II, cleaned bathrooms at the Detroit News, attended historically Black undergraduate and law schools, and witnessed deadly riots in Detroit in 1967.

□ 1945

My colleagues are here with me today to discuss his legacy and the work of Judge Keith, not just for African Americans, but for the American people.

I am happy to be coanchored in the CBC Special Order by my friend and colleague from Nevada, STEVEN HORSFORD.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleague, Congresswoman PLASKETT, and I am very honored to be able to join with her as one of the co-anchors for the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

Tonight, as my colleague indicated, we are here to honor the life and legacy of a civil rights icon, the honorable Judge Damon Keith, who was also a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

Judge Keith was born on July 4, 1922, the grandson of slaves, who went on to become an internationally revered champion of justice. Judge Keith has vigorously enforced the Nation's civil rights laws, most notably in the areas of employment and education.

In *Stamps v. Detroit Edison Company*, Judge Keith ruled the Detroit Edison Company had practiced systemic racial discrimination, resulting in fines against the company of \$4 million and against the employee union of \$250,000. He ordered the company to institute an aggressive affirmative action program.

In 2016, Judge Keith wrote a searing dissent when an appeals panel ruled that Ohio's voting rights laws did not discriminate against minorities by restricting early and absentee ballots. He said in that dissent: "The birth of this Nation was founded upon the radical principle that we, as a people, would govern ourselves. And voting is the ultimate expression of self-government. Instead of making it easier for all persons, unrestrained and unfettered, to exercise this fundamental right to vote, legislators are making it harder."

He concluded by saying: "With every gain in equality, there is often an equally robust and reactive retrenchment. We must never forget that constant dialectical tension. For every action, there is a reaction. The majority's decision is a fateful reminder that we can never fool ourselves into believing that we have arrived as a nation."

That is a statement that is ever so true even today.

Judge Keith recalled many of the civil rights activists and innocent children who were slain to make sure minorities had access to the voting polls.

They include: Emmett Till, Herbert Lee, Medgar Evers, Jimmie Lee Jackson, Benjamin Brown, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the four little girls who were, sadly, killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama.

Judge Keith fought on their behalf during his tenure on this Federal court.

Some of his other rulings had a profound impact on American life as well, the biggest being his decision that prohibited the Nixon administration from warrantless wiretapping in domestic security cases.

He ordered the Nixon Justice Department to end all wiretapping that was not approved by the courts. This was in the midst of the Nixon administration's attempt to go after radicals accused of conspiring to bomb a CIA office in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He stated it violated the Constitution's Fourth Amendment rights from "unreasonable searches and seizures."

The Nixon administration appealed his ruling, and the Supreme Court, with a vote of 8-0, rejected the administration's claim of constitutional authority to protect the Nation from internal subversion by wiretapping dangerous radicals without court warrants.

Along with this case, he ruled in favor of integration of the Detroit Police Department and made the decision that deportation hearings could not be held in secret after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

He has left an indelible mark on the judiciary. Judge Keith has received over 40 honorary degrees from colleges and universities across the country and is the recipient of numerous awards. He was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP, and the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award, the highest award that can be bestowed on a member of the Federal judiciary.

Judge Keith fought on all of our behalf to make this country more just, fair, and less discriminatory.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), my colleague.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring Judge Damon J. Keith, who passed away last month.

The grandson of slaves, Judge Keith served more than 50 years on the Federal bench, where he consistently ruled to uphold civil rights and civil liberties.

Judge Keith leaves behind a legacy of fostering equal opportunity and fighting for the little guy. Unfortunately, this legacy is under threat.

The Trump administration is proposing yet another idea that will hurt

working families. The administration wants to change the way poverty is measured to artificially reduce the number of people who are considered poor. That means fewer people will be eligible for programs like SNAP and WIC and Medicaid.

I am disappointed, but I am not surprised. The latest attempt to gut the social safety net just goes to show how out of touch this administration is with the needs of everyday Americans.

This administration has proposed cutting nutrition benefits for an estimated 755,000 people just because they cannot find jobs. They have threatened to take money away from the Pell Grant Program that provides a pathway to higher education for millions of low-income students.

The President has consistently tried to cut funding for essential programs like Medicaid, public housing, Head Start, and more. And while passing a tax cut to benefit corporations and millionaires, the little people have been left out.

We need serious solutions to combat income inequality. Pretending that poor people don't exist is not the solution at all. Instead of changing the way we measure poverty, we need to strengthen programs that help people who are struggling.

We need to raise the minimum wage. We need a living wage. Working hard is not enough if you don't make enough.

We need to expand access to quality nutrition and housing, and we need to make sure that students have equal access to higher education.

I am proud to stand tonight with my colleagues against the administration's ongoing attacks on working people and families and so proud to praise and honor Judge Damon J. Keith, who worked so hard to preserve our rights.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing our efforts to make sure that working families and low-income Americans have access to all of the services that they need.

Ms. PLASKETT. I yield to the gentleman from Nevada.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman ADAMS for her leadership on these issues and her understanding of the dire impacts that the Trump administration's proposed rule change would mean on working families and the poor.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), the Congressman and my good friend, whom I have the honor to serve with on the Ways and Means Committee. He is fighting for the people of his district in Philadelphia.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their leadership and vision for leading this effort, under the leadership of Congresswoman BASS.

I think, as the gentleman from Nevada has demonstrated along with my other colleague from the great Virgin Islands, they both have shown the kind of leadership that is extremely essential.

The passing of a civil rights icon like Judge Damon Keith is also a time to focus on one of his priorities: helping future generations to succeed. This is also a priority of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Unfortunately, it has not been a priority of the occupant of the White House.

In August 2016, he asked African Americans: What the hell do you have to lose? It has been crystal clear in the last few years that African Americans of all ages have a lot to lose as long as Donald Trump is in the White House. The latest example of this is the Trump administration's plan to strip Medicare, food assistance, and other basics away from hundreds of thousands of working-class Americans.

They are trying to change how the Census measures poverty so they can count fewer people as poor. As costs go up each year, the fake Trump poverty line will take basic benefits away: SNAP, WIC, Head Start, school lunches, legal services, and even tax credits under the Affordable Care Act that help working people to get healthcare.

It is basically a backdoor tax increase for those who can afford it least. It is an outrageous sequel to the tax cut that Trump and the Republicans gave to millionaires and big corporations. It is classic Trump: Don't actually solve the problem; just pretend that it doesn't exist anymore.

I stand with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus in opposing the Trump poverty line change. I stand with all of those who did not inherit millions of dollars from a parent like the President did.

Let us honor the work of Judge Keith and others like him by renewing our commitment to help lift our future generations. We can do this by making college affordable again, raising the minimum wage, and preserving the safety net. Each of these proposals will go a long way toward repairing the ladders of opportunity and making this a more just society.

This dedication today to Justice Damon Keith is our commitment as the Congressional Black Caucus to raise him up in his legacy that he has done for all of us in this country.

It is a real honor as one member of this body, the Congressional Black Caucus, that I stand here today to join my colleagues and show the kind of support for what Justice Keith demonstrated to all of us.

So I am here to lend my voice, to make it clear that this is not acceptable, retreating on the people, particularly African Americans.

Since the President made that statement in August of 2016—and he made it in the city of Philadelphia—it is clear to me that this is not acceptable. Mr. Speaker, we, as members of the Congressional Black Caucus, will not stand for this.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Philadelphia who always stands

up for the rights of the working class of those in cities and elsewhere who are struggling, the working poor.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him so much for the work he is doing and for trying to maintain working neighborhoods in our many cities that are, through so much of these rule changes, so much of these executive orders, the ones who are being most affected.

□ 2000

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), who is from the city of Newark, New Jersey, our good friend, my good friend, and champion as well, of those in the urban areas, as well as to others. He has recently taken on issues related to healthcare.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank my colleagues, Delegate Plaskett and Congressman HORSFORD for hosting tonight's Special Order hour on Judge Keith's legacy and the Trump administration's recent attempts to roll back the social safety nets in our country.

Judge Keith's legacy cannot be overstated. He was an icon for African Americans and, indeed, all Americans. He was a Black pioneer in the legal field whose rulings took on Presidents from Richard Nixon to George W. Bush. For 60 years he sat on the Federal bench and consistently ruled in favor of expansive civil rights in this country. It is because of Judge Keith and others like him that thousands of young Black people have entered the legal profession and rose to the top.

He was a judge who always extended a hand down to help lift others up. That is the American way, and it is worth fighting for. Sadly, we live in a time when people in power don't always help uplift others. We have a President who is doing his best to beat down everyone who doesn't think, look, or vote like him.

Now we see that the President has set his sights on America's neediest people. He and his cronies are peddling a myth that the vulnerable people who rely on our social safety net are lazy folks who just want a government handout.

But we know that is not true. Some people just need a hand up every once in a while. The Trump administration's attempts to roll back the social safety net is a life-and-death matter for thousands of Americans who struggle to make ends meet. We live in an unpredictable world. One day you can be on top, but the next day you might be knocked down. The social safety net is our country's promise that we will help people get back up again.

Sometimes people need a little help buying food, or getting healthcare, or just scraping by. There is nothing wrong with that. We all know someone who has had hard times, and when we are having a good time, we need to look out for each other. That is the American way.

I have said this before but let me say it again: I have never met a person who

wakes up in the morning and says: "I want to be poor today." That is just not reality. And let me add this: I have never met a person who wakes up at 5 a.m. to go to her first job; comes home at 1 p.m. to take a nap; and heads out to her second job at 4 p.m., yet still lives paycheck to paycheck.

I never knew anyone that said: "I like the struggle. I like the difficulty. I like being poor." That person does not exist. That is just not how the world works.

Social safety net programs like SNAP, Medicaid, and housing assistance are supplements that help people struggle just a little bit less. Yet, my colleagues across the aisle and their friends in the White House keep pushing a false narrative that people who rely on government assistance to make ends meet are freeloaders or take government handouts and buy drugs. The 45th President keeps pushing his callous, immoral narrative in order to tear apart our social safety net.

In my district, 17.9 percent of the households rely on SNAP to feed their families. They aren't lazy. They aren't addicts. They are hardworking people; some of them with two or three jobs just trying to make ends meet.

And now the President is trying to define them out of existence. According to reports, his administration wants to change how inflation is calculated in the official poverty measure in order to define poverty out of existence and deny people access to our social safety net.

Well, Mr. President, that is not going to work for the American people. The United States Government should be making it easier for Americans to maintain a decent standard of living. The fact of the matter is that 70 percent of Americans rely on at least one Federal program at some point in time in their lives. The President's focus on ripping apart our social safety net with heartless cuts is wrong, it is immoral, and it is shameful.

It isn't about cleaning up waste, fraud, or abuse. It is about pulling the rug out from under people. Programs like SNAP are not just some unlimited handout for people who are sitting at home doing nothing.

Currently, 44 percent of the people who use SNAP have at least one person in the family working. But even though they are working, they might make minimum wage and are still below the poverty line.

When it comes to families with children who are on SNAP, more than half of them bring home wages. But the problem is, their income isn't enough to actually live on. So when the self-proclaimed billionaire in the White House talks about making people who receive SNAP benefits work or defining poverty out of existence, he is just repeating the same old fake news that the Republican Party has peddled for decades.

This is unacceptable, and as a Member of Congress, I am here to serve the

people in my communities, and that means all the people. We have to protect our most vulnerable and those in need. Let us end the administration's war on the working poor and help make their lives better for all of our constituents.

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands has 33 minutes remaining.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, you can see we have had a lively discussion in recognition of Federal Judge Damon Keith. I would like include in the RECORD an article on his obituary from The New York Times dated April 28 of 2019.

[From the New York Times, April 28, 2019]

DAMON KEITH, FEDERAL JUDGE WHO CHAMPIONED CIVIL RIGHTS, DIES AT 96

(By Robert D. McFadden)

Damon Keith, a federal judge in the Midwest whose rulings championed equality and civil rights, notably in a landmark Supreme Court decision striking down Nixon administration wiretapping in domestic security cases without a court order, died on Sunday in Detroit. He was 96.

His death was confirmed by his daughter, Debbie Keith.

In one of the federal judiciary's longest and most prolific careers, Judge Keith, a Democrat, was a fountainhead of regional rulings with national implications. He attacked racial segregation in education, housing and employment; conservative efforts to limit African-American voting; and, after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, secret hearings to deport hundreds of immigrants deemed suspicious.

Judge Keith's tenure spanned more than a half-century, first as President Lyndon B. Johnson's choice for a district court judgeship in Detroit, with jurisdiction in Eastern Michigan (1967-1977), then as President Jimmy Carter's selection for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, presiding in Cincinnati over cases arising in Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan and Tennessee.

In a blistering 2016 dissent in an Ohio case that restricted early and absentee voting, Judge Keith accused two Circuit Court colleagues of scorning African-American voters and the memory of black people slain in the struggle for voting rights. In a frankly emotional rebuke, he incorporated into his opinion photographs and biographies of 36 such victims, including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"By denying the most vulnerable the right to vote, the majority shuts minorities out of our political process," he wrote. "The unfettered right to vote is the bedrock of a free and democratic society. Without it, such a society cannot stand."

One of America's oldest federal jurists, Mr. Keith served in the segregated Army in World War II, cleaned bathrooms at The Detroit News, attended historically black undergraduate and law schools and witnessed deadly riots in Detroit in 1967.

In the most prominent case of his tenure, Judge Keith ordered the Nixon Justice Department in 1971 to halt wiretapping without court orders in its zeal to prosecute radicals accused of conspiring to bomb a Central Intelligence Agency office in Ann Arbor, Mich.

As grounds, he cited the Constitution's Fourth Amendment freedoms from "unreasonable searches and seizures."

After the Sixth Circuit Court upheld Judge Keith's decision, the Nixon administration appealed to the Supreme Court. At stake, potentially, were warrantless wiretaps in many prosecutions that Attorney General John N. Mitchell had brought against antiwar activists and other opponents of administration policies.

The high court, by 8-0, rejected the government's claim of constitutional authority to protect the nation from internal subversion by wiretapping "dangerous" radicals without court warrants. Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr., who wrote the opinion, leaned heavily on the threat to free speech that he saw in the unbridled government wiretapping of dissenters.

The American Civil Liberties Union said: "If this claim had been upheld, there would have been virtually no limits to the range of governmental intrusion on the liberty that would have been implicitly authorized once the government invoked the talisman of 'national security.'"

In another case, the Supreme Court declined to review Judge Keith's order to bus 8,700 of 23,000 students to desegregate public schools in Pontiac, Mich. His 1971 order, one of the first of its kind in the North, led to extensive busing, attacks on school buses, death threats against the judge and the convictions of Ku Klux Klansmen for dynamiting 10 school buses.

But five years after Pontiac's busing began, The New York Times reported that bitter feelings that had all but paralyzed the school district had faded, and that busing had become a fact of life. "Both blacks and whites are learning to understand each other better, to fear and distrust each other less, and to see individuals as individuals," the report said.

In 1973, a year before Nixon resigned in the Watergate scandal, Judge Keith ordered the government to disclose whether it had used sabotage, agents provocateurs and "other espionage activities," including a burglary at a law office, to make its case against militants known as the Weathermen. They were accused of plotting a campaign of bombing and terrorism.

Later, government lawyers appeared in Judge Keith's court and withdrew their case against the Weathermen rather than undergo a hearing on how their evidence had been obtained. Defense lawyers said the Nixon administration had plotted its own campaign of domestic intelligence-gathering operations, including breaking and entering and wiretapping to foster a "malicious prosecution."

In 1979, Judge Keith and the Sixth Circuit upheld the Detroit Police Department's affirmative action program. A lieutenants and sergeants group had sued to overturn the five-year-old program, saying that white officers had been unjustly passed over for promotion. But Judge Keith wrote that promotion tests had been slanted against blacks, and that affirmative action "undoes years of discrimination."

And in 2002, the Sixth Circuit Court held that the Bush administration had violated the First Amendment freedoms of speech and the press by conducting hundreds of secret hearings to deport immigrants suspected of ties to terrorism. Other courts issued contradictory rulings, and the secret hearings went on for some time. But the case yielded one of Judge Keith's more memorable opinions.

"Democracy dies behind closed doors," he wrote.

Damon Jerome Keith was born in Detroit on July 4, 1922, the youngest of six children

of Perry and Annie (Williams) Keith, who had migrated from Georgia. Mr. Keith worked at the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge plant for \$5 a day. Damon and his siblings, Luther, Perry, Napoleon, Marie and Annie, grew up in poverty. For a time during the Depression, the family received welfare assistance.

Mr. Keith graduated from Northwestern High School in 1939. At West Virginia State College, he waited on tables and cleaned a chapel and the college president's house to pay his way. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1943. Drafted into the wartime Army, he served in Europe in a black unit largely assigned to kitchen duties. He was discharged as a sergeant in 1946.

He received his juris doctor in 1949 at the Howard University Law School, where his mentors included Thurgood Marshall, the future first black justice of the Supreme Court, and William Hastie, the nation's first black federal judge. Mr. Keith received a master of laws degree at Wayne State University in 1956.

In 1953, he married Rachel Boone, a prominent doctor in Detroit. She died in 2007. Besides his daughter Debbie, survivors include two other daughters, Cecile Keith Brown and Gilda Keith, and two granddaughters.

In 1964, Mr. Keith helped founded one of Detroit's first African-American law firms and was named co-chairman of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. Three years later, he became a federal judge. He was chief judge for Eastern Michigan from 1975 to 1977, when he joined the Sixth Circuit Court. In 1995, he assumed senior status on the appellate court, with a reduced caseload.

A lifelong Detroit resident, Mr. Keith received some 40 honorary doctorates and was showered with honors, including the Spingarn Medal of the N.A.A.C.P. and the federal judiciary's Edward J. Devitt Award.

He was the subject of a 2016 Jesse Nesser documentary, "Walk with Me: The Trials of Damon J. Keith." One highlight: When he was 69, one of the nation's most distinguished jurists and national chairman of a Williamsburg, Va., judicial conference on the Constitution's Bicentennial, he stepped outside the hotel during a break—and was taken for a parking attendant.

"A white man drove up," he told a crowd screening the film at Howard University, "and said, 'Boy, park my car.'"

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, in looking at those things that this Federal judge fought for while he was alive, I think it is a great segue into the other discussion that the Congressional Black Caucus has been engaged in in this hour, and that is poverty. Many of the communities that this judge was fighting for were poor communities.

Unfortunately, at this day and age, it is still primarily people of color who disproportionately are affected by poverty. But the Trump administration is on the verge of making an end run around Congress now, attempting to slash the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by fiat.

The latest effort was a proposed rule that would open for public comments until April 10. This rule would restrict SNAP eligibility by limiting States' flexibility to help the jobless or underemployed workers in struggling regions. By the administration's own estimate, enacting this rule would substantially increase hunger and hardship, stripping at least 755,000 Ameri-

cans of food assistance, though other estimates suggest it could be as much as 1 million individuals and cut SNAP by \$15 billion, slashing more than 178,000 jobs over the coming decade.

In the last Congress, Republicans and Democrats had a long, protracted conference on the farm bill, much of it related to SNAP. Much of it was because of discussions about ensuring that there is a safety net for those who regularly without it would go hungry.

We see that this administration did not want to take what Congress ruled on—what the President even signed—and is now, through his own executive order, attempting to change the law. The administration's most recent attempt to cut SNAP comes on the heels of President Donald Trump's failed attempt to achieve similar SNAP cuts in that farm bill; cuts that Congress rejected on a bipartisan basis.

This proposed rule is not just cruel. It is also bad policy. Making people hungrier will not help them find work any faster. It will only kick underemployment and unemployment workers when they are down.

Most working-age SNAP participants who are not receiving disability benefits are working, but they are often in unstable jobs with volatile schedules, low wages, making them especially likely to being affected by the rule.

I want to talk about how this is going to affect rural communities. In 2010, the U.S. Census found that 22 percent of the population in the Virgin Islands lives in poverty. Fifty percent of those living under the poverty level were families led by single mothers. The Congressional Research Service discovered that on average, children living in female-headed families were more likely to live in poverty than children living in two-parent households.

Given that 76 percent of rural adults report that good jobs are scarce in their area, it is not as if they are not looking. The jobs are simply not there. Rural communities like mine in the Virgin Islands will be among the hardest hit by the President's proposed rule, as it will tie States' hands and remove the flexibility they need to help residents of high unemployment areas put food on the table.

Indeed, while the urban areas experienced a net gain of 3.6 million jobs from 2007 to 2015, rural areas lost 400,000 jobs during that same time, meaning that many rural areas have struggled to recover still from the Great Recession.

Moreover, rural populations already face additional barriers to work. For example, lack of access to broadband is impeding the growth of rural economies, hampering total employment growth, and the opening of new businesses. Additionally, rural economies have less industrial diversity than urban areas and, in some communities, in particular, the departure of a central employer has led to tremendous job loss.

In the Virgin Islands, one of the world's largest refineries based in the Virgin Islands on St. Croix shut down in 2012, driving a decrease in jobs. At the time of the shutdown, the unemployment skyrocketed to 18 percent. In the same year, refined petroleum exports for the U.S. plummeted by 90 percent.

Given these challenges, States need more flexibility, not less, in order to decide how best to protect and invest in rural areas, as the administration's economic policies have not decreased the widening urban and rural divide. I believe that my coanchor, as well, has examples how poverty is affecting Americans; not just African Americans.

□ 2015

The purpose of the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour is not solely to talk about African Americans but to really champion the issues of those Americans who do not often have a voice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) to discuss this further.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for yielding.

This is a very serious and important issue that we are talking about tonight. I really want to provide the context to what got us to this point where the Trump administration is now trying to balance the budget on the backs of working people: the poor, seniors, children, and needy families.

The President and Republicans in Congress during the last Congress passed the so-called Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. What that Tax Cuts and Jobs Act actually did was add \$1.5 trillion to our deficit. The tax cuts that were so-called were supposed to help the working poor. Eighty-three percent of the benefit from those tax cuts went to 1 percent of the wealthiest, the well-connected, and the powerful. Now, to balance the budget, they are proposing these draconian measures—cuts and revisions—on our budget, and they are targeting the poor, those who are relying, as my colleague said, on important programs such as SNAP, Head Start funding, the Children's Health Insurance Program, the National School Lunch Program, and other anti-poverty programs.

Let me talk to you for a moment, Mr. Speaker, about what these cuts mean to the people in my home State of Nevada. Nearly 434,000 Nevadans would be at risk of losing their SNAP benefits. SNAP benefits help families put food on the table and also help contribute to our local economy because they are buying those groceries at our local grocery stores. They are ensuring that we keep workers working at our local grocery stores.

The proposed rule would impact Nevadans, by putting 633,000 Nevadans at the risk of being kicked off of Medicaid.

Since we have adopted the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion in my home State of Nevada in 2008, we have cut the rate of uninsured in half. Prior to the Affordable Care Act and the Medicaid expansion, our uninsured rate among children was over 30 percent. Now it is below 14 percent and continuing to decline. This administration wants to take us backward. We won't go backward.

Over 3,000 young toddlers in Nevada would be at risk of being removed from the Early Head Start and Head Start programs. That is unconscionable to me because the Acelero program that helps administer Head Start in my district already has a waiting list. There are already families who can't get into the program because there is not adequate funding based on this administration's lack of priorities around the poor.

So while this rule may seem mundane to some, the impact on families is real. So we are bringing attention to this issue so the voters and constituents across the United States can have a voice in this process. The rule that the President is proposing to make has a 45-day window for the American public to comment on just how harmful this rule would be. The deadline to submit comments is June 21 of this year, and I would encourage all of the public to make sure that their voices are being heard.

So just to underline again, the Trump administration has proposed a rule that would recalculate how we measure poverty, a move that would more than likely kick people off of certain Federal programs that are meant to assist poor and low-income families.

So why would they do that?

Because they have targeted the working poor in order to balance the budget to pay for the tax cuts that they gave to big corporations, the wealthy, and the well-connected.

The administration is considering switching to a different inflation measure that rises more slowly, a change that over time would make it harder to qualify for assistance. It is already hard enough for many constituents in my district to receive aid.

Mr. Speaker, I talked to you about the waiting list of families at Acelero Head Start program. It is right there on the corner of Martin Luther King and Carey in my district. I have talked to the parents at that program, and those families that are in it depend on the Head Start program in order to give their children a good head start and be able to prepare them for school. But without it, they would be left without adequate childcare and without adequate support for their families.

The Children's Health Insurance Program is something that I had worked on when I was in the State senate. This is not a partisan issue. In fact, many of my colleagues on the other side have supported funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, but the proposed Trump administration rule

that would recalculate how we measure poverty would actually impact 633,000 Nevadans who would be kicked off of Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

So I would ask my colleagues on the other side why they would support the administration impacting their constituents in this way?

It is not just the constituents in my district. It is not just the constituents in Delegate PLASKETT's district. Every Member of this body has constituents who would be negatively impacted if this rule by the Trump administration is enacted.

By allowing for these additional substitutions, chained CPI, which is the measurement by which the administration is looking to measure poverty, shows a slower rate of inflation. But for many families who are already choosing between paying the rent and buying food, they are already living as frugally as possible.

Time and time again, the Trump administration has attacked programs that help struggling American families put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads. But they ran and passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. They did it in 51 days without one hearing, and now there are all these unintended consequences from that measure that was passed in the previous Congress, and they want to come back here and balance the budget on the backs of the poor. We say, No.

The Department of Education has said that more than 1 million schoolchildren were homeless in the 2016–2017 school year. One million schoolchildren in America are homeless, and this administration wants to deny them health insurance coverage under Medicaid and a school lunch during the school day?

The Department of Agriculture said that 15 million households faced food insecurity in 2017, meaning that they experienced difficulty affording food, and this administration—the Trump administration—wants to pass a rule that would recalculate how we measure poverty in order to deny more children and families receiving this care. Despite that, 70 percent of voters indicated that they had experienced at least one form of economic hardship last year—70 percent. But we can find ways to give tax cuts to big corporations, to the wealthy, and to the well-connected.

The President's proposed rule would be harmful. It is misguided and unfair to so many Nevada families and families all across the country. Again, I would urge the public to write their Member of Congress and ask them what they are doing to protect the public on this issue. After the public has written their Member, they should submit their comment before the June 21 date to the administration so that we can rescind this proposed rule and protect working families and the poor.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I have to tell the gentleman that his remarks

were very enlightening and thoughtful. The logic of this administration and what they are thinking just does not make sense. In the end, it is going to cost us more. As you said, how is denying 1 million children lunch benefiting us as a country?

Mr. HORSFORD. I am at a loss for words how we choose to balance the budget on 1 million homeless children, but find a way to give tax cuts to the wealthy. We added \$1.5 trillion to our Federal deficit, but now we have 1 million homeless children in last year's school year whom we are struggling to make sure they get adequate support in their schools and a nutritious meal. And this administration wants to deny them that by this rule change.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, if you want to be calculating about it, how is it helpful to us in the long run?

If you don't want to do it out of Christian goodness, out of the depths of humanity, then think about the long-term ramifications. Think about what it does to us to have 1 million children not being fed properly, not being able to think in a classroom, to be able to function, and to be able to do their work.

What will that do to us 10 years from now?

How many dropouts will there be?

How many young people will be unable to function, to be able to read and write, and to be able to find a job?

That will cost us, I am sure, entirely more money.

Mr. HORSFORD. We have to have a more balanced discussion in this body. I believe that we need to be competitive, and we need to make sure that we are doing things to help incentivize our private sector. There is a way to do that, but, unfortunately, our colleagues took the approach to ram this measure through in 51 days with not one hearing. They didn't discuss the impacts, and none of the issues that we are now bringing forward on how the working poor, the middle class, and those who are struggling and aspiring to be part of the middle class are being negatively impacted by these policies.

So there is a direct correlation. We can't just talk about the budget or the cuts to the budget that this administration is making without talking about what this administration and Republicans in Congress did last Congress by adding \$1.5 trillion to our Federal deficit. It is not just these Federal programs that we are talking about tonight. It is Medicare, it is Social Security, and it is the Affordable Care Act. I am sure we will have a Special Order on those topics as well, but we wanted to bring attention to this tonight, because we only have 45 days for the public to get their comments in to, hopefully, reverse this rule so that it won't go into effect.

Ms. PLASKETT. In the last Congress, and again in this one, I am a member of the Agriculture Committee. I recall that when that farm bill initially was presented, the ranking member at that

time and now the chair, COLLIN PETERSON, and many of the Democrats were aghast that we weren't going to have hearings, that there wasn't going to be a markup, and that there wasn't going to be discussion on the farm bill which contains essential nutrition programs in there. It wasn't until it got to the Senate that we were able to have in conference a discussion about SNAP because the Republicans over here decided that that was not important. They didn't want to fund it, they didn't want to take care of children, and they didn't want to take care of families of those with disabilities and of veterans who rely on SNAP programs, on supplemental nutrition programs. It wasn't until we got to conference that that happened.

The President signed the farm bill, and lo and behold, here comes the boomerang where he is trying to ram this through by executive order and by proposed rule changes to the law.

People in this law it doesn't just affect, and if you are not interested in families that are single-parent families, female-run families, African American families, what about those veterans who are affected?

What about those with disabilities?

The proposed rule purports to apply only to able-bodied adults without dependents. But what people are unaware of is that under the rule, 11 million people with disabilities who receive SNAP assistance could lose that assistance under the rule as people who face limited work capacity due to disability or poor health are regularly misclassified as able-bodied for the purpose of SNAP.

□ 2030

That means those individuals between the ages of 18 and 59 who have at least one physical, functional, or working limitation and are not counted as disabled under SNAP may, in fact, be affected. So this is cutting across so many individuals.

Mr. HORSFORD. Would the gentlewoman yield on that point?

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD).

Mr. HORSFORD. There was a recent article that showed many of the workers of large employers who don't pay a livable wage are on SNAP benefits. These are people who are working, but because they are not being paid an adequate wage, they are eligible for SNAP benefits.

On top of that, based on the rule change and the discussion the gentlewoman just outlined, 11 million could lose their benefits. These are people, some of whom are working but because employers aren't willing to pay them a living wage, they are on benefits, Federal benefits, being subsidized by the Federal Government.

Either we need these employers to step up and give America a raise so they don't have to be on SNAP benefits or we need this administration to un-

derstand that balancing the budget on the working poor isn't the solution.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, when the gentleman talks about the working poor, I think about those individuals in the Virgin Islands where we have limited jobs. Many of these individuals have jobs in government.

You have an individual who is the head of a house, a husband-and-wife house, making \$20,000—three children, a wife—trying to make ends meet off that kind of salary. They qualify, as we now have it functioning, for assistance for their family—for Medicaid, in some instances. But this administration is trying to take that away.

Are they going to take it away from those people who are doing what they say they are supposed to do? They are out there working as best they can. They are trying to take care of their families. This Congress has provided a safety net to them, and now we are going to strip that away.

This is untenable, and this has to stop.

Mr. Speaker, I would inquire of Mr. HORSFORD the timeframe that individuals have to send a letter to their Member of Congress, to send a letter to this administration to let them know what their thoughts are.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD).

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, the comment period for the American public for this proposed rule by the administration ends on June 21.

The Trump administration floated this proposal through what is called a request for comment, essentially a request for the public to provide information and views to the Federal Government on this potential change. They are expecting them not to know that this is happening.

This administration presented no research on how low-income families' costs for basic necessities has changed over time, nor did they provide information on the implications of changing the poverty line for individuals' and families' access to needed assistance.

That is why tonight's Special Order was so important and timely, for us to bring awareness to this. I don't know how many Members of this body know that the administration is doing this.

Again, I would ask my colleagues on the other side, who have constituents just like we do who will be impacted, whether they support this administration in this proposed rule change that will take away fundamental benefits from their constituents, just like it will ours.

This is not a handout. This is a hand up. It is a hand up in order to help individuals bridge, if you will, while they are going through difficult times.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I think people don't understand that SNAP benefits represent \$1.40 per person, per meal—\$1.40. I can't get a cup of coffee in Washington, D.C., with \$1.40, but that is the benefit we are giving per person, per meal, for SNAP benefits.

We should not be talking about cuts to SNAP. We should be talking about how to increase this benefit to the American people, to American children, to our elders, to veterans who are relying on this.

Something must be done. As the Congressional Black Caucus, we are here to raise the alarm.

Raising the Federal minimum wage would save, even if we raised it to \$12 an hour, \$53 billion over the next 10 years, nearly four times as much as the proposed rule, by ensuring that workers earn more so that they are better able to afford food, instead of punishing labor market struggles with hunger, as the gentleman said.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) for any additional thoughts he may have as we close out this Special Order hour, and I thank the American people for listening.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD information from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities titled “Trump Administration Floating Changes to Poverty Measure That Would Reduce or Eliminate Assistance to Millions of Low-Income Americans.”

[From the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Tuesday, May 7, 2019]

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FLOATING CHANGES TO POVERTY MEASURE THAT WOULD REDUCE OR ELIMINATE ASSISTANCE TO MILLIONS OF LOWER-INCOME AMERICANS

(Statement by Sharon Parrott, Senior Fellow and Senior Counselor)

The Trump Administration yesterday floated a proposal to use a lower measure of inflation when adjusting the poverty line each year. Consistent with other policies the Administration has pursued, this policy would over time cut or take away entirely food assistance, health, and other forms of basic assistance from millions of people who struggle to put food on the table, keep a roof over their heads, and see a doctor when they need to. The reductions in assistance that this proposal would produce stand in stark contrast to the Administration’s 2017 tax law, which conferred large new benefits on the highest-income households.

If the poverty line is altered in this fashion, fewer individuals and families will qualify over time for various forms of assistance, including many who work hard but are paid low wages. That’s because using a lower measure of inflation like the chained CPI to adjust the poverty line each year would make the eligibility thresholds for various programs that serve people in need lower and lower over time, compared with what the thresholds otherwise would be. This, in turn, would lower the income eligibility limits for programs like SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) and Medicaid, which are tied to the federal poverty line. It also would reduce the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) premium tax credits—and thereby increase the out-of-pocket premium charges faced by millions of people who purchase health insurance through the ACA marketplaces.

The notion that the nation does too much to help struggling families stands in contrast to a broad set of data. For example, even with our current poverty line and set of supports, the Department of Education says that more 1 million school children were

homeless in the 2016–2017 school year, and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) says that 15 million households faced food insecurity in 2017, meaning that they experienced difficulty affording food.

This proposal is entirely discretionary on the part of the Administration. No statute or regulation requires it to alter the methodology for updating the poverty line. Rather, the Administration is choosing to consider a policy that would weaken basic assistance programs and thereby increase hardship.

The Administration is considering using a lower inflation measure to adjust the poverty line while wholly ignoring other questions about the adequacy of the poverty line as a measure of whether households can meet basic needs. And, it has failed to put forward evidence about whether the chained CPI itself accurately captures changes in the cost of living for low-income households.

Indeed, the issue of what measure to use in adjusting the poverty line for inflation is only one of a number of questions about the poverty line and the official poverty measure. Considerable research over the years—including a major report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS)—has identified a number of ways in which the poverty line appears to be inadequate. For example, the poverty line doesn’t fully include certain costs that many low-income families face like child care. In accordance with the guidance of the NAS panel, federal analysts worked carefully with researchers over a number of years to develop the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which more fully measures the cost of current basic living expenses. With this more careful accounting, the SPM’s poverty line is higher than the official poverty line for most types of households, and its poverty rate is slightly higher than the official poverty rate.

Another indication that the poverty line is too low is the high rate of hardship among families with incomes just above that marker. Near-poor families, using today’s poverty line, face high rates of food insecurity, difficulty paying rent and utilities, and high rates of uninsurance.

The Administration’s announcement, however, ignores all other issues regarding poverty measurement that the NAS and other analysts have raised and cherry-picks just one issue—the measure used to adjust for inflation—to focus on in isolation. Simply switching to a lower inflation measure would likely make the poverty line less rather than more accurate as a measure of what families need to get by.

Moreover, it is not at all clear that the chained CPI is a better measure of inflation for low-income households’ basic living expenses, even if we had a poverty measure that measured those living expenses more adequately. Research on different inflation measures generally focuses on the best way to measure inflation for the economy and consumers overall. But the consumption patterns of low-income households—and their ability to change their consumption in response to changes in prices—may be different from those of typical consumers. A recent study indicates that inflation tends to rise faster for low-income households than for the population as a whole. As just one example, housing costs comprise a significantly larger share of low-income households’ budgets, on average, than they do for middle- and upper-income households. And Labor Department data show that costs for rental housing, which low-income people rely on disproportionately, have been rising faster than the overall CPI.

The Administration has floated this proposal through a “Request for Comment”—essentially a request for the public to provide information and views to the federal govern-

ment on this potential change. But the Administration presented no research on how low-income families’ costs for basic necessities has changed over time, the adequacy of the poverty line itself as compared to the cost of basic necessities, or the implications of changing the poverty line for individuals’ and families’ access to needed assistance. Asking for public comment in apparent preparation for a policy change that could harm millions of struggling Americans over time, without providing the public with research and data on these basic questions, suggests this is not a serious effort to explore the important substantive issues that poverty measurement presents.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization and policy institute that conducts research and analysis on a range of government policies and programs. It is supported primarily by foundation grants.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the co-anchor for this hour. This has been a very enlightening topic for us to bring attention to.

Each one of us has constituents who are impacted, to whom we speak on a regular basis. We cannot allow this administration to make this type of an executive order and not have the consequences explained to the American people.

That is what tonight was all about.

Sometimes the other side questioned President Obama making executive orders. Well, this executive order that President Trump is proposing directly impacts the working poor in this country. We cannot allow that to happen.

We cannot allow children who are homeless, families who are struggling, and the working poor who are trying to do everything they can to keep it together to be impacted by this misguided, reckless, and totally unnecessary rule change being proposed by the Trump administration.

Again, we urge the American public to have their voice heard and submit their comments by June 21 or contact their Member of Congress.

We are fighting on their behalf, but we need to make sure that every Member in this body understands the implications of this proposed rule change.

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

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1500, CONSUMERS FIRST ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1994, SETTING EVERY COMMUNITY UP FOR RETIREMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019; PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MAY 24, 2019, THROUGH MAY 31, 2019; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. PERLMUTTER (during the Special Order of Ms. PLASKETT), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-79) on the resolution (H. Res. 389) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1500) to require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to meet its statutory

purpose, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes; providing for proceedings during the period from May 24, 2019, through May 31, 2019; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

RECOGNIZING RACQUEL ASA IN HONOR OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Month, I want to recognize Racquel Asa.

Racquel Asa is an anchor and reporter for WFTV Eyewitness News in Orlando, Florida.

Racquel's parents both came from the Philippines in pursuit of careers in the medical profession. She is a wife and mother to two young children, and she is proud to call central Florida her home.

She has been a journalist for nearly 15 years in New York and Florida. During her time in Orlando, she covers all things transportation in central Florida, from I-4 to SunRail to the growing need to make roads safer. She has been tapped by the Central Florida Expressway Authority and DriveSmartFlorida.org to create a regional campaign to make our roads safer.

She was recently recognized, in May, by the Federal Highway Administration for her efforts to raise awareness for both drivers and construction workers in work zones.

She is also an Emmy-nominated journalist who has been recognized for her investigations into red light cameras and breaking news traffic reports.

She is active in the community and participates in events every year to help organize and raise money for good organizations, causes, and missions. She has helped Second Harvest Food Bank, Embrace Families, and the local chapters of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and American Diabetes Association raise hundreds of thousands of dollars by emceeing their events. Most recently, she helped Tour de Cure Lake Nona break national records, raising more than \$1 million to help fund diabetes research.

For that, we recognize Ms. Racquel Asa.

RECOGNIZING COCO JOHNSTON IN HONOR OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Month, I want to recognize Coco Johnston.

Coco Johnston moved from Honolulu, Hawaii, to southern California and has called Clermont, Florida, her home for the past 12 years.

She currently works in marketing for Metro Title Group, located in Metro West, where she facilitates real estate closings. She has been in the title closing and home warranty industry for over 40 years.

Her activities include being the current president of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce in central Florida. The organization's vision is to help its members prosper, grow, and serve as a bridge between many Asian American communities. They provide leadership, support, and encouragement to the Asian American business community of the greater Orlando region.

She is also a member of the Asian Real Estate Association of America, where she is dedicated to promoting sustainable homeownership opportunities in Asian American communities by creating a powerful national voice for housing and real estate professionals who serve the market.

Ms. Johnston and her husband, John, have been married for 33 years. They have a blended family with their daughter, Amber, and their two granddaughters, Bailey and Charlie.

For that, we honor Ms. Coco Johnston.

RECOGNIZING DR. YALCIN AKIN IN HONOR OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Month, I want to recognize Dr. Yalcin Akin.

Dr. Yalcin Akin is the founder and executive director of Orlando, Seminole, and Osceola science charter schools, a group of tuition-free public charter schools that focus on science, technology, engineering, and math education.

Dr. Akin earned his master's of science and Ph.D. from the University of Florida in materials science and engineering.

Prior to founding Orlando Science Schools, Dr. Akin worked with the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy, supporting numerous projects at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory in Tallahassee.

The Orlando Science Schools serve a diverse K-12 population of more than 2,500 students at four campuses in Orange, Seminole, and Osceola Counties.

Since opening in 2008, Orlando Science Schools has been consistently ranked as one of the best schools in the State of Florida and is also ranked among the top 100 most challenging high schools by The Washington Post. It currently stands in the top 15 percent of all schools in the State of Florida. It also has been ranked in the top 500 by U.S. News & World Report.

Dr. Akin is an active member of the Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools. He is a frequent speaker on the topic of high-quality charter school education and regularly participates in the annual Florida charter school conferences.

For that, we honor Dr. Akin.

RECOGNIZING NUREN DURRE HAIDER IN HONOR OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Month, I want to recognize Nuren Durre Haider.

Nuren Durre Haider, Esq., is a proud American-born Muslim Bangladeshi woman. She is a wife, the mother of three beautiful children, and an attorney.

She received her bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in business administration and education from the University of Florida and her juris doctorate degree from Florida A&M University College of Law.

Nuren Durre Haider is a believer in empowerment and representation for all. She is focused on getting her community involved in the electoral and political process and was the first Bangladeshi and Muslim to run for Orange County Commission in her district.

She is an advocate for equality, the environment, a living wage, affordable healthcare, banning assault weapons, raising awareness for mental health issues, raising teacher salaries, and other issues that affect the day-to-day lives of Americans. Along with this, Nuren dedicates her time to various interfaith and cultural events.

□ 2045

Currently, Nuren practices transactional law and is serving her second term as vice chairwoman of the Orange County Democratic Party. She is appointed to the Judiciary Committee of the Florida Democratic Party, the central Florida regional director for the American Muslim Democratic Caucus, an active member of the Democratic Women's Club of West Orange, and holds many other memberships and board positions.

And for that, Ms. Nuren Durre Haider, Esq., we honor you.

RECOGNIZING AKM HOSSAIN IN HONOR OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Month, I want to recognize Akm Hossain. Akm Hossain was born in Bangladesh in September of 1961. He went to school and college in Bangladesh. He came to the United States as a foreign student at Daytona Beach Community College, where he finished his AA degree in business management.

He is a business professional, currently living in Osceola County with his wife, Roksana Hossain, and their children. He has been involved with different kinds of social and cultural activities since day one in America. He was elected president of the largest Bangladeshi American social organization in central Florida.

Akm Hossain is the first Bangladeshi American ever to run for public office in the city of Kissimmee, and he is an active member of the Osceola Democratic Party. He has also organized the Asian Food Music and Cultural Festival, the largest multicultural event in central Florida.

He has been awarded Best Community Leader by the Central Florida Bangladeshi American Community five times in a row, and Great Community Leader for his social service and contributions toward the community by the North American Bangladeshi union.

Akm Hossain has dedicated his whole life to uplift the Asian American community and the welfare of its people, and he serves to promote peace, unity, and life throughout the community.

And for that, Mr. Akm Hossain, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING JAN GAUTAM IN HONOR OF ASIAN
AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Month, I want to recognize Jan Gautam. Mr. Gautam is identified best as a hands-on executive known for strategic approaches in achieving favorable results for hotel owners, business colleagues, and numerous foundations to which he belongs.

After completing his master's degree in hospitality management, he pursued employment as a hotel director for Carnival and Hawaii Luxury Cruise Lines, before moving to the hotel industry.

As founder of GI Hotels Group in 2004, Mr. Gautam tailored a modern approach to hospitality management. After he founded GI Hotels, Mr. Gautam merged this company with Interessant Hotels & Resort Management, where he currently serves as president and CEO. Interessant has become a leading hotel management company within the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean, and India.

Additionally, Mr. Gautam has overseen more than \$300 million in renovations and \$450 million in new development of hospitality projects over the past 5 years. He has achieved recognition and served on committees such as the Asian American Hotel Owners Association as a regional ambassador, Board of Directors with Visit Florida, the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, Rollins College International Advisory Board, and numerous local chapters to support tourism and governmental interaction.

And for that, Mr. Jan Gautam, we honor you.

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

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 744. An act to amend section 175b of title 18, United States Code, to correct a scrivener's error; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 820. An act to strengthen programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 998. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand support for police officer family services, stress reduction, and suicide prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2019, pursuant to Public Law 95-184, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	
Travel to Germany, February 14–17, 2019 with CODEL Graham										
Hon. William M. "Mac" Thornberry	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,719.00					1,719.00
Hon. James Langevin	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,719.00					1,719.00
Hon. Michael R. Turner	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,719.00					1,719.00
Hon. Mike Gallagher	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,719.00					1,719.00
Hon. Jim Banks	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,719.00					1,719.00
Hon. Elissa Slotkin	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,719.00					1,719.00
Hon. Elise Stefanik	2/15	2/17	Germany		1,719.00					1,719.00
Travel to Belgium, February 17–21, 2019 with CODEL Connolly										
Hon. Joe Wilson	2/17	2/21	Belgium		1,289.15					1,289.15
Travel to Germany, Kosovo, Israel, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda, Algeria, Spain, February 14–25, 2019 with CODEL Inhofe										
Hon. Trent Kelly	2/15	2/16	Germany		515.35					515.35
	2/16	2/18	Kosovo		366.17					366.17
	2/18	2/20	Israel		1,039.02					1,039.02
	2/20	2/20	Djibouti							
	2/20	2/22	Ethiopia		791.50					791.50
	2/22	2/22	Burundi							
	2/22	2/23	Rwanda		362.78					362.78
	2/23	2/24	Algeria		283.08					283.08
	2/24	2/25	Spain		215.68					215.68
Travel to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, February 15–19, 2019 with CODEL Carper										
Hon. Donald Norcross	2/15	2/17	Guatemala		322.70					322.70
	2/17	2/17	Honduras							
	2/17	2/19	El Salvador		280.93					280.93
Commercial Transportation										
Travel to Cameroon, February 18–22, 2019										
Chidi Blyden	2/20	2/21	Cameroon		645.38					645.38
Commercial airfare										
Mark Morehouse	2/20	2/21	Cameroon		645.38					645.38
Travel to Belgium, Germany, February 17–23, 2019										
Hon. Filemon Vela	2/17	2/20	Belgium		920.63					920.63
	2/20	2/23	Germany		1,587.82					1,587.82
Commercial Transportation										
Brian Garrett	2/19	2/20	Belgium		659.47					659.47
	2/20	2/23	Germany		1,587.82					1,587.82
Commercial airfare										
Travel to Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, March 14–25, 2019										
Hon. John Garamendi	3/15	3/18	Jordan		1,202.37					1,202.37
	3/18	3/19	Iraq		11.00					11.00
	3/19	3/21	Kuwait		847.56					847.56
Commercial airfare										
Hon. Debra Haaland	3/15	3/18	Jordan		1,202.37					1,202.37
	3/18	3/19	Iraq		11.00					11.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019—
Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial airfare	3/19	3/21	Kuwait		847.56						847.56
Hon. Veronica Escobar	3/15	3/18	Jordan		1,090.54		10,857.53				10,857.53
	3/18	3/19	Iraq		11.00						1,090.54
Commercial airfare							10,436.03				10,436.03
Brian Garrett	3/15	3/18	Jordan		1,202.37						1,202.37
	3/18	3/19	Iraq		11.00						11.00
Commercial airfare	3/19	3/21	Kuwait		847.56						847.56
Thomas Hawley	3/15	3/18	Jordan		1,202.37						1,202.37
	3/18	3/19	Iraq		11.00						11.00
Commercial airfare	3/19	3/21	Kuwait		847.56						847.56
Hon. Jonathan Lord	3/15	3/18	Jordan		1,202.37						1,202.37
	3/18	3/19	Iraq		11.00						11.00
Commercial airfare	3/19	3/21	Kuwait		847.56						847.56
Travel to Germany, March 13–22, 2019 with STAFFDEL Barker											10,857.53
Chidi Blyden	3/18	3/20	Germany		867.98		2,231.63				867.98
Commercial airfare											2,231.63
Mark Morehouse	3/18	3/20	Germany		867.98		2,231.63				867.98
Commercial airfare											2,231.63
Committee total					36,688.01		111,001.91				147,689.92

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ADAM SMITH, May 6, 2019.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Karen Bass**	2/8	2/11	Ethiopia		**		**		**		**
Hon. Brad Sherman**	2/8	2/11	Ethiopia		**		**		**		**
Hon. Ilhan Omar**	2/8	2/11	Ethiopia		**		**		**		**
Hon. Janette Yearwood**	2/8	2/11	Ethiopia		**		**		**		**
Hon. Karen Bass*	3/1	3/3	Ethiopia		788.96		8,442.03		734.28		9,965.27
Delegation expenses*	3/2	3/3	Eritrea		221.64				5,226.04		5,447.68
Janette Yearwood	3/1	3/3	Ethiopia		788.96		8,442.03				9,230.99
3/2	3/3	Eritrea			221.63						221.63
Hon. Ilhan Omar	3/1	3/1	Ethiopia		618.96		12,660.03				13,278.99
3/2	3/3	Eritrea			113.64						113.64
Hon. Tom Malinowski	2/14	2/17	Germany		760.59		(3)				760.59
Hon. Lee Zeldin	2/15	2/17	Germany		826.06		(3)				826.06
2/17	2/18	France			793.33		(3)				793.33
2/18	2/20	Cyprus			515.22		(3)				515.22
2/20	2/23	Austria			1,686.16		(3)				1,686.16
Mira Resnick	2/17	2/20	UAE		1,111.94		11,858.79				12,970.73
2/20	2/22	Saudi Arabia			968.57						968.57
Hon. Eliot Engel	3/28	2/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)		13,974.00		14,333.00
Delegation expenses*	3/29	3/31	El Salvador		533.00		(3)		2,310.28		2,843.28
Hon. Michael McCaul	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)		3,224.00		3,468.00
3/29	3/31	El Salvador			415.00		(3)				415.00
Hon. Adriano Espaillat	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
3/29	3/31	El Salvador			533.00		(3)				533.00
3/31	4/1	Mexico			244.00		(3)				244.00
Hon. John Curtis	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
3/29	3/31	El Salvador			533.00		(3)				533.00
3/31	4/1	Mexico			244.00		(3)				244.00
Eric Jacobstein	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
3/29	3/31	El Salvador			509.90		(3)				509.90
3/31	4/1	Mexico			244.00		(3)				244.00
Janice Kaguyutan	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
3/29	3/31	El Salvador			509.90		(3)				509.90
3/31	4/1	Mexico			244.00		(3)				244.00
Rachel Levitan	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
3/29	3/31	El Salvador			509.90		(3)				509.90
3/31	4/1	Mexico			244.00		(3)				244.00
Samantha Stiles	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
3/29	3/31	El Salvador			509.90		(3)				509.90
3/31	4/1	Mexico			244.00		(3)				244.00
Carlos Monje	3/28	3/29	Colombia		359.00		(3)				359.00
3/29	3/31	El Salvador			509.00		(3)				509.00
3/31	4/1	Mexico			244.00		(3)				244.00
Tim Mulvey*	3/16	3/18	UAE		828.76		4,716.53		167.73		5,713.02
Delegation expenses*	3/18	3/20	Kuwait		762.62				70.00		832.62
Peter Billerbeck	3/16	3/18	Czech Republic		721.00						721.00
3/18	3/20	Kuwait			762.82						762.82
3/20	3/22	Czech Republic			721.00						721.00
Ryan Doherty	3/16	3/18	UAE		828.85		4,716.53				5,545.38
3/18	3/20	Kuwait			762.54						762.54
3/20	3/22	Czech Republic			724.34						724.34
Lesley Warner	3/15	3/16	Switzerland		469.32		11,656.83				12,126.15
Delegation expenses*	3/16	3/17	Kenya		267.00				1,050.00		1,317.00
3/17	3/19	Somalia			132.00						132.00
3/19	3/20	Kenya			266.00						266.00
Delegation expenses*	3/20	3/22	Sudan		773.68						878.23
Committee total					28,010.85		65,676.60		26,860.88		120,548.33

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

* Indicates Delegation costs

** Indicates a cancelled mission

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL, May 2, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MARK TAKANO, May 6, 2019.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 2326. A bill to amend the Social Security Act, to amend the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012, and to direct the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, Labor, and Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, to take certain actions to improve transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who separate, retire, or are discharged from the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-73, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 2480. A bill to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-74). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1812. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to certain individuals; with an amendment (Rept. 116-75). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1947. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act; with amendments (Rept. 116-76). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 2340. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress notice of any suicide or attempted suicide of a veteran in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-77). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. LOWEY: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2839. A bill making appropriations for Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-78). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PERLMUTTER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 389. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1500) to require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to meet its statutory purpose, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes; pro-

viding for proceedings during the period from May 24, 2019, through May 31, 2019; and for other purposes (Rept. 116-79). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mrs. LOWEY: Committee on Appropriations. Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2020 (Rept. 116-80). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committees on Armed Services and Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2326 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee:

H.R. 2837. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, relating to sentencing of armed career criminals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 2838. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for projects to strengthen and protect vulnerable infrastructure used during mass evacuations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 2840. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain first responder survivors benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 2841. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to actions for patent infringement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CROW (for himself, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. DELAURIO):

H.R. 2842. A bill to prohibit any limitation on the entry of a Member of Congress to any facility for the detention of aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COHEN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr.

ESPAILLAT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RUSH, Mr. POCAN, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. TRONE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. JAYPAL, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. CRIST, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. CORREA, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SOTO, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. TED LIEU of California):

H.R. 2843. A bill to decriminalize marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 2844. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide funding, on a competitive basis, for summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth ages 14 through 24; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 2845. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the work opportunity credit for certain youth employees, and to extend empowerment zones; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MAST (for himself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BERGMAN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. KIND, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 2846. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit Members of Congress to use facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purposes of meeting with constituents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MITCHELL (for himself, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 2847. A bill to waive the fee for the issuance of a passport for a family member of a member of the Armed Forces who is in a hospital or medical facility abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Mr. COURNEY, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H.R. 2848. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 2849. A bill to permit law enforcement officers of the Department of the Treasury to carry service weapons to their place of residence while off duty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Mr. KATKOV):

H.R. 2850. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that healthy research dogs and cats are adopted into suitable homes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TRONE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 2851. A bill to provide safeguards with respect to the Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal background checks prepared for employment purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 2852. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to authorize State-licensed appraisers to conduct appraisals in connection with mortgages insured by the FHA and to require compliance with the existing appraiser education requirement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 2853. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require corporations to report disbursements made by foreign nationals for purposes of disseminating campaign-related public communications and to inquire whether persons providing such disbursements are foreign nationals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. McGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COHEN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. HAALAND, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN):

H.R. 2854. A bill to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to prohibit the use of neonicotinoids in a National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Ms. CHENEY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. GAETZ):

H. Res. 390. A resolution opposing the lifting of sanctions imposed with respect to Iran without addressing Iran's nuclear program, ballistic missile development, support for terrorism, and other destabilizing activities; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

54. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, relative to Senate Resolution 466, commending the 75th anniversary of the WWII Merrill's Marauders mission and urging the United States Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Merrill's Marauders; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services.

55. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, relative to Senate Resolution 276, urging Congress to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits for individuals living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

56. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, relative to Senate Resolution 114, urging Congress to pass funding legislation that will secure the southern border of the United States; which was referred jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary, Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, and Homeland Security.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. KING of Iowa introduced a bill (H.R. 2855) to deem the application submitted by Jaci Hermstad to the Food and Drug Administration for compassionate use of the gene therapy antisense oligonucleotides to be approved; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee:

H.R. 2837.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers and all powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 2838.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 2840.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 2841.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 2842.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. JEFFRIES:

H.R. 2843.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 2844.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 2845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 2846.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing Powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or officer thereof.

By Mr. MITCHELL:

H.R. 2847.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. NORCROSS:

H.R. 2848.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2849.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Miss RICE of New York:

H.R. 2850.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 2851.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 & Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 2852.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 2853.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4; Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2854.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 2855.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof".

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6: Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 95: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 120: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 200: Mr. WRIGHT.
 H.R. 216: Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BUDD, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mr. COLE.
 H.R. 218: Mr. NUNES, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WALKER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. STAUBER.
 H.R. 275: Ms. SLOTKIN.
 H.R. 336: Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. LOUDERMILK.
 H.R. 400: Mrs. BUSTOS.
 H.R. 436: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 500: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BACON, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
 H.R. 535: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
 H.R. 553: Mr. CORREA, Mr. BABIN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. NEAL.
 H.R. 555: Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mrs. LURIA, and Ms. HOULAHAN.
 H.R. 585: Mr. NEGUSE.
 H.R. 586: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ROUZER, and Ms. FOXX of North Carolina.
 H.R. 598: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. TRONE, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. GUEST.
 H.R. 621: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 647: Ms. PRESSLEY.
 H.R. 649: Ms. BASS.
 H.R. 651: Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 655: Ms. BASS.
 H.R. 661: Mr. BUDD.
 H.R. 683: Ms. BASS.
 H.R. 692: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
 H.R. 693: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HOYER, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. TRONE.
 H.R. 724: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. TRONE.
 H.R. 748: Mr. REED, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
 H.R. 753: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 763: Ms. ESCOBAR.
 H.R. 803: Mr. ALLEN, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. HILL of Arkansas.
 H.R. 864: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 913: Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 919: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
 H.R. 929: Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 935: Mr. RICHMOND and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 945: Mrs. HARTZLER and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 948: Mr. CLINE.
 H.R. 961: Mr. STEWART and Mr. TRONE.
 H.R. 963: Ms. OMAR.
 H.R. 985: Ms. SLOTKIN.
 H.R. 997: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
 H.R. 1024: Mr. DEFAZIO.
 H.R. 1042: Mr. TRONE.
 H.R. 1049: Mr. ROUDA and Mr. MARSHALL.
 H.R. 1055: Mrs. MCBAH.
 H.R. 1058: Mr. MALINOWSKI and Mrs. BEATTY.
 H.R. 1108: Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 1139: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mrs. LURIA.
 H.R. 1154: Mr. VARGAS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ADAMS, and Mrs. LURIA.
 H.R. 1155: Ms. GABBARD.
 H.R. 1163: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
 H.R. 1175: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. PERRY, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. TURNER, Mr. GIBBS, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. STANTON, Mr. WALKER, Mrs. LURIA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CASE, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 1179: Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H.R. 1217: Mr. WRIGHT.
 H.R. 1225: Mr. WILLIAMS and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 1230: Ms. NORTON, Ms. BASS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 1236: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 1305: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 1309: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. BASS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 1334: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 1335: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 1342: Mr. COURTNEY.
 H.R. 1349: Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 1374: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
 H.R. 1376: Mr. YOHO.
 H.R. 1380: Mr. TRONE.
 H.R. 1407: Mr. ROUDA, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Ms. TITUS.
 H.R. 1412: Mr. WRIGHT.
 H.R. 1423: Mr. STANTON and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 1424: Mr. MEADOWS.
 H.R. 1441: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
 H.R. 1456: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 1458: Ms. FINKENAUER.
 H.R. 1551: Ms. SPANBERGER.
 H.R. 1554: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. FOSTER.
 H.R. 1588: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 1605: Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
 H.R. 1607: Mr. CORREA.
 H.R. 1629: Mr. GUEST.
 H.R. 1695: Mr. WATKINS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. GABBARD, and Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 1709: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. ROUDA, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 1717: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 1730: Mr. GUEST, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. GOODEN, and Ms. BARRAGAN.
 H.R. 1733: Mr. ALLRED.
 H.R. 1749: Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 1753: Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. ROUZER, and Mrs. WAGNER.
 H.R. 1778: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
 H.R. 1781: Ms. SLOTKIN, Mrs. CRAIG, and Ms. SPANBERGER.
 H.R. 1786: Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 1812: Mr. DUNN.
 H.R. 1830: Mr. WALBERG, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 1850: Miss RICE of New York.
 H.R. 1863: Ms. HAALAND and Mr. LUCAS.
 H.R. 1903: Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. HARDER of California.
 H.R. 1911: Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 1923: Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MENG, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BLUNT, Mr. ROCHESTER, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BASS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
 H.R. 1928: Mr. WRIGHT.
 H.R. 1943: Ms. TITUS.
 H.R. 1959: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
 H.R. 1962: Mr. WATKINS.
 H.R. 1970: Mr. KING of Iowa.
 H.R. 1979: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 1989: Mr. WRIGHT.
 H.R. 2001: Mr. POSEY, Ms. WILD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BACON, and Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H.R. 2006: Mr. CUELLAR.
 H.R. 2010: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. RATCLIFFE.
 H.R. 2015: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H.R. 2046: Mr. ALLRED.
 H.R. 2051: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.
 H.R. 2056: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 2060: Mr. ROUZER.
 H.R. 2069: Ms. SLOTKIN and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 2074: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. SOTO.
 H.R. 2086: Mr. HUNTER.
 H.R. 2096: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. RUIZ.
 H.R. 2116: Mr. KIM, Mr. KIND, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. CASE, and Ms. BASS.
 H.R. 2140: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 2148: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 2149: Mr. CUELLAR.
 H.R. 2151: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 2161: Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 2169: Ms. PRESSLEY.
 H.R. 2218: Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 2266: Mr. RATCLIFFE and Mr. LOUDERMILK.
 H.R. 2314: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 2315: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 2326: Mr. WATKINS, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 2329: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 2336: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 2340: Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 2343: Mrs. LURIA.
 H.R. 2349: Ms. PRESSLEY.
 H.R. 2354: Mr. LUJAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 2381: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
 H.R. 2382: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. KATKO.
 H.R. 2388: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
 H.R. 2408: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
 H.R. 2424: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 2430: Mr. KENNEDY and Ms. HAALAND.
 H.R. 2433: Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 2435: Mr. WELCH, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
 H.R. 2441: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 2442: Ms. SHALALA.
 H.R. 2443: Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GOODEN, and Mr. CRAWFORD.
 H.R. 2445: Mr. BUDD.
 H.R. 2453: Mr. DUFFY.
 H.R. 2460: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
 H.R. 2473: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. NETTA.
 H.R. 2480: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. FINKENAUER, and Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 2481: Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. BEYER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. BUSTOS,

Mr. ESTES, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. BASS, and Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 2482: Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. WILD, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. KIM, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 2489: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 2493: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 2508: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 2509: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 2513: Mr. BEYER and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 2517: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 2557: Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 2576: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 2577: Ms. NORTON, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 2585: Mr. Sires.

H.R. 2602: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 2635: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 2646: Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 2662: Ms. PRESSLEY and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 2679: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 2720: Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 2729: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 2741: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 2742: Mr. BANKS.

H.R. 2765: Mr. HURD of Texas.

H.R. 2771: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 2775: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WILD, Mr. WELCH, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CRIST, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MENG, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. PORTER, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. OMAR, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RYAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 2776: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2777: Ms. MOORE and Mr. VELA.

H.R. 2785: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2803: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2806: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2809: Mr. POCAN, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2810: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CRIST, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.J. Res. 4: Mr. WALTZ.

H.Res. 60: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.Res. 106: Mr. KING of New York.

H.Res. 114: Mr. NORMAN and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.Res. 134: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.Res. 163: Mr. COHEN.

H.Res. 189: Mr. KING of Iowa and Mr. YOUNG.

H. Res. 231: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H. Res. 255: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H. Res. 285: Mr. COHEN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MAST, Mr. KINZINGER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. CASE, Mr. BUCK, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H. Res. 325: Mr. POCAN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. CRAIG, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H. Res. 337: Mr. TRONE.

H. Res. 338: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H. Res. 373: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 383: Mr. O'HALLERAN.

H. Res. 384: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XIII,

19. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, Texas, relative to urging Congress to refrain from enacting any legislation which would repeal existing Federal law that presently requires persons from outside of the United States, and who are not American citizens, to undergo formal procedures to be lawfully present in the United States for purposes of temporary employment, to attend an educational institution, to become a legal permanent resident, or to become a naturalized U.S. citizen; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.



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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.

Eternal King, unto whom all hearts are open, come to us in the purity of Your presence, and make us what we ought to be.

Guide our lawmakers. Show them what needs to be changed, and give them the courage and wisdom to make the appropriate adjustments. Lord, in all their labors, help them to yield themselves to Your will so that this legislative branch may fulfill Your purposes for humanity. Quicken their thinking and reinforce their judgment until their decisions bring glory to Your Name. May Your grace be sufficient for all their needs.

We pray in Your wonderful 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The majority leader is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. McCONNELL and Mr. KAINA pertaining to the introduction of S. 1541 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

With that, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak about two different subjects. One of them will be just 1 minute, and that deals with the fact that May is National Foster Care Month. I want to mention a couple of things about foster care because of my work in that area for the last 25 years.

I have often heard from young people that they wish someone had helped their parents so that they could have stayed together as a family. We can work in Congress to improve the foster care system, but, ultimately, kids need a family.

That is why I was proud to support the Family First Prevention Services Act. This bill will help families to stay together by funding proven services and support for parents. As the implementation process continues on this new piece of legislation, I will work to ensure that this legislation succeeds for families across the country, because for two-and-a-half decades I have been hearing from these young people in foster care: I would like to have a home, and I would like to have a mom and dad.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, besides May being National Foster Care

Month, it is also Mental Health Awareness Month. This month of May gives us an opportunity to increase public awareness about the challenges faced by those struggling with mental illness. It also encourages us to consider reforms to policies that affect these individuals as well as their friends and family members.

Almost one in five adults in the United States copes with mental illness in any given year, and roughly 20 million Americans struggle with substance abuse disorder, and less than half will get the treatment that they need.

In the 114th Congress, the previous one, I cosponsored and led the Judiciary Committee in approving legislation to update and extend the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act. Up to half of our Nation's prison population may suffer from mental illness. Jails and prisons hold 10 times as many people with mental illness than hospitals do, according to the National Sheriffs' Association.

In the 115th Congress, I introduced and led the Senate in adopting reforms to tackle substance abuse, mental health, and other issues that may drive children and teenagers into the juvenile justice system. These reforms, which recently were enacted as part of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, encourages States to devote Federal grants to improving treatment of juvenile offenders with mental illness and substance abuse. The enactment of these two measures is very important, but even saying that, we still have lots of work to do in the area of substance abuse and mental illness.

First, lack of mental health resources poses a huge challenge. Now I am chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. I intend to be committed to this area and explore new options for increasing access to quality mental healthcare.

Second, we still have a long way to go to promote parity in mental health

- This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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and substance abuse treatment. I am committed to building upon existing efforts and finding new ways to end the stigma attached to mental health diseases.

Third, experts tell us that it is important to standardize care for behavioral health and addiction medicines.

Fourth, we may need to equip doctors with more tools to respond to the opioid epidemic that has gripped the Nation and takes the lives of 130 Americans every day. For example, Federal regulations prevent a patient's doctor from reviewing that patient's substance abuse records. This policy is intended, appropriately, to protect patient privacy, and that is a very important goal, but if it hinders coordination of care, we may have reasons to be concerned. In some cases, doctors must have access to a patient's entire medical history in order to adequately recognize, respond to, and treat the symptoms of addiction.

I hope my colleagues in the Senate will join me in identifying bipartisan solutions to these issues. Doing so will help to improve the lives of many Americans who struggle with mental health and substance abuse disorders.

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. 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.

S. 820

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, one of the favorite parts of my job is welcoming Texans to Washington to talk about issues that they care passionately about. Something I have noticed, though, is that it doesn't matter if they are here to talk about healthcare, taxes, infrastructure, or fever ticks. The same question always seems to come up. They say: Judging by what I see in the news, it looks like nothing ever gets done around here; is that true?

I always remind them that compromise and agreement is not exactly clickbait. So while some of the bills we are working on may not consume Twitter feeds, there is a lot of great work being done here on a daily basis.

One example of that great work came last Thursday when the Senate passed the Debbie Smith Act of 2019, a major bipartisan achievement that would support victims of sexual assault across the country.

I would be negligent if I didn't acknowledge the Presiding Officer's contribution to that great effort in the Senate Judiciary Committee, for which I am grateful.

The namesake of this bill is an incredibly brave woman whom I have had the pleasure of getting to know over

the years, and I admire her tremendously. Debbie Smith is a fierce advocate for survivors of sexual assault and a champion for victims' rights, and she has become one of the most prominent voices in the fight to eliminate the rape kit backlog.

Sadly, Debbie's advocacy was born from a personal tragedy. In 1989, she was at home doing laundry when a stranger broke into her home. He blindfolded her, abducted her, and took her to a wooded area behind her home where he robbed and repeatedly raped her.

She reported the crime to the police and went to the emergency room for a forensic exam, but as days, months, and years passed, no answers came. She anxiously waited for her attacker to be identified and brought to justice, but it would end up being years before she saw that justice being done. Like millions of others across the country, Debbie's case became part of the long list of those frozen in time because of the debilitating rape kit backlog.

Though exact numbers are difficult to estimate, some experts estimate that hundreds of thousands of rape kits remain untested in the United States—a fact that should upset each and every one of us. Each of those untested rape kits represents a victim who is waiting for answers, who has to wonder each day who their attacker was, when will they show up again, and where are they now. Each piece of DNA evidence holds the key to apprehending a violent criminal and finally providing victims with some peace of mind.

For Debbie, it took 6½ years before the identity of her attacker was discovered. She has made it her mission in life to ensure that no other woman has to agonize for that long. The Debbie Smith Act was originally signed into law in 2004 to provide State and local crime labs the resources they need to end the backlog of these unsolved crimes. Because of Debbie Smith and the Debbie Smith Act, more than 860,000 DNA cases have been processed and 360,000 DNA profiles have been uploaded into the FBI's database. This accounts for 43 percent of all forensic profiles in the FBI's database.

While the original purpose for this legislation was to reduce the rape kit backlog, this DNA evidence can help to identify and to convict people who commit other types of crimes and to take more criminals off the street. By the way, we should note that if somebody has been falsely accused, this DNA evidence can exclude them as a potential perpetrator of a crime. It really works to benefit those falsely accused as well.

All in all, more than \$1 billion has been provided to forensic labs because of this law. The legislation passed by the Senate last week will provide even greater resources for this vital program.

The Debbie Smith Act of 2019 will reauthorize the important funding that supports testing DNA evidence so we

can eliminate the rape kit backlog in the future and someday ensure that it will not grow again.

This reauthorization also reauthorizes important training for law enforcement, correctional personnel, forensic nurses, and other professionals who assist victims of sexual assault. This bill is not controversial, not partisan, and not divisive. In fact, not a single Senator voted against it. It is exactly the type of legislation that should get more attention here in Washington.

I thank Senator FEINSTEIN of California, who cosponsored this bill, for working with me to get it over this first hurdle. I now hope that the House of Representatives will take up the Debbie Smith Act so we can get the legislation to the President's desk to provide even more victims with answers and, hopefully, some peace of mind.

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. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SETH PRINGLE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a member of my staff, Seth Pringle, who has dedicated his life to serving his country and the people of Ohio. Not only does Seth serve the people of Ohio each day on our staff, helping Ohio servicemembers and veterans, but he also serves in uniform himself as a member of the Army National Guard.

This past week was his last in our office for a year. He is heading out soon to deploy with his unit to defend our country overseas.

Seth earned both a master's and a bachelor's degree from Kent State University. He didn't stop there. He is currently pursuing a master's in national security from the University of Akron while also working for our State and serving his country.

Seth has worked in our office since 2015. He joined our team as an intern in the Cleveland office. He impressed all of us. He was hired first part time and then as a full-time staff member, serving as a constituent advocate on veterans and military issues.

Seth has helped hundreds of Ohio servicemembers and veterans navigate the military and the VA's bureaucracy so that they can receive the medals and timely medical care and benefits they earn.

About a year and a half ago, I joined Seth and members in the community in Cleveland to present long-overdue medals to George Burress, a Vietnam veteran who served as an Army infantryman and earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, as well as five other

well-deserved honors. Mr. Burress had never received those medals due to a paperwork error. Because of Seth's work, we were finally able to present this Ohio veteran with the honors he had earned for serving our country.

There are so many stories like that one of American heroes finally receiving the honors and the Federal benefits they have earned. So many of those stories are because of Seth's hard work.

Seth Pringle does so much for the people of Ohio, and at the end of the week, when others might look forward to a relaxing weekend with friends and family, Seth often is headed out for drill with his unit.

Now Seth's unit is deploying. While we will miss his expertise, his dedication, and his unique perspective in the office this year, we are so grateful for his service to our country.

On behalf of everyone in my office and on behalf of Ohio's 12 million citizens, we wish Seth Pringle well in his tour overseas—and all of his unit, of course. We thank him for his sacrifice and his service.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING DAVID MILES KNIGHT AND BERNER RICHARD JOHNSON III

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we have two bits of sad news about long-time Senate employees.

David Miles Knight, a beloved barber in our barbershop and one of the Senate's master barbers for the last 36 years, lost a lengthy battle with cancer.

His most noticeable and notable trait was kindness—not just friendliness but actual kindness—and a generosity of spirit. He was always eager to ask about a customer's day or a colleague's weekend and was just as eager to regale those folks with stories about his family—of Joanne, his wife; of his three sons; of his eight grandchildren; and of his two great-grandchildren. Dave's life was filled with these people—his friends and his family.

I offer my prayers to them now—to Dave's family, his friends, and his Senate family. He was considered a member of the Senate family and had been here for decades. He was beloved. We miss him.

Berner Richard Johnson III, a staff member for 30 years, known to all here

as "Bud," also passed away last night. He was a victim of a violent crime last week in DC and recently succumbed to the injuries this crime involved.

Bud was beloved by his Senate family, the softball team he coached, and his many friends and family. I offer my prayers for Diane, his partner; for Bo, his son; and for all who loved him and who will miss him.

May the memory of these two men be a blessing to their loved ones and a reminder to all of us that life is fleeting and to hold tight to those we love.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on disaster relief, millions of Americans have waited long enough for their government to provide relief in the wake of recent natural disasters. We have 1 week left in this work period. This is crunch time. It will be an awful conclusion to this work period if we leave without passing a relief package. We must focus on concluding our negotiations and reaching consensus on our final legislation.

That is why I am alarmed by rumors that the Republican majority may attach a simple extension of the Violence Against Women Act to the disaster bill rather than to the new reform bill that was passed by a huge bipartisan majority in the House. That is a formula for deadlock when we pass it here and send it to the House, but they will not vote for it.

Why do we have to load up the disaster bill with extraneous provisions, especially those that might bring conflict?

We must be very careful not to allow this and other extraneous provisions to get on the bill that have opposition from Members. It would only imperil the success of bipartisan disaster relief. We have come to a conclusion on Puerto Rico, and I am glad our Republican friends have finally seen the light and have not treated Puerto Rico unfairly so that we can move forward with all disaster relief.

The President sent over a proposal on the border, and we have sent back a counter proposal with many of the things—but not all—that he included. Some are objectionable. That is extraneous, but we might be able to come to an agreement on that.

These other extraneous provisions? Our Republican leader has said that he wants to get this done Thursday. Well, a surefire way of not doing it is jamming the House, filling it up with provisions that would not pass the House.

So let's all roll up our sleeves, get to work, refrain from our desires to put other things on this must-pass bill, and get disaster relief done. We Democrats will work in good faith to resolve all the remaining issues. But before the week is out, let's get a bill we can vote on. Let's deliver relief to disaster-stricken Americans and put an end to what has been a needlessly partisan episode.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on women's health and a woman's right to choose and the judges we are appointing, the past week marked a low point for our country on the issue of women's reproductive rights.

While an overwhelming majority of Americans want to keep Roe v. Wade, a total of 30 States have now sought to restrict the rights of women to make their own healthcare decisions, and some would either directly or virtually undo the Roe v. Wade decision. Alabama's Republicans have passed the most extreme example—that is the one I was talking about—but Republicans in Missouri and Texas are not far behind. And this is not merely a few fringe politicians making a statement way out of the mainstream; this is a systematic effort by Republicans in State legislatures to restrict women's reproductive rights and ultimately overturn Roe v. Wade, even though the vast majority of Americans don't want that to happen.

Meanwhile, here in the Senate, Leader McCONNELL has lined up a conveyor belt of far-right judges who have reprehensible records on women's rights.

Last week, the Republican majority considered a judge, Kenneth Lee of California. Here is what he said about sexism. He said it is "irrelevant pouting." Tell that to women who have been discriminated against in so many different ways that we read about. How about Ms. Wendy Vitter? All of our Republican friends voted to put this woman on the bench. She once promoted the idea that contraceptives cause cancer and claimed that Planned Parenthood kills 150,000 women a year. Both were confirmed to lifetime appointments. It is incredible. These are people way on the extreme—way on the extreme.

And here comes another one. The Senate is voting on yet another judge with a horrendous record on women's rights—Mr. Daniel Collins, nominated to the Ninth Circuit over the objection of both of his home State Senators. He has defended the rights of pregnancy clinics to withhold from their patients that they don't provide abortion services and filed an amicus brief in support of the Hobby Lobby's petition to deny its female employees contraceptive care. He is a longtime donor and member of the Federalist Society, and he has ensconced himself in one of the most anti-choice organizations in the entire country. Let's make no mistake about it—to read some of the articles about the Federalist Society, it was formed with the goal of curtailing women's rights. Many of its advocates believe that Roe v. Wade should be repealed.

Let me just call out my friends on the Republican side. When the Alabama law came about, the vast majority of my friends on the other side stayed silent about the extreme anti-abortion measure in Alabama and some of the other States, and then some

said: We oppose what Alabama does. At the same time, they are rubberstamping judges who would do the same thing—repeal Roe. There is a direct contradiction here. There is hypocrisy. Republicans who say they don't like the Alabama decision and then vote for judges who would ratify and repeal Roe or cut back so dramatically on Roe that it hardly exists are engaged in subterfuge. They say: Watch this hand. I am saying that I am not that extreme. Don't watch this hand where I am putting extreme judges on the bench who will do exactly what I say I am opposed to.

It is outrageous. They will be caught. It is outrageous that they are on the bench.

CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on Huawei, there is positive news about an administrative action. I am in full support of what the Commerce Department did on Huawei, and I want to give a shout-out to Google for joining in and urge all other American companies to join as well. The administration issued an Executive order laying the groundwork to ban the purchase of telecommunications equipment from China's state-controlled firms. The decision, as I said, is having an impact because of Google. We are waiting for other companies to join in.

For years, China has prevented great American technology companies like Google, Facebook, and so many others from operating in China. They put barrier after barrier in the way because we are better, and they know American firms would capture the Chinese market. They put barriers in the way, they steal our technology and then develop it, and then even try to sell it back here. It has happened with computers. It has happened with so many other things that America and American know-how developed.

Huawei is a national security concern. It is a Chinese company that could pry into all of us. But it is also an excellent weapon to get China to finally start treating us fairly, which they haven't done for 30 years. We have lost tens of millions of good-paying American jobs and trillions of dollars because of what China has done to us. I have to say that both Democratic and Republican administrations in the past just sat there under some guise of free trade, which wasn't free or fair at all. And now we have some weapons.

A lot of these folks—these pundits, these critics, these editorial writers—say tariffs is the wrong way to go. Talking is the wrong way to go. It got us nowhere. But one other way to go is reciprocity.

China, we are going to treat some of your companies the way you treat our companies.

That is what we did with Huawei. It was the first time I have seen something very strong. I hope the President doesn't back off. He did with ZTE be-

cause President Xi asked him to. The head of China asked him to.

Don't back off, Mr. President.

This is the right thing to do, and I have been advocating for decades. I asked President Bush and President Obama to use reciprocity as a tool to stop China. It is another tool in our toolkit and an effective one.

If China won't let our most productive companies compete in its markets, we shouldn't let China's state-driven companies compete in ours. They get subsidies from the state.

We should not give Huawei—particularly Huawei, which is a security concern as well—free reign in the United States. China has to learn something. It has to open up its markets if it wants access to ours. They talk about, oh, we are an affront to China because we are asking for fairness? Give me a break. Give me a break. We know what fairness is.

I believe the administration's decision to put pressure on China to reform its economic policies was very smart, and I am really glad they did it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAN

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I rise to address the Chamber on an issue that is an issue of significant challenge and controversy now, and that is the escalating tensions between the United States and Iran. I want to make a couple of points, but let me summarize the points as I then address the current challenge.

First, I think it would be absolute lunacy for the United States to get involved in another war right now in the Middle East. I think it would be devastating if we were to be in a war with Iran. In particular, it would be not only devastating but also, in my view, unconstitutional for us to be in a war with Iran at a President's say-so if the President were unwilling to have Congress have the debate, pursuant to our article I war powers in this Chamber and in the Chambers of the House of Representatives.

If this body has a considered debate in view of the American public and determines that we need to be in a war with Iran—or anyone, for that matter—however I vote is irrelevant. The vote of the body would be the vote that would express a political consensus about what America should do. But if the Chamber is unwilling to have that debate or a vote or if the President is unwilling to come to Congress so that the debate can be had in front of the American public, that should tell us

something. If we are not willing to have the vote or if the President doesn't want to bring it to Congress, that should suggest that maybe it is not a good idea.

That is the theme of what I want to talk about today. Why are we in a time of escalated tension between the United States and Iran? There are a number of reasons, but, bluntly, I believe the path to the current level of tension began when President Trump unilaterally walked out of a diplomatic deal.

I think our country should always prefer diplomacy to war. A President backing out of a diplomatic deal that our allies, our security officials, and the International Atomic Energy Agency said was working, in my view, was a horrible mistake.

There is a story I have told before in the Chamber, and it is a story I love. It is about one of my two favorite Presidents. One of my favorite Presidents is a Republican, Abraham Lincoln, and my other favorite President is Harry Truman. This is a Truman story.

After World War II, at one point, President Truman invited the press corps into his office, the Oval Office, and said: I have made an interesting decision today.

They wondered what the decision was. President Truman showed them that he had redesigned the seal of the Presidency of the United States.

The seal of the President was very similar to our Nation's seal of an eagle clutching the arrows of war in one claw and the olive branch of peace in the other claw. Prior to the Truman administration, the eagle's face had been turned toward the arrows of war. In the aftermath of World War II, when the United States was trying to exercise the role of not just military victor but now of a great peacemaker by forming the United Nations and other institutions to ensure that the carnage of World War II wouldn't be repeated, Harry Truman said: We should redesign the seal of the Presidency so that the United States is represented by an eagle whose face is looking toward the olive branches of peace.

We would always prefer peace. We would always prefer diplomacy. The arrows of war are still grasped in the eagle's claw. We are a nation of might, and we will use that might if we need it. But let no one in the world doubt what the preference of the United States is; that is, diplomacy and peace if that is possible and if that is honorable.

You can walk around the Senate Chamber, you can walk around the Capitol, and you can actually see both versions of the seal. You can still find some in the Capitol that were created before Harry Truman was President where you will still see the eagle's face directed toward the arrows. Many of them have been changed in subsequent years. It is interesting trivia—like a treasure hunt contest—for our pages and others. You can still find the old version.

I think we can all resonate with Harry Truman, a World War I vet and the guy who presided over the end of America's victory in World War II. He is somebody who certainly knew war and who certainly understood the role of American military strength in the world, but he said this Nation should be a nation always known as a nation willing to pursue and committed to pursuing diplomacy and peace first, with war as a last resort.

I believe firmly in that as my job description in the U.S. Senate. I am a member of the Armed Services Committee, and I am a member of the Foreign Relations Committee—war and diplomacy. I am a Senator from a very military State. I have a child in the U.S. military. I think my job in this body and my job as a member of those two committees is first to reduce the risk of unnecessary war.

A lot of wars are unnecessary. A lot of wars are created by provocations and miscommunications and then escalations based upon a misunderstanding of provocations and miscommunications. Then you find yourself in catastrophic wars that maybe nobody really designed them to be. That is how a lot of wars start. We should reduce the risk of unnecessary war. Diplomacy is how we do that. Then, obviously, we need to be patriotic and strong. We need to raise the likelihood of winning a war we need to be in.

We do not need to be in another war in the Middle East. We do not need to be in a war with Iran. The relationship between the United States and Iran was a very positive relationship for many, many years. It was also connected to a lot of controversy.

The United States, including the Central Intelligence Agency, backed a coup to depose a democratically elected Prime Minister of Iran in the 1950s, and the subsequent leader, the Shah of Iran, was a close ally of the United States.

In 1979, the people of Iran rose up to depose the Shah of Iran. Not surprisingly, with the United States having supported the Shah and having supported the coup that led to the Shah, that put the U.S.-Iran relationship in a very different place. That tearing of the relationship was obviously dramatically enhanced when the Iranian regime, the revolutionary regime, took U.S. Embassy personnel hostage in 1979. So from 1979, for 35 or 40 years, the nations had no essential contact.

We provided massive support for the nation of Iraq in the late 1980s and the early 1990s as they engaged in a war with Iran. That is known by the Iranian people.

Yet, even with the challenges of our government, the relationship between the United States and the Iranian people has maintained. Iranians study in the United States. Over the years, more members of the Iranian Cabinet have had Ph.D.s from American universities than members of the American

Cabinet. It is kind of quirky. One of the nations that we view as one of our key adversaries in the world—it has been very, very common for their governmental leaders, including their Foreign Minister, to have studied and gotten degrees in the United States.

But the relationship was characterized on both sides by a great deal of distrust, with a lot of legitimate reason for distrust. On the U.S. side, they say: You took our Embassy. You took our personnel hostage.

During the Iraq war, Iranian militia units were often providing materials and IEDs that were being used against American troops. Hundreds—thousands of American troops were killed or injured by materials that came from Iran. So we have deep distrust for Iran for very legitimate reasons.

On the Iranian side, they say: You deposed our Prime Minister in 1954. You propped up a dictator over us. You supported Iraq in a war that cost us hundreds of thousands of lives.

They have a deep distrust of the United States.

How do you work through distrust? In a personal relationship and in a relationship with a nation, you cannot solve distrust overnight. You never can. You have to work through it patiently and slowly.

When President Obama announced that he was opening up a discussion with Iran about a diplomatic deal to limit their nuclear weapons program, there was very little reason to suggest that a deal might be found. Iran was pursuing a nuclear weapons program. The U.S. Congress, in a bipartisan way—and I have been a supporter of these—had sanctioned Iran for its activities in trying to seek nuclear weapons—activities that were not only dangerous in the region and the world but also would have violated a number of key U.N. provisions affecting Iran or generally applying to all nations.

In a powerful speech to the United Nations in 2011—in some ways, I think it is the best speech that has ever been given about the Iranian challenge. Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu of Israel—it was a famous speech because he drew a picture of a bomb that looked like the Wile E. Coyote bomb in the Road Runner cartoons. That got the attention, but his words were really powerful. He thanked the General Assembly of the United Nations in the speech because the nations of the U.N. had joined together in a sanctions regime that was putting tough pressure on Iran. The Prime Minister thanked the General Assembly and said: Thank you for joining in these sanctions, but we have to be honest. The sanctions are hurting Iran's economy, but they are not slowing down Iran's nuclear program.

To some degree, if you use pressure of that kind, a nation or a person is likely to say: If you are pressuring, I have to stand up against you.

So the Iranian economy was suffering, but the nuclear program was ac-

tually accelerating. Iran was building a facility that enriched plutonium and was dramatically enriching plutonium at higher and higher levels that would be the equivalent of weapons-grade uranium. They were getting closer and closer to having nuclear weapons.

That would have posed an existential choice of war or accepting a nuclear Iran. Accepting a nuclear Iran would have also meant accepting an arms race with other nations in the Middle East—an arms race that we viewed as untenable. So the Obama administration said: We will talk. We will see if we can find a diplomatic deal. That doesn't mean that we approve of Iran or that we approve of Iran's behavior, but we believe it is in the interest of the region, our country, and the world if we could limit Iran's nuclear ambitions.

From 2013 until 2015—2 years of negotiation, in my view, produced a very solid agreement, a diplomatic agreement with an adversary. It didn't turn the adversary into an ally, just as our negotiations with the Soviet Union in the 1950s and 1960s over nuclear treaties didn't turn an adversary into an ally, but it effectively controlled the Iranian nuclear weapons program. It limited the amount of enriched uranium. It limited the percentage of enrichment to far below weapons-grade. It shut off plutonium production in Iran. It especially allowed intrusive inspections into Iran so we could decide whether they were cheating—intrusive inspections that even gave us intel so that if they ever cheated, we would know where nuclear assets would be if we needed to take action to take them out of commission.

The deal that was struck by the Obama administration with Iran was a deal that basically had intensive requirements on both parties, the United States and Iran, for 8 years. In kind of a testing arrangement, every year they would say: Did you meet your obligation? I don't trust you for anything, but did you meet your obligation? And they would ask us the same question.

That is the way you work out of distrust. You can't work out of it immediately; you work out of it patiently—well, we don't like what you are doing, but you actually stuck with the agreement in year 1. Now let's see about year 2.

The idea was that by the eighth year, we could know enough to know whether the United States could back away from the sanctions regime, and we would know enough to know whether Iran would permanently embrace the intrusive inspection provisions of a nuclear nonproliferation treaty that the IAEA has developed for all nations—including an additional protocol developed after North Korea cheated—to make the inspections really intrusive so you could catch cheating if it happens.

That would be the first 8 years, and then there would be a continuation of additional requirements on Iran for

years 8 to 15 and then somewhat of a stepdown from years 15 to 25. But then, after year 25, what would remain would still be a permanent Iranian agreement to follow the inspection requirements of the IAEA, including the additional protocol and the commitment that was in the first sentence of the first paragraph of the first page of the agreement Iran committed to: We will never seek to purchase, acquire, or develop nuclear weapons, period. That was the first sentence. That was the first paragraph. That was the opening phrase of the agreement Iran reaffirmed, that its commitment would be to never seek to purchase or acquire nuclear weapons.

When President Trump came into office in January 2017, Iran was complying with the agreement. That was the position of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has a high record of getting these things right.

In 2002, the IAEA told us that Iraq didn't have nuclear weapons. We went to war to stop their nuclear weapons program, saying that the IAEA was wrong. The IAEA was right, and we blundered into an unnecessary war then, at massive cost to the United States in life and treasure and at massive cost to Iraq as well.

When President Trump came in, the IAEA said that Iran was complying with the deal. Our allies—Britain, France, and Germany, which helped us negotiate the deal—said that Iran was complying with the deal.

I am on the Foreign Relations Committee, and I visit with leaders of foreign countries. I visit with our allies in the Middle East. While the political leaders might say one thing, if you met with armed services members or intel members in Israel, Jordan, and other nations, they would say Iran is complying with the deal.

President Trump's own Secretary of Defense, Jim Mattis—"Mad Dog", Mattis; he is called Mad Dog because he was perceived to be a hawk on Iran—testified before the Armed Services Committee: Iran is complying with the deal. It is in the interest of the United States to stay in the deal.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Joe Dunford—a marine general who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs under President Obama and President Trump—testified to the Armed Services Committee: Iran is complying with the deal. It is in the interest of the United States to stay in the deal.

President Trump's first Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, said: Iran is complying with the deal. It is in our interest to stay in.

Dan Coats, the current Director of National Intelligence, said Iran is complying with the deal.

Our allies, the IAEA, and President Trump's own national security team said Iran is complying with the deal.

But a year ago, President Trump said: It is going to be the United States that will renege—not the adversary that will back out, not a bad nation that will turn away from a diplomatic

deal; it will be the United States that will back away from a diplomatic deal that has effectively limited Iran's program.

I am not aware of an instance in the history of this country where it has been the United States that made a unilateral decision to break a diplomatic deal. Our allies begged us not to do this. The national security team recommended that the President not do this, but the President broke the diplomatic deal. And guess what. If you break a diplomatic deal, you raise the risk of unnecessary war.

I wrote a piece in the Atlantic in July of 2018 urging the President not to blunder us into a war. I cited this very fact. Once you have broken the deal, you raise the risk of war, and this President has in breaking the deal. Now we are at a point of escalation with Iran. They look at the United States' breaking the deal. They look at sanctions that the United States has imposed. They are preparing for potential invasion by the United States, and, yes, they are also pushing back. They are engaged in activities in the region, as they were before.

We will have a briefing tomorrow in the SCIF. We are going to hear about what Iran is doing. As we are getting that briefing, we need to ask: Well, what do they think the United States is doing? It wasn't Iran that broke the deal. It was the United States. It is not Iran that is imposing sanctions. It is the United States.

What we need now is cooler heads that will help us understand the American commitment to diplomacy. That word still needs to be put at the forefront. Sadly, the advisers—the trusted advisers, the advisers of great background and judgment who advised the President not to back out of the deal—have all been fired or forced to resign. Secretary Mattis, Secretary Tillerson, and General McMaster, the National Security Advisor, had the same position about the deal. Two of the key officials in the Trump administration—the second Secretary of State, Pompeo, and the third National Security Advisor, John Bolton, individuals whom I applaud for their public service record—have had a long track record of, before being in these positions, encouraging war with Iran and of encouraging regime change with Iran.

I was asked last week: Why are the tensions with Iran now so palpable? Why does it seem like we may be on the brink of war?

I said: There are two reasons. The first reason is that the President tore up a diplomatic deal that was working, and the second reason is that the President replaced sober-minded, careful national security professionals with people who have a long track record of publicly encouraging both regime change in Iran and military action against Iran. There should be no surprise that we are where we are right now.

What do we need to do? What do we need to do as a nation, but especially what do we need to do in this body?

As a nation, I think I know what the perspective of Virginians is, and I would be amazed if that perspective were so different than that of Americans. It would be very foolish to get into another war right now. There have been 18 years of war in the Middle East since 9/11. That war has multiplied into many different countries and against many different organizations. As for the idea of another war in the Middle East right now, when the President and his team suggested in the last 10 days that war plans have been drawn up directed by NSA Bolton—they have been drawn up to call potentially for the deployment of 125,000 American troops into the region—I know how that made Virginians feel. Virginia families who have had their loved ones deployed not once or twice but sometimes four or five or six times, when they hear the President's team talking about such a potential deployment, it is enormously frightening to them—enormously frightening to them. When Virginians who have kids or spouses in the military hear Members of Congress suggesting that a war against Iran would be easy, it is enormously frightening to them—enormously frightening to them.

So what do I hope will happen? I hope that knowing what the Nation would think about it, I hope that what will happen is that Congress will do what we are supposed to do as the article I branch. The Framers of the Constitution were so clear about this. The Constitution is filled with clear provisions: The President has to be 35 years old. And it has vague provisions: You can't have unreasonable searches and seizures. What does "unreasonable" mean?

But on the spectrum of clear to ambiguous provisions, the war making powers are pretty clear. It is Congress that declares war, not the President. It is Congress. A President can defend the Nation against imminent attack without asking Congress for permission. That is clear in the Constitution, but as for the initiation of war, it is not for a President to say it and start it. It is not for a President to, by a series of provocations, blunder us down the path where war becomes inevitable.

It is for Congress, having a debate in this Chamber and the House—a debate that can be witnessed by the American public, a debate that will educate the American public about what the stakes are, a debate that has to be finished with a vote where every Member of Congress has to go on the board with the courage of their convictions and the backbone to vote yes or no. That is what is supposed to precede going to war.

I hope, in this time of escalation, that what we might do as a Congress is, a, recommit to the virtues of diplomacy and vow again not to be the party that blows up diplomatic deals

and walks away when other nations are at the table wanting to pursue peaceful diplomacy. And, second, if we are to be in a war, I would hope that this body would jealously guard that prerogative and want to have that debate here on the floor.

There are members of this body that feel very differently about what I have just stated and the points that I have made, and we ought to have that debate here on the floor, not in dueling press conferences or dueling appearances on cable shows. We should be having that debate here on the floor.

So, as I conclude, I pray that the escalation of tensions that we have seen, the discussions of deploying 120,000 troops in the Middle East, may be abating a bit. I pray that we will ask tough questions. We have our briefing tomorrow at the all-Senate briefing on this important matter.

I hope that as we enter into a discussion, in the Armed Services Committee first and then on the floor of the body, about the National Defense Authorization Act, that this would be a perfect opportunity for us to kind of talk about the equities, the pluses and minuses, what is at stake, and what we might do.

I will also just say, as a last point, that we now know how to have that debate on the floor. If the President wants to start a war without us—and, make no mistake, none of the existing authorizations from 2001 or 2002 would authorize military action against Iran. Not a single person here voting to go to war against the perpetrators of the 9/11 attack intended that to be used as an authorization to wage war against the nation of Iran. If the President decides to go to war against Iran without us, we now have a vehicle—a war powers resolution vehicle that we just recently used in connection with U.S. support for the Saudi “misprosecution” of the civil war in Yemen. We now have an opportunity to force a vote. If the President gets us into hostilities that are not authorized by Congress, we have the opportunity—and, I would say, the obligation—to file a resolution that must be brought to the floor of this body, that must be debated on, and it must be voted on. We should not be at war with Iran unless this body is willing to vote on it.

If the President decides that he wants to go to war with Iran and not come to Congress, what does it say about his judgment? His judgment is that he doesn't think Congress will support it. If he doesn't think Congress will support it, maybe it is because it is not a good idea.

So, as I conclude, I think these are very, very challenging times. There is not a power we should guard more jealously than the power to put the men and women of our armed services into harm's way. We should not let a President—Democrat or Republican—make that decision without us. We should not let a President—Democrat or Republican—use a series of provocations

to blunder us into it. We should not casually let a President—Democrat or Republican—tear up diplomatic deals and have the United States be the party that is walking away from a table of dialogue where we might find a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to controversies.

In the days ahead, in the NDAA process, and then, God forbid, if the President were to initiate us into some kind of a military action, through a war powers resolution of the kind that we just voted on here on the Senate floor, we will have an opportunity as a body to deal with this, and I pray that we will deal with it with the seriousness that it deserves. There is nothing, nothing more serious than this.

Maybe just the last thing I will say is this. You know my background. I started in city council, and I cast thousands of votes, just as you have, as a city councilman and mayor, as Lieutenant Governor and Governor, and now as a Member of this body. I have cast all kinds of votes. A vote on war is the most significant vote you will ever cast. I cast two votes on the war resolutions in the Foreign Relations Committee, and it was interesting casting votes on those, even though they ended up not leading to votes on the floor. There is just a feeling about the gravity of that vote and the feeling in my stomach as I was trying to decide how to vote. Even when I decided how to vote and making my mouth say the word about how I wanted to vote, it was a vote unlike anything for those two, unlike any other vote that I have ever cast.

Part of that, no doubt, is the connection that Virginians feel so closely to the military. Part of it, no doubt, is having a child in the military and knowing what a vote like that might mean to marines like my oldest son.

This is a topic that has to be the most serious thing we do, and we can't outsource our moral responsibility about it to a President. In fact, we need to jealously guard that responsibility, and I hope we will.

With that, 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. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

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 legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, David Perdue, Chuck Grassley, James E. Risch, Johnny Isakson, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, Jerry Moran, John Cornyn, John Thune, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) would have voted “yea” and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 117 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Ernst	Perdue
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	McConnell	Thune
Crapo	McSally	Tillis
Cruz	Moran	Toomey
Daines	Murkowski	Wicker
Enzi	Paul	Young

NAYS—43

Bennet	Hassan	Murray
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Brown	Hirono	Reed
Cantwell	Jones	Rosen
Cardin	Kaine	Schatz
Carper	King	Schumer
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Leahy	Sinema
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Smith
Duckworth	Markey	Stabenow
Durbin	Menendez	Tester
Feinstein	Merkley	
Harris	Murphy	

Udall	Warner	Whitehouse
Van Hollen	Warren	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Johnson
Booker	Inhofe	Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER JANE GERETY

Mr. REED. Madam President, I am pleased to join my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE in celebrating the tenure of Sister Jane Gerety as president of Salve Regina University. Sister Jane has served the Salve Regina University community since 1995. First, she was a member of the board of trustees, and, starting in 2009, she became its seventh president. She has been an extraordinary leader, educator, and friend. We will miss her dearly in Rhode Island as she retires and embarks upon her next venture.

Salve Regina University is a special institution. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, its original charter authorized establishing a college to “promote virtue, and piety and learning.” In 1947, after the acquisition of Ochre Hall, Salve Regina College enrolled its first class of 58 students. In doing so, it opened the gates of some of the mansions of America’s gilded age to serve a new and better purpose of expanding educational opportunities in the pursuit of wisdom and universal justice.

It comes as no surprise that Senator Pell made Salve Regina University his home away from home upon his retirement from the Senate. Senator Pell was committed to a just and harmonious world. He was a man, born of privilege, who dedicated his career in public service to expanding educational and cultural opportunities that had previously been reserved for the elite to all Americans.

Senator WHITEHOUSE and I share a keen sense of responsibility to protect and build on Senator Pell’s legacy. In Sister Jane, we had a true partner in that effort, and we are grateful for her service.

Sister Jane embodies the founding principles of Salve Regina College, now Salve Regina University. On campus, she is known as the students’ president, perhaps the highest praise for a university leader.

She has been a real presence in student life on campus. From the athletic fields to the dining halls to her office, where the doors were always open, students knew that she had their back. She was their president.

It was only fitting that the university has dedicated Wakehurst Hall, the

hub of student activities and home to the office of community service, the student government association, and the campus activities board, in her honor. It is now called Gerety Hall, a name that in Sister Jane’s reflection on her family speaks to love, fidelity, and perseverance.

Under Sister Jane’s presidency, Salve Regina University has grown, thrived, and helped address vital needs in the community. Sister Jane oversaw the expansion of academic programs, including a new doctorate program in nursing, a master of fine arts degree program in creative writing, additional experiential learning opportunities in business, ground-breaking research programs in the sciences, and a new campus in Warwick, Rhode Island to serve the academic needs of working adults in graduate and continuing education programs.

She improved the campus infrastructure, spearheading the renovation of the O’Hare academic building, creating spaces for collaborative learning, and renovating laboratories for programs in science and nursing. Sister Jane also worked to ensure that the university addressed emerging areas of need, opening a digital forensics lab and incorporating cyber education across the undergraduate curriculum.

Even more significantly, Sister Jane worked to ensure that students from all walks of life could afford a Salve Regina education. She led the campaign “Scholars and Scholarships” to reach 100 gifted, endowed funds valued at over \$15 million to support students, faculty, and research. Over the last 10 years, Salve Regina’s annual Governor’s Ball for Scholarships nearly doubled in support, raising more than \$500,000 in 2019 alone as the university’s signature event.

Sister Jane’s accomplishments at Salve Regina University are but some of her many professional and academic achievements. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in French and a doctorate in English. She is a William Butler Yeats scholar. She has been a teacher at many levels—junior high, high school, and college and an academic dean.

She had a notable career in the healthcare sector, serving as a senior administrator for St. Joseph’s Health System in Atlanta before coming to Salve Regina University. In each of these roles, Sister Jane answered her vocation to live a life of mercy. In her words and in her deeds, she promotes universal justice and works for a world that is harmonious, just, and merciful. We are all better off for knowing Sister Jane.

I will miss her advice and counsel and wish her well in her next endeavors. As she told the students when she announced her retirement, “Looking forward, we all share a bit of fear for the unknown and also hope for the excitement that is to come.”

May we all follow her example and work to make what is to come harmonious, just, and merciful.

I yield to my colleague, Senator WHITEHOUSE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, it is an honor and a true pleasure to join Rhode Island’s senior Senator here on the floor today to honor the work of Salve Regina University’s seventh president, Sister Jane Gerety. Like Senator REED, I have enjoyed Sister Jane’s friendship, companionship, wise counsel, encouragement, and occasional course-correction suggestions over many years.

She will retire next month, capping a decade of service to her university, to the Newport community, and to Rhode Island. Sister Jane has accomplished remarkable things in her tenure. She established a new satellite campus in Warwick to help working Rhode Islanders take graduate and continuing education courses. She helped establish online study options, bringing the university’s many offerings directly to Rhode Island students in their homes. She launched new programs of study, including a master of fine arts and creative writing, experiential learning opportunities in a range of fields, and a doctoral program in nursing. She raised millions of dollars in funding to strengthen Salve’s endowments, supporting every facet of university life. She supervised numerous improvements to Salve Regina’s beautiful Newport campus, including a \$46 million renovation of the O’Hare Academic Building.

Sister Jane’s work has contributed much to the city of Newport and the State of Rhode Island. Newport is home to an array of legendary Gilded Age mansions and other culturally significant buildings set atop cliffs overlooking the shining Atlantic Ocean. Many of these architectural masterpieces now belong to her university and have needed significant upkeep. From the outset, Sister Jane recognized the value of Salve’s stewardship of the architectural heritage of Newport, RI. The beautifully maintained campus, replete with the newly dedicated Gerety Hall, named in honor of Sister Jane, is a gem of an asset for the city and for the State.

Sister Jane’s work has extended beyond our State’s border. Under her management, Salve strengthened its Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy. Today more than ever, the Pell Center is a fitting reflection of its namesake, Senator Clai-borne Pell, for whom our democratic ideals held limitless power. The center’s academic programs, publications, and forums spread important ideas around the globe, advancing American domestic and foreign policy, cyber security, and diversity in leadership.

As impressive and praiseworthy as those professional accomplishments is the immediate personal and lasting difference Sister Jane has made in the individual lives of so many around her, including Senator REED and myself. A

member of the 2019 Salve class says he will remember Sister Jane en route to “bring” candy and snacks to student athletes for conference games” and her willingness to meet with any student in her office. Indeed, when visiting Newport, young alums in search of graduate school advice or a word of encouragement have known that they are welcome to stop by Sister Jane’s office to find an open door, a warm heart, and wise counsel.

Over the course of her career, Sister Jane embodied the values of her Catholic order, the Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters were founded with a mission to spread the gift of education and care for those in need in their community. Last year, Sister Jane told *Newport Daily News* she sees the institution she led as “imbued with mercy,” adding, “I hope I’ve helped to cultivate that spirit.”

I should note that with regard to the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy, in her service, Sister Jane also honored an extraordinary tradition of extraordinary female leadership.

As I am giving these remarks, I am so glad that the Presiding Officer in the U.S. Senate is a woman Senator.

Sister Therese, who was Sister Jane’s predecessor, was a skilled and beloved leader of Salve Regina, and Sister Lucille—before Sister Therese and before Sister Jane—was another powerful and effective leader. This impressive tradition of leadership by women is worth celebrating on its own as we celebrate the achievements of Sister Jane, and Sister Jane has shown herself well worthy and advanced that tradition.

Sister Jane, it is clear to all who know you—and that is pretty much all who love you—that the spirit of mercy has flourished at Salve Regina and has been enhanced in our State under your leadership. We wish you well in your next chapters.

I join my senior Senator in these sentiments.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Madam President, at some point during the course of these remarks, I expect the majority leader to come to the floor to put the Senate through its closing paces. When that happens, I ask unanimous consent that the part of my remarks prior to his statement be moved to join with the remainder of my remarks in the RECORD so that they are combined.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 2:15 tomorrow, all postclosure time on the Collins nomination be considered expired; 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.

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.

NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the month of May is nationally designated Military Appreciation Month, so named because, in the month of May, we also observe Memorial Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, and Armed Forces Day. Last week, my friend from the State of Oklahoma, Mr. INHOFE, the distinguished chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, organized a floor event around National Military Appreciation Month. I would like to take a moment to lend my voice to this significant commemoration.

In the State of Alaska we like to think of military appreciation month as every month, military appreciation day as every day. Alaska is proud to host more than 19,000 Active-Duty servicemembers, more than 4,600 members of the Reserve Component, and about 5,000 appropriated funds civilians across all of the services. That number will grow significantly as the Air Force begins the beddown of the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter, at Eielson Air Force Base, its first F-35 operating base in the Pacific Area of Responsibility.

At first blush, Alaska is a difficult place to serve. It is dark in the winter, light all night in the summer, prone to temperature extremes, and geographically distant from family. Some military families who receive orders to Alaska are apprehensive at first, but when they speak with other military families that have served in Alaska, they come to understand that Alaskans treat our military families like no other people, and the opportunity to live in Alaska, while serving, is a once in a lifetime wonderful experience.

I could offer many examples of the ways in which Alaskans make life wonderful for those who serve here. The one that is freshest in my mind is the annual Military Appreciation Banquet in Fairbanks. It is one of two that Alaskans put on each year. The Fairbanks banquet tends to occur in May; the other major banquet is Salute to the Military in Anchorage each February. Both attract senior military leaders as keynote speakers. During each, the services honor outstanding members from within their ranks and thank the community for its extraordinary support.

I would like to speak to the history of the Fairbanks banquet for a moment. It began 51 years ago—1968 to be exact—when Jim and Rosemary Messer started small dinner in the home parties for friends in the military; 1968 was a pretty controversial year in the Nation’s history with the country torn over our participation in the Vietnam conflict, but the Messers were determined to show those who came from around the country to serve in Alaska some love and home-cooking.

The idea quickly outgrew the confines of the Messer home, and the Fairbanks Military Appreciation Banquet is its successor. The banquet is held in the Carlson Center, which is the convention center for Fairbanks. Capacity is about 600 people, and the banquet sells out every year. Following in the Messer legacy, each community member buys two tickets, one for themselves and another for a servicemember to host at their table.

In addition to recognizing exemplary servicemembers, the Fairbanks community recognizes one local individual each year who has done the most to promote civilian-military relations with an award. That award is named the Messer Award, in honor of the couple that inspired the annual banquet.

This year, the keynote speaker was VADM Michael J. Dumont, U.S. Navy, Deputy Commander of U.S. Northern Command. I am told he was a big hit. Last year, for the 50th anniversary, we had Gen. Joseph Lengyel, U.S. Air Force, Chief of the National Guard Bureau. We are grateful that our senior leaders travel a great distance to celebrate the military presence in Alaska’s Interior, and I know that the participants are as well.

This is an example of what we view as the golden contract between the community and the military. Each year, Alaskans go out of their way in big ways and small ones to make life for our servicemembers and their families extremely comfortable. Each year, in the presence of a distinguished senior leader, we break bread together to renew these bonds.

I am proud of those who serve in Alaska and the Alaskans who serve them, and I am proud that we observe military appreciation month every month of the year.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER E. O'CONNOR

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I am proud to recognize in the RECORD the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, OCLA, Christopher E. O’Connor, in honor of his upcoming retirement. Mr. O’Connor recently received the VA’s Exceptional Service Award for his long record of service to our Nation’s veterans.

Mr. O’Connor has advised four VA Secretaries, four acting VA Secretaries, and their legislative teams as

they have worked with Congress to make a stronger and more effective department for America's veterans. He has provided continuity in the Department's communication with Congress during the shift of executive administrations.

Most recently, Mr. O'Connor worked with our committee on the VA MISSION Act, which is a major reform in veterans' healthcare. He also helped inform Members of Congress about the need to modernize the department's antiquated electronic health records system, and he played a key role as the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act made its way through Congress.

Under his leadership, Mr. O'Connor and his team prepared VA's senior leaders to successfully participate in more than 400 congressional hearings. Their office also coordinated thousands of informational briefings to Members of Congress, committee staff, and personal staff that advanced VA's message and priorities.

Upon his upcoming retirement, Mr. O'Connor leaves the Department with an important legacy. In 2017, Mr. O'Connor spearheaded the Congressional Fellowship Program, which places VA employees in a yearlong fellowship position in the office of a Member of Congress.

Today, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. O'Connor for his service to our country and his steadfast commitment to advocating on behalf of veterans throughout his career. Congratulations to Mr. O'Connor on his lasting legacy of advocacy for veterans, and I wish him the best in his retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID BRANSCUM

- Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate David Branscum for being named Arkansas Rural Advocate of the Year by the Arkansas Rural Development Commission.

Raised in Marshall, David is a third-generation cattle rancher, farmer, and small business owner who has dedicated more than four decades of his life to rural Arkansas. After graduating from the University of Arkansas with a degree in agriculture and economics, he returned home to run the family farm and lumber business. For 7 years, David represented House District 83 as a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives where he served on both the agriculture and health committees and chaired the legislative council. In 2017, he resigned from the House after Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue appointed him as Arkansas director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Rural Development.

In this role, David has implemented programs across the State intended to improve the quality of life in Arkansas' rural communities. These programs in-

clude rural business development grants, single and multifamily housing loans, community facility grants, and water and waste disposal monies.

One of David's top priorities and one of the largest challenges facing Arkansas and much of rural America is access to reliable and affordable broadband connectivity. With nearly \$1 billion in grant money available nationwide to expand broadband services to rural communities, he has championed this program around our State.

I congratulate David for being named the Arkansas Rural Advocate of the Year. He has spent his career working to advance the economy and improve the standard of living for rural residents throughout Arkansas, and our State is a better place because of him.●

TRIBUTE TO CADET COLONEL SHELBY PETERSON

- Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing Civil Air Patrol Cadet Colonel Shelby Petersen of Kalispell. Cadet Colonel Petersen is the first Montanan since 2004 to receive the General Carl A. Spaatz Award, which is the Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor.

The Spaatz Award is given to cadets who have demonstrated excellence in leadership, character, fitness, and aerospace education. The selection process is extremely rigorous, and only 5 out of every 1,000 cadets earns the award. Cadet Colonel Petersen joined the Civil Air Patrol at the age of 12, following in the footsteps of her older brother. From day 1, her goal was to become squadron commander and win the Spaatz Award. She has thrived as a member of the Flathead Composite Squadron, receiving 18 promotions and achieving her goal of becoming the squadron commander. I had the pleasure of meeting Cadet Colonel Petersen in March 2018, when she was selected to participate in the prestigious Civil Air Patrol Leadership Academy. There, cadets spend a week in Washington, DC, and gain greater insight into the inner workings of government through meetings with Members of Congress, the State Department, and the intelligence community. She is an outstanding young Montanan who understands what it means to put service before self.

As squadron commander, she has taken a keen interest in mentoring younger cadets and pushes them to set and meet high expectations for themselves. In fact, her final assignment as a Civil Air Patrol cadet is cadet commander for this summer's Civil Air Patrol boot camp.

Cadet Colonel Petersen is currently finishing her senior year at Glacier High School in Kalispell and upon graduation will enlist in the Marine Corps to continue her service to our country. I congratulate Cadet Colonel Petersen on winning the Spaatz Award, and I thank her for her service. I know that she will continue to make her community and Montana proud.●

TRIBUTE TO TOM LEWIS

- Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today, I am honored to recognize in the RECORD Mr. Tom Lewis of Atlanta, GA, the senior adviser to the president of Georgia State University. Tom has announced he will retire in June after 28 years of service to the school.

Tom Lewis has built a strong legacy in our State and Federal Government, as well as in higher education. Early on, he learned the value of public service from his parents, Eleanor and Carlton Lewis. While he was a student at Georgia Southern University, he spent time here in the Senate as an intern for the venerable Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia. Upon his graduation from the university, he worked on the campaign of then-Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter of Plains, GA, who was subsequently elected to the office of U.S. President.

Next, Tom set out to make a difference in our State government as executive director of the Georgia Franchise Practices Commission from 1974 to 1978. Later, while he was executive vice president of the Bartow County Chamber of Commerce, Tom met and befriended State legislator Joe Frank Harris of Cartersville, GA, and his wife Elizabeth. That friendship turned into a trusted bond, and when Joe Frank Harris set out to become Governor of Georgia, Tom joined his campaign as an adviser and served in several roles in Harris's administration, including as chief of staff from 1986 to 1991.

I got to know Tom while I was also serving in the Georgia General Assembly, and he was always someone who you could count on and trust. When he went on to Georgia State University, he left his mark there, advancing the school's interests, creating new opportunities, and helping Georgia State University grow in the early years and then absolutely take off. The Washington Post has called Georgia State University a "hotbed of growth and innovation." This and many of its other well-earned accolades are due not only to a serious and active student body, but also thanks to the long-term planning and constant efforts of great leaders like Tom Lewis.

In addition to his accomplishments spanning decades and touching countless lives, Tom and his wife Patty are the parents of three children, Wes, Ellen, and Shannon. His five grandchildren, Wesley Claire, Leighton, Will, Nate, and Jacks will surely benefit from Tom's retirement. I have a strong suspicion that his home community of Cartersville, GA, will benefit from the additional time he is able to spend in town, too.

As Tom and Patty prepare for this new chapter, I wish them and their families all the best. I offer my deepest gratitude for their friendship and work on behalf of our State.●

RECOGNIZING GT AIRINJECT, INC.

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my privilege to recognize a small business that has benefited from hard work, ingenuity, and international trade. As we celebrate World Trade Month, it is important to recognize the limitless potential that exporting offers small businesses across the country. It is my distinct honor to name GT AirInject Inc., located in Jacksonville, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded by Glen Black, GT AirInject is a family-owned manufacturer of air injection machines, which provide an efficient way to improve soil and lawn maintenance for golf courses and athletic fields. GT AirInject's flagship product, the AIR2G2, solves the issues of soil compaction by injecting pressurized air into the soil, up to 12 inches deep, which fractures the natural forming compact layers. Unlike traditional aeration methods that simply perforate the soil, the AIR2G2 injects air without damaging the turf surface. This revolutionary feature allows the course or field to be used immediately, making the AIR2G2 an ideal product for sport facilities and golf courses. In fact, GT AirInject's products are utilized internationally, at world-renowned facilities such as St. Andrews Links in Scotland, the Boston Red Sox's Fenway Park, the Green Bay Packer's Lambeau Field, and Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

In addition to the AIR2G2, GT AirInject has developed the AIR2HP. Perfect for both commercial and household use, the AIR2HP offers customers a more portable and dynamic product, while still providing the soil benefits of increased porosity, better water drainage, and improved root growth. The benefits of the AIR2G2 and the AIR2HP, however, are not limited to improved soil quality. The efficient and effective designs of GT AirInject products allow recreational facilities to remain open after turf maintenance, simultaneously decreasing the facilities maintenance budget while increasing revenue.

GT AirInject's commitment to manufacturing superior products, while maintaining an affordable price, has allowed them to become a world leader in air injection machines. Exporting across the globe, GT AirInject products can be found throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa. Despite increased international demand, GT AirInject continues to manufacture its machines in Jacksonville.

GT AirInject's commitment to quality and innovation has not gone unnoticed. The AIR2G2 won the prestigious 2016 HSBC Golf Business Forum Innovation Award and the 2015 Sports Turf Managers Association's Innovation Award. Additionally, the AIR2HP was named as one of *Lawn and Landscape* magazine's Twenty for 2017 New Product Award Program winners. •

American made products are essential to the United States' continued competitiveness in the global marketplace. GT AirInject is a tremendous example of a small business creating an innovative product that has generated global demand. They have grown internationally while continuing to create American jobs. It is with great pleasure that I name GT AirInject as the Senate Small Business of the Week. I wish Glen and the entire team nothing but success in their future endeavors. •

RECOGNIZING THE MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF GREENVILLE

• Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, it is my privilege to recognize and commend the Montessori School of Greenville for nearly 50 years of community service and teaching. At the end of this month, former teachers, directors, local educators, alumni, and students will gather to honor this long-standing educational leader in the Upstate as they close their doors.

The Greenville Montessori School has been a true model of education, since its humble beginnings from a church basement in 1970. At that time, it was the first Montessori school in the State of South Carolina. Since then, it has maintained the authentic principles and practices of the Montessori curriculum and developed a skilled staff and educational materials that provided training to countless teachers, helped establish other Montessori schools, and influenced alternative education models in the region and State.

This school developed a passion for learning, a sense of accountability, and a value for independent work in thousands of children in the Upstate. Many of these children grew up and sent their own children to this school, and it became a place for families and lifelong friends.

Today I celebrate the parents and educators who pushed and continue to push for improved educational offerings and programs like this one. Their work is informing and guiding the evolution of the school system and its offerings to provide safe environments and rigorous curriculums that will ensure our State's children can effectively compete in the local and global workforce and productively contribute to our society.

I would like to recognize and honor the Montessori School of Greenville and every type of K-12 school—public, private, charter school, homeschooled, and online—that helps prepare our next generation for college, the workforce, and the amazing opportunities that lie ahead.

I pass along my sincerest gratitude to the many directors, educators, and local leaders involved with Greenville Montessori School in the past 50 years for contributing to and perpetuating the most important and precious opportunity we can offer our children: an education. •

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13303 OF MAY 22, 2003, WITH RESPECT TO THE STABILIZATION OF IRAQ—PM 18

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report, which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2019.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13303 with respect to the stabilization of Iraq.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 20, 2019.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 17, 2019, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2379. An act to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1436. An act to make technical corrections to the computation of average pay under Public Law 110-279.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 987. An act to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for Federal Exchange outreach and educational activities.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, 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 Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. CORREA of California, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR of Texas, Ms. LOFGREN of California, and Mr. CARBAJAL of California.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, May 20, 2019, he has signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 2379. An act to reauthorize the Bullet-proof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 987. An act to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for Federal Exchange outreach and educational activities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 312. An act to reaffirm the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2578. An act to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and was referred as indicated:

EC-1318. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Refusal Procedures for Visas” (RIN1400-AE64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. Kaine):

S. 1541. A bill to increase the minimum age for sale of tobacco products to 21; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 1542. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to standardize payment of hazardous duty incentive pay for members performing parachute jumping as an essential part of military duty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 1543. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code 1986 to provide that floor plan financing includes the financing of certain trailers and campers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1544. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for payment for services of radiologist assistants under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1545. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure the Secretary of Veterans Affairs permits the display of Battlefield Crosses in national cemeteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1546. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for projects to strengthen and protect vulnerable infrastructure used during mass evacuations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 1547. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, relating to sentencing of armed career criminals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1548. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rate of tax on corporations participating in labor lockouts and to prohibit deductions and credits for wages and benefits paid to temporary workers during labor knockouts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1549. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to ensure that employees on leave under the Act maintain health coverage during an employer lockout; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1550. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the work opportunity credit for certain youth employees, and to extend empowerment zones; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1551. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide funding on a competitive basis, for summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth ages 14 through 24; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. Kaine):

S. 1552. A bill to decriminalize marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 63

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 63, a bill to implement the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) 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. 106

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 106, a bill to reauthorize and extend funding for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps.

S. 151

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 151, a bill to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) 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. 249

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 249, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

S. 261

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as

cosponsors of S. 261, a bill to extend the authorization of appropriations for allocation to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

S. 287

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 287, a bill to amend the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to impose limitations on the authority of the President to adjust imports that are determined to threaten to impair national security, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor 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.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, *supra*.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 362, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 436

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 436, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the development of public transportation operations safety risk reduction programs, and for other purposes.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 475, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prevent catastrophic out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

S. 636

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 636, a bill to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 711, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for mental health services

from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 734

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 734, a bill to leverage Federal Government procurement power to encourage increased cybersecurity for Internet of Things devices, and for other purposes.

S. 785

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 785, a bill to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 785, *supra*.

S. 816

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 816, a bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to expedite approval of exports of small volumes of natural gas, and for other purposes.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to designate certain National Forest System land and certain public land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, wildland recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors, and for other purposes.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to limit certain rolling stock procurements, and for other purposes.

S. 857

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 867

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 867, a bill to protect students of institutions of higher education and the taxpayer investment in institutions of higher education by improving oversight and accountability of institutions of higher education, par-

ticularly for-profit colleges, improving protections for students and borrowers, and ensuring the integrity of postsecondary education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 890

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 890, a bill to authorize the Sergeant at Arms to protect the personal technology devices and accounts of Senators and covered employees from cyber attacks and hostile information collection activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1004

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1004, a bill to increase the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations officers and support staff and to require reports that identify staffing, infrastructure, and equipment needed to enhance security at ports of entry.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1039, a bill to limit the use of funds for kinetic military operations in or against Iran.

S. 1060

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1060, a bill to deter foreign interference in United States elections, and for other purposes.

S. 1123

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1123, a bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens.

S. 1168

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1168, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

S. 1186

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1186, a bill to promote democracy and human rights in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 1191

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1191, a bill to reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service

Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to create protections for depository institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1223

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1223, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of Medicare competitive acquisition rates to complex rehabilitative wheelchairs and accessories.

S. 1235

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1235, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, giving women in the United States the right to vote.

S. 1263

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an interagency task force on the use of public lands to provide medical treatment and therapy to veterans through outdoor recreation.

S. 1279

At the request of Mr. JONES, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1279, a bill to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

S. 1298

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1298, a bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to include the State insurance commissioner as a voting member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, and for other purposes.

S. 1370

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. 1370, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain military survivor benefits as earned income for purposes of the kiddie tax.

S. 1414

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1414, a bill to provide bankruptcy relief for student borrowers.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1418, a bill to establish the Strength in Diversity Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1469

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1469, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit interfering in elections with agents of a foreign government.

S. 1482

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1482, a bill to establish an integrated national approach to respond to ongoing and expected effects of extreme weather and climate change by protecting, managing, and conserving the fish, wildlife, and plants of the United States, and to maximize Government efficiency and reduce costs, in cooperation with State, local, and Tribal governments and other entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1508

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1508, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who kill or target America's public safety officers.

S. 1528

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1528, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of Green Bonds and to establish the United States Green Bank, and for other purposes.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1531, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for health insurance consumers from surprise billing.

S. 1537

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri

(Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1537, a bill to ensure America's law enforcement officers have access to lifesaving equipment needed to defend themselves and civilians from attacks by terrorists and violent criminals.

S. RES. 80

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 80, a resolution establishing the John S. McCain III Human Rights Commission.

S. RES. 135

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 135, a resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and valor by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commanding those individuals for leadership and bravery in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. Kaine):

S. 1541. A bill to increase the minimum age for sale of tobacco products to 21; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today, I am introducing Federal legislation to make 21 the new minimum age for purchasing any tobacco product anywhere in the United States. Let me say that again—a new age nationwide for purchasing anything classified as a tobacco product—cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapor products, and everything else. It shouldn't be 18 any longer; it should be 21, and this legislation will make that happen.

I recognize I might seem like an unusual candidate to lead this charge. I am the senior Senator from Kentucky. I have consistently stood up for our Kentucky farmers, including our tobacco farmers. I championed the tobacco buyout back in 2004. But actually my long experience with this subject and my commitment to farm families are part of what has convinced me that now is the right time to do this. I would like to say a few words about why.

Tobacco has been deeply intertwined in our Nation's history from the very beginning. Native Americans grew it and used it before European explorers ever arrived. John Rolfe—the famous settler who later married Pocahontas—kick-started Virginia's export economy using foreign tobacco seeds in 1612.

By the eve of the Revolution, tobacco was a major export and a huge part of

our colony's prosperity. Many tobacco farmers were energetic early backers of independence. George Washington grew tobacco at Mount Vernon, at first as his primary crop. In Benjamin Franklin's newspapers, some of the earliest ads for American tobacco ran alongside the essays urging Americans to stand up for freedom. Several million pounds of tobacco were actually used as collateral to help secure the loans they needed from France. Years later, Lewis and Clark used it as a peace offering to the Native Tribes they met while they were headed west. And, like too many other parts of early American history, tobacco's development was closely linked with the sin of slavery.

So tobacco has been a part of this country right from the start—so much so, in fact, that right here in the U.S. Capitol, artisans replaced the traditional designs in many of the Roman-style columns and chiseled American tobacco leaves in their place. Right here in this Chamber, we still have some old spittoons. We used to have Senate snuff boxes filled on the taxpayers' dime. The residue on the floors used to be so considerable that Charles Dickens warned fellow visitors not to pick up anything they dropped unless they had a pair of gloves on. One of the Senators Dickens actually admired most from that visit was Henry Clay. And, befitting the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our own rich history with the crop, that legendary Kentuckian was also a legendary tobacco enthusiast.

When the first settlers came over the Appalachians into what is now Kentucky, tobacco offered the perfect opportunity to jump-start their new lives. A pocketful of seeds was enough for a downpayment on a new, economically secure future for your family. Kentucky had fertile soil. We had favorable summers. We had inland waterways and access to the Mississippi for shipping.

Before long, burley tobacco was a staple crop for literally tens of thousands of Kentucky farms. For a time, we led even Virginia and North Carolina as the No. 1 tobacco State. Generations of farmers, even if they weren't primarily tobacco growers, would plant a little corner of it to help float the rest of the operation. Farming tobacco put shoes on kids' feet. It put dinner on the table. For many in Kentucky, tobacco made the American dream possible. It is a central pillar of our State's history.

In fact, back in the early 1900s, there was literally an armed conflict called the Black Patch War that revolved around tobacco prices. Farmers were against farmers. We are talking about beatings and horse whippings. Barns were burned. Eventually, martial law was declared in part of Kentucky. We are talking about neighbor-on-neighbor violence that was reminiscent of the Civil War—all over tobacco prices. The conflict was actually memorialized in the book "Night Rider," the first novel

by Robert Penn Warren, the famous Kentucky-born writer who won multiple Pulitzers and served as U.S. Poet Laureate.

A few decades later, in the late 1930s, Senator Alben Barkley—the only other Kentuckian to serve as majority leader—set up a top-down quota system that got Washington heavily involved in the tobacco market to try to provide price special assurance for farmers.

So when I first arrived here in the Senate in 1985, more than two-thirds of Kentucky's farmers grew some tobacco, and it accounted for almost half of the value of all the agricultural production in my State. But, of course, demand for U.S. tobacco has gone down as, among other factors, our knowledge of the health consequences has gone up.

Even as early as the late 1800s, when the transition began from all the varied forms of tobacco toward the modern, mass-marketed, mass-produced cigarette industry, there was concern. Those concerns went mainstream with the Surgeon General's report on smoking in the 1960s, and of course our understanding has only grown with more research. By 2004, these concerns, plus foreign competition, were making that quota system less of a helpful backstop and more of a stranglehold. So there was interest on all sides in unwinding this archaic system without pulling the rug out from under our growers.

I secured the Fair and Equitable Tobacco Reform Act, known as the tobacco buyout, which President Bush 43 signed into law. It wound down the special treatment for tobacco, while also providing the farmers who had invested heavily in these quotas 10 years of buyout payments to ease their transition.

What has happened since then has been a very exciting story. Just as Kentucky farmers once led the Nation in cultivating tobacco and helped write that important chapter in American history, they are now helping to write the next chapter of innovation.

We aren't interested in banning tobacco. We aren't interested in turning our backs on adults who choose to use these products or pretending we aren't proud of the Kentuckians who still grow it. But as the market has settled, many of our farmers have seized the opportunity to try new things.

Just a few years before the buyout, almost 30,000 Kentucky farms were still growing tobacco. It still made up about one-quarter of all of our farmers' cash receipts statewide. But the 10-year buyout program ended in 2014. These days, instead of 30,000 farms growing tobacco in the Commonwealth, it is more like 2,600. It still brings in hundreds of millions of dollars, but now it is only 6 percent of our total receipts from agriculture. Freed from the sunk costs of a quota system, our farmers have been able to participate in a more free market and reap the benefits. In fact, overall cash receipts from agriculture actually set a new record in

2014—the very same year the buyout ended. I am proud the 2004 policy I achieved has been a success. Kentucky farmers have taken the ball, however, and they have run with it.

I mentioned that George Washington initially planted a whole lot of tobacco at Mount Vernon before a variety of factors led him to scale it back and experiment with other things. One of those new crops was hemp. That was all the way back in the 1770s. As usual, George Washington knew what he was doing.

Industrial hemp is making a comeback today, and Kentucky farmers asked for help to change the outdated Federal laws that confused the plant with cannabis and prevented them from exploring the crop.

In 2014, I fought and won for farmers the right to explore hemp through State pilot projects. In last year's farm bill, my provision finished the job and made hemp a fully legal commodity nationwide. Now we are seeing the future take shape right before our eyes. Farmers in 99 of 120 counties are growing hemp. Processors are reporting more than \$50 million in gross sales. And this is just one of the new crops our farmers are using to chart new directions and connect Kentucky's past with its future.

I realize this has been quite a history lesson, but Kentuckians are used to hearing sweeping statements about our tobacco industry from folks outside the State who know none of this history and yet have no problem forming strong opinions. We are proud of our past. We are proud of who we are. But Kentucky farmers don't want their children to get hooked on tobacco products while they are in middle school or high school any more than any parents anywhere want that to happen. Kentucky is proud of what we make, but we also take pride in the health and development of our children.

The sad reality is that Kentucky has been the home to the highest rates of cancer in the country. We lead the entire Nation in the percentage of cancer cases tied directly to smoking. Our State once grew tobacco like none other, and now we are being hit by the health consequences of tobacco use like none other.

Nationwide, we are in the middle of a completely new public health epidemic that is really threatening our progress in youth tobacco use—the use of e-cigarettes and vaping. This spike has been concentrated in teenagers—and not just 18-year-olds. Moms and dads across the country are seeing their middle and high schoolers take up this new habit and start down a deadly path that our society has previously spent decades working hard to close down.

From 2017 to 2018, high school students' use of what are classified as tobacco products shot up by nearly 40 percent. That is a staggering figure, especially in a single year. That increase is driven almost entirely by vaping.

The brain is still developing at this young age. When teenagers use tobacco, they are quite literally altering their brain's chemistry and making it more susceptible to addiction. Many young vape users aren't buying the products themselves but sharing them with a friend. And remember, 90 percent of adult daily smokers say they used their first tobacco product before age 19.

Youth vaping is a public health crisis. It is our responsibility, as parents and public servants, to do everything we can to keep these harmful products out of high schools and out of youth culture. We need to put the national age of purchase at 21.

That is why I am introducing this legislation in recognition of tobacco's storied past in Kentucky and aware of the threat that all tobacco products pose now and for future generations. I am proud to partner on this effort with Senator TIM KAINE, who represents another Commonwealth with a long history of growing tobacco. I know there is interest from Members on both sides of the aisle, including Senators YOUNG, ROMNEY, SCHATZ, and others. This is not a zero-sum choice between farmers and public health. We can support both. We need to support both, but the health of our children is literally at stake.

That is why I will make enacting this legislation one of my highest priorities, and I look forward to working with all of our colleagues to make that happen.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to support the words of my colleague, Leader McCONNELL, and to thank him for working on this important piece of legislation, the Tobacco-Free Youth Act. I will offer some thoughts about why I have been happy to work with Leader McCONNELL and with other Senators who share the goal of raising the national tobacco age to 21.

Like Senator McCONNELL, I come from a tobacco State. The Jamestown-based Virginia Company was chartered by King James, landing at Jamestown in 1607, and beginning the English colonization of the United States. They almost didn't make it. They could easily have failed like other English settlements in the Outer Banks of North Carolina or others, but two things saved them.

The first was the magnanimity of the Powhatan Indians, who, in those early years, when times were tough, helped them to survive and helped them to get over times of drought and hunger. The second thing was the discovery of, as Leader McCONNELL mentioned, the tobacco seeds in Virginia that, through the efforts of John Roth and others, became such a powerful driver of the Virginia agricultural economy. Had it not been for tobacco and had it not been for the Powhatan Indians, the Jamestown colony would likely have disappeared.

Tobacco has such a place in our history that in the ceiling of both of the

legislative chambers in the Virginia Capitol, designed by Thomas Jefferson, the ceiling is circled by gold-embossed tobacco leaves. We restored the capitol in 2000 and restored the gold embossing because we understand that it was tobacco that helped create modern Virginia.

In the city of Richmond, where I live and where I served as mayor, one of the largest cigarette-producing manufacturers in the world is the Philip Morris plant in South Richmond, which over decades has been a fantastic employer of local Virginians and local residents.

As Governor, I was proud to work on tobacco initiatives because, as the leader indicated, as we become more aware of public health consequences, there has been more need to try to stem the challenges that these health consequences create.

When I was Governor, I worked in tandem with my Republican speaker of the house to ban smoking in restaurants and bars, which was a tough, tough sell at that time back in 2009, but we made it happen. Probably my happiest day as a Governor, vis-a-vis tobacco, was the day where I went to Chesterfield County in suburban Richmond, and, together with bipartisan legislators, we celebrated the results that had just come out that showed that for the first time in recorded history the youth smoking rate in Virginia was below the national average. Much like Kentucky, we have been above the national average because in a State where it is a product that you are proud of, everyone is encouraged to use it. But by about 2009, we were below the national average, and we felt very good about that.

I am here with Senator McCONNELL, partly because of our history, but really I am here, as he indicated, because of the current challenge. We are backsliding. We are backslicing. The recent increases in youth tobacco use demonstrate that we need to do more.

Current youth tobacco product use has increased dramatically from 2017 to 2018, completely erasing the decline in tobacco product use among youth that had been happening for many years. From the CDC, this increase is driven largely by e-cigarettes. More than 1 in 4 high schoolers in 2018 and 1 in 14 middle schoolers in 2018 had used a tobacco product in the last 30 days—a dramatic increase from 2017—and 1.5 million more young people used e-cigarettes in 2018 than in 2017.

E-cigarettes are the most commonly used product among the young, and they are frequently used in combination with other tobacco products. The recent increase in the use of tobacco products is heavily, heavily driven by the popularity of e-cigarettes, shaped like a flash drive, able to be shared with friends, and sold in kid-friendly flavors with a high nicotine content.

Disturbingly, it is not only e-cigarettes. The use of any tobacco product grew by more than 38 percent among high schoolers from 2017 to 2018, and in

Virginia, where we had celebrated in our State that it was below the national average, we are seeing dramatic increases. And 16.3 percent of high school youth are reporting using any tobacco product, and 6.5 percent of those—one-third of those—smoke cigarettes.

According to the CDC, any use of tobacco products by the young is considered unsafe. The leader laid out how the use of these e-cigarettes alter the chemistry of the brain and actually make a young person more prone for the rest of their life to becoming addicted. And it is not just addiction. It is also learning, memory, attention, impulse control, and cognition. The use of tobacco also increases among the young the likelihood of developing mood disorders like anxiety and depression.

So there is a strong rationale for this bill, and I was honored when the majority leader asked about a month ago if I would work together with him on a bipartisan bill as two Senators from tobacco States, joining others to find a way to raise the age from 18 to 21.

Now, 95 percent of adult smokers begin smoking before the age of 21. The Institute of Medicine, now the National Academy of Medicine, did research recently showing that increasing the tobacco age to 21 will, over time, significantly reduce the number of young and young adult smoking, as well as smoking-caused deaths, and improve public health and save lives.

What does our bill do? Our bill raises the Federal minimum age to purchase any tobacco products from 18 to 21. We direct the FDA to update their current regulations and enforcement structure for the current 18 age minimum and apply to it to the new 21 age minimum. We encourage States to pass their own laws raising the age to 21 and require the States to enforce those laws and meet other requirements, as they currently do, pursuant to the Synar Amendment. Our legislation would apply to all populations and to all types of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes.

As a father of a marine and as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I strongly feel that we should extend the same public health protections to members of the military as we do though their civilian counterparts. I look forward to working with the majority leader and so many others on both sides of the aisle to do a good thing for public health, to do a good thing for our young people, and raise the tobacco age to 21.

As the leader mentioned, there are other Senators—Senators ROMNEY and YOUNG, Senators SCHATZ and DURBIN, and Senator MURRAY—who have invested their energies in this effort. We pledge to work together with all of them. We can come together to do this on behalf of our young people.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1541

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 “Tobacco-Free Youth Act”.

SEC. 2. MINIMUM AGE OF SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

(a) ESTABLISHING MINIMUM AGE OF 21 FOR SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—Section 1926 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-26) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “AGE OF 18” and inserting “AGE OF 21”;

(2) by striking “age of 18” each place such phrase appears and inserting “age of 21”;

(3) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “fiscal year 1994” and inserting “fiscal year 2021”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “fiscal year 1993” and inserting “fiscal year 2020”;

(ii) by striking “fiscal year 1994” and inserting “fiscal year 2021”; and

(iii) by striking “fiscal year 1995” and inserting “fiscal year 2022”; and

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “1995” and inserting “2022”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “1994” and inserting “2021”; and

(ii) by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(D) by striking “this section, the term, and inserting “this section—

“(1) the term”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) the term ‘tobacco product’ has the meaning given such term in section 201(rr) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.”.

(b) FDA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 906(d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387f(d)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), by striking “18 years” and inserting “21 years”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) MINIMUM AGE OF SALE.—It shall be unlawful for any retailer to sell a tobacco product to any person younger than 21 years of age, consistent with section 1140.14 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).”.

(2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall update regulations issued under chapter IX of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387 et seq.) as appropriate to carry out the amendments made by paragraph (1).

(c) NON-PREEMPTION.—Nothing in the amendments made by subsection (a) or (b) shall be construed to prevent a State or local governmental entity from establishing, enforcing, or maintaining a law with respect to sales of tobacco products to individuals below a minimum age, provided that such State or local law is in addition to, or more stringent than, Federal law.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1550. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the work opportunity credit for certain youth employees, and to extend em-

powerment zones; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1550

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 “Helping to Encourage Real Opportunities (HERO) for At-Risk Youth Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF WORK OPPORTUNITY CREDIT FOR CERTAIN YOUTH EMPLOYEES.

(a) EXPANSION OF CREDIT FOR SUMMER YOUTH.

(1) CREDIT ALLOWED FOR YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT.—Section 51(d)(7)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by striking clauses (i) and (iii) and redesignating clauses (ii) and (iv) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively;

(B) in clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking “(or if later, on May 1 of the calendar year involved),”;

(C) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) (as so redesignated) and inserting “, and”, and

(D) adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) who will be employed for not more than 20 hours per week during any period between September 16 and April 30 in which such individual is regularly attending any secondary school.”.

(2) INCREASE IN CREDIT AMOUNT.—Section 51(d)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B).

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(A) Subparagraph (F) of section 51(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “summer”.

(B) Paragraph (7) of section 51(d) of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking “summer” each place it appears in subparagraphs (A);

(ii) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking “subparagraph (A)(iv)” and inserting “subparagraph (A)(ii)”; and

(iii) by striking “SUMMER” in the heading thereof.

(b) CREDIT FOR AT-RISK YOUTH.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 51(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (J) and inserting “, or”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(K) an at-risk youth.”.

(2) AT-RISK YOUTH.—Paragraph (14) of section 51(d) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

“(14) AT-RISK YOUTH.—The term ‘at-risk youth’ means any individual who is certified by the designated local agency—

“(A) as—

“(i) having attained age 16 but not age 25 on the hiring date,

“(ii) as not regularly attending any secondary, technical, or post-secondary school during the 6-month period preceding the hiring date,

“(iii) as not regularly employed during such 6-month period, and

“(iv) as not readily employable by reason of lacking a sufficient number of basic skills, or

“(B) as—

“(i) having attained age 16 but not age 21 on the hiring date, and

“(ii) an eligible foster child (as defined in section 152(f)(1)(C)) who was in foster care during the 12-month period ending on the hiring date.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to individuals who begin work for the employer after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF EMPOWERMENT ZONES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1391(d)(1)(A)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TERMINATION DATES SPECIFIED IN NOMINATIONS.—In the case of a designation of an empowerment zone the nomination for which included a termination date which is contemporaneous with the date specified in subparagraph (A)(i) of section 1391(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as in effect before the enactment of this Act), subparagraph (B) of such section shall not apply with respect to such designation if, after the date of the enactment of this section, the entity which made such nomination amends the nomination to provide for a new termination date in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary’s designee) may provide.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1551. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide funding, on a competitive basis, for summer and year-round employment opportunities for youth ages 14 through 24; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1551

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 “Creating Pathways for Youth Employment Act”.

SEC. 2. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

Title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating subtitle E as subtitle F; and

(2) by inserting after subtitle D the following:

“Subtitle E—Youth Employment Opportunities”

“SEC. 176. DEFINITIONS.

“(In this subtitle:

“(1) ELIGIBLE YOUTH.—The term ‘eligible youth’ means an individual who—

“(A) is not younger than age 14 or older than age 24; and

“(B) is—

“(i) an in-school youth;

“(ii) an out-of-school youth; or

“(iii) an unemployed individual.

“(2) HARDEST-TO-EMPLOY, MOST-AT-RISK.—

The term ‘hardest-to-employ, most-at-risk’, used with respect to an individual, includes individuals who are homeless, in foster care, involved in the juvenile or criminal justice system, or are not enrolled in or at risk of dropping out of an educational institution and who live in an underserved community

that has faced trauma through acute or long-term exposure to substantial discrimination, historical or cultural oppression, intergenerational poverty, civil unrest, a high rate of violence, or a high rate of drug overdose mortality.

“(3) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘tribal organization’ have the meanings given the terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

“(4) IN-SCHOOL YOUTH; OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH.—The terms ‘in-school youth’ and ‘out-of-school youth’ have the meanings given the terms in section 129(a)(1).

“(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

“(6) SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT.—The term ‘subsidized employment’ means employment for which the employer receives a total or partial subsidy to offset costs of employing an eligible youth under this subtitle.

“(7) TRIBAL AREA.—The term ‘tribal area’ means—

“(A) an area on or adjacent to an Indian reservation;

“(B) land held in trust by the United States for Indians;

“(C) a public domain Indian allotment;

“(D) a former Indian reservation in Oklahoma; and

“(E) land held by an incorporated Native group, Regional Corporation, or Village Corporation under the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

“(8) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term ‘tribal college or university’ has the meaning given the term ‘Tribal College or University’ in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).

“(9) TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY.—The term ‘tribally designated housing entity’, used with respect to an Indian tribe (as defined in this section), has the meaning given in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

“SEC. 176A. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

“(a) ALLOCATION.—Of the funds appropriated under section 176E that remain available after any reservation under subsection (b), the Secretary may make available—

“(1) not more than \$1,500,000,000 in accordance with section 176B to provide eligible youth with subsidized summer employment opportunities; and

“(2) not more than \$2,000,000,000 in accordance with section 176C to provide eligible youth with subsidized year-round employment opportunities.

“(b) RESERVATION.—The Secretary may reserve not more than 10 percent of the funds appropriated under section 176E to provide technical assistance and oversight, in order to assist eligible entities in applying for and administering grants awarded under this subtitle.

“SEC. 176B. SUMMER EMPLOYMENT COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) GRANTS.—Using the amounts made available under 176A(a)(1), the Secretary shall award, on a competitive basis, planning and implementation grants.

“(2) GENERAL USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall award the grants to assist eligible entities by paying for the program share of the cost of—

“(A) in the case of a planning grant, planning a summer youth employment program to provide subsidized summer employment opportunities; and

“(B) in the case of an implementation grant, implementation of such a program, to provide such opportunities.

“(b) PERIODS AND AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.—

“(1) PLANNING GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a planning grant under this section for a 1-year period, in an amount of not more than \$200,000.

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—The Secretary may award an implementation grant under this section for a 3-year period, in an amount of not more than \$5,000,000.

“(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a planning or implementation grant under this section, an entity shall—

“(A) be a—

“(i) State, local government, or Indian tribe or tribal organization, that meets the requirements of paragraph (2); or

“(ii) community-based organization that meets the requirements of paragraph (3); and

“(B) meet the requirements for a planning or implementation grant, respectively, specified in paragraph (4).

“(2) GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS.—An entity that is a State, local government, or Indian tribe or tribal organization referred to in paragraph (1) shall demonstrate that the entity has entered into a partnership with State, local, or tribal entities—

“(A) that shall include—

“(i) a local educational agency or tribal educational agency (as defined in section 6132 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7452));

“(ii) a local board or tribal workforce development agency;

“(iii) a State, local, or tribal agency serving youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system or criminal justice system;

“(iv) a State, local, or tribal child welfare agency;

“(v) a State, local, or tribal agency or community-based organization, with—

“(I) expertise in providing counseling services, and trauma-informed and gender-responsive trauma prevention, identification, referral, and support (including treatment) services; and

“(II) a proven track record of serving low-income vulnerable youth and out-of-school youth; and

“(vi) if the State, local government, or Indian tribe or tribal organization is seeking an implementation grant, and has not established a summer youth employment program, an entity that is carrying out a State, local, or tribal summer youth employment program; and

“(vii) an employer or employer association; and

“(B) that may include—

“(i) an institution of higher education or tribal college or university;

“(ii) a representative of a labor or labor-management organization;

“(iii) an entity that carries out a program that receives funding under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.) or section 212 of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17532);

“(iv) a collaborative applicant as defined in section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360) or a private nonprofit organization that serves homeless individuals and households (including such an applicant or organization that serves individuals or households that are at risk of homelessness in tribal areas) or serves foster youth;

“(v) an entity that carries out a program funded under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), including Native American programs funded under section 116 of that Act

(20 U.S.C. 2326) and tribally controlled postsecondary career and technical institution programs funded under section 117 of that Act (20 U.S.C. 2327);

“(vi) a local or tribal youth committee;

“(vii) a State or local public housing agency or a tribally designated housing entity; and

“(viii) another appropriate State, local, or tribal agency.

“(3) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION PARTNERSHIPS.—A community-based organization referred to in paragraph (1) shall demonstrate that the organization has entered into a partnership with State, local, or tribal entities—

“(A) that shall include—

“(i) a unit of general local government or tribal government;

“(ii) an agency described in paragraph (2)(A)(i);

“(iii) a local board or tribal workforce development agency;

“(iv) a State, local, or tribal agency serving youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system or criminal justice system;

“(v) a State, local, or tribal child welfare agency;

“(vi) if the organization is seeking an implementation grant, and has not established a summer youth employment program, an entity that is carrying out a State, local, or tribal summer youth employment program; and

“(vii) an employer or employer association; and

“(B) that may include one or more entities described in paragraph (2)(B).

“(4) ENTITIES ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICULAR GRANTS.—

“(A) ENTITIES ELIGIBLE FOR PLANNING GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a planning grant under this section to an eligible entity that—

“(i) is preparing to establish or expand a summer youth employment program that meets the minimum requirements specified in subsection (d); and

“(ii) has not received a grant under this section.

“(B) ENTITIES ELIGIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award an implementation grant under this section to an eligible entity that—

“(I) has received a planning grant under this section; or

“(II) has established a summer youth employment program and demonstrates a minimum level of capacity to enhance or expand the summer youth employment program described in the application submitted under subsection (d).

“(ii) CAPACITY.—In determining whether an entity has the level of capacity referred to in clause (i)(II), the Secretary may include as capacity—

“(I) the entity’s staff capacity and staff training to deliver youth employment services; and

“(II) the entity’s existing youth employment services (as of the date of submission of the application submitted under subsection (d)) that are consistent with the application.

“(D) APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an eligible entity desiring to receive a grant under this section for a summer youth employment program shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including, at a minimum, each of the following:

“(A) With respect to an application for a planning or implementation grant—

“(i) a description of the eligible youth for whom summer employment services will be provided;

“(ii) a description of the eligible entity, and a description of the expected participation and responsibilities of each of the partners in the partnership described in subsection (c);

“(iii) information demonstrating sufficient need for the grant in the State, local, or tribal population, which may include information showing—

“(I) a high level of unemployment among youth (including young adults) ages 14 through 24;

“(II) a high rate of out-of-school youth;

“(III) a high rate of homelessness;

“(IV) a high rate of poverty;

“(V) a high rate of adult unemployment;

“(VI) a high rate of community or neighborhood crime;

“(VII) a high rate of violence; or

“(VIII) a high level or rate on another indicator of need;

“(iv) a description of the strategic objectives the eligible entity seeks to achieve through the program to provide eligible youth with core work readiness skills, which may include—

“(I) financial literacy skills, including providing the support described in section 129(b)(2)(D);

“(II) sector-based technical skills aligned with employer needs;

“(III) skills that—

“(aa) are soft employment skills, early work skills, or work readiness skills; and

“(bb) include social skills, communications skills, higher-order thinking skills, self-control, and positive self-concept; and

“(IV) (for the hardest-to-employ, most-at-risk eligible youth) basic skills like communication, math, and problem solving in the context of training for advancement to better jobs and postsecondary training; and

“(v) information demonstrating that the eligible entity has obtained commitments to provide the non-program share described in paragraph (2) of subsection (h).

“(B) With respect to an application for a planning grant—

“(i) a description of the intermediate and long-term goals for planning activities for the duration of the planning grant;

“(ii) a description of how grant funds will be used to develop a plan to provide summer employment services for eligible youth;

“(iii) a description of how the eligible entity will carry out an analysis of best practices for identifying, recruiting, and engaging program participants, in particular the hardest-to-employ, most-at-risk eligible youth;

“(iv) a description of how the eligible entity will carry out an analysis of best practices for placing youth participants—

“(I) in opportunities that—

“(aa) are appropriate subsidized employment opportunities with employers based on factors including age, skill, experience, career aspirations, work-based readiness, and barriers to employment; and

“(bb) may include additional services for participants, including core work readiness skill development and mentorship services;

“(II) in summer employment that—

“(aa) is not less than 6 weeks;

“(bb) follows a schedule of not more than 20 hours per week; and

“(cc) pays not less than the applicable Federal, State, or local minimum wage; and

“(v) a description of how the eligible entity plans to develop a mentorship program or connect youth with positive, supportive mentorships, consistent with paragraph (3).

“(C) With respect to an application for an implementation grant—

“(i) a description of how the eligible entity plans to identify, recruit, and engage program participants, in particular the hardest-to-employ, most-at-risk eligible youth;

“(ii) a description of the manner in which the eligible entity plans to place eligible youth participants in subsidized employment opportunities, and in summer employment, described in subparagraph (B)(iv);

“(iii) (for a program serving the hardest-to-employ, most-at-risk eligible youth), a description of workplaces for the subsidized employment involved, which may include workplaces in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors;

“(iv) a description of how the eligible entity plans to provide or connect eligible youth participants with positive, supportive mentorships, consistent with paragraph (3);

“(v) a description of services that will be available to employers participating in the youth employment program, to provide supervisors involved in the program with coaching and mentoring on—

“(I) how to support youth development;

“(II) how to structure learning and reflection; and

“(III) how to deal with youth challenges in the workplace;

“(vi) a description of how the eligible entity plans to offer structured pathways back into employment and a youth employment program under this section for eligible youth who have been terminated from employment or removed from the program;

“(vii) a description of how the eligible entity plans to engage eligible youth beyond the duration of the summer employment opportunity, which may include—

“(I) developing or partnering with a year-round youth employment program;

“(II) referring eligible youth to other year-round programs, which may include—

“(aa) programs funded under section 176C or the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

“(bb) after school programs;

“(cc) secondary or postsecondary education programs;

“(dd) training programs;

“(ee) cognitive behavior therapy programs;

“(ff) apprenticeship programs; and

“(gg) national service programs;

“(III) employing a full-time, permanent staff person who is responsible for youth outreach, followup, and recruitment; or

“(IV) connecting eligible youth with job development services, including career counseling, resume and job application assistance, interview preparation, and connections to job leads;

“(viii) evidence of the eligible entity’s capacity to provide the services described in this subsection; and

“(ix) a description of the quality of the summer youth employment program, including a program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential.

“(2) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible entity that is an Indian tribe or tribal organization and desires to receive a grant under this section for a summer youth employment program may, in lieu of submitting the application described in paragraph (1), submit an application to the Secretary that meets such requirements as the Secretary develops after consultation with the tribe or organization.

“(3) MENTOR.—For purposes of subparagraphs (B)(iv), (B)(v), and (C)(iv) of paragraph (1), a mentor—

“(A) shall be an individual who has been matched with an eligible youth based on the youth’s needs;

“(B) shall make contact with the eligible youth at least once each week;

“(C) shall be a trusted member of the local community; and

“(D) may include—

“(i) a mentor trained in trauma-informed care (including provision of trauma-informed trauma prevention, identification, referral, or support services to youth that have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma), conflict resolution, and positive youth development;

“(ii) a job coach trained to provide youth with guidance on how to navigate the workplace and troubleshoot problems;

“(iii) a supervisor trained to provide at least two performance assessments and serve as a reference; or

“(iv) a peer mentor who is a former or current participant in the youth employment program involved.

“(e) AWARDS FOR POPULATIONS AND AREAS.—

“(1) POPULATIONS.—The Secretary shall reserve, from the amounts made available under section 176A(a)(1)—

“(A) 50 percent to award grants under this section for planning or provision of subsidized summer employment opportunities for in-school youth; and

“(B) 50 percent to award such grants to plan for planning or provision of such opportunities for out-of-school youth.

“(2) AREAS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In awarding the grants, the Secretary shall consider the regional diversity of the areas to be served, to ensure that urban, suburban, rural, and tribal areas are receiving grant funds.

“(B) RURAL AND TRIBAL AREA INCLUSION.—

“(i) RURAL AREAS.—Not less than 20 percent of the amounts made available under section 176A(a)(1) for each fiscal year shall be made available for activities to be carried out in rural areas.

“(ii) TRIBAL AREAS.—Not less than 5 percent of the amounts made available under section 176A(a)(1) for each fiscal year shall be made available for activities to be carried out in tribal areas.

“(f) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—In allocating funds under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities—

“(1) who propose to coordinate their activities—

“(A) with local or tribal employers; and

“(B) with agencies described in subsection (c)(2)(A)(i) to ensure the summer youth employment programs provide clear linkages to remedial, academic, and occupational programs carried out by the agencies;

“(2) who propose a plan to increase private sector engagement in, and job placement through, summer youth employment; and

“(3) who have, in their counties, States, or tribal areas (as compared to other counties in their State, other States, or other tribal areas, respectively), a high level or rate described in subsection (d)(1)(A)(iii).

“(g) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section may use the grant funds for services described in subsection (d).

“(2) DISCRETIONARY USES.—The eligible entity may also use the funds—

“(A) to provide wages to eligible youth in subsidized summer employment programs;

“(B) to provide eligible youth with support services, including case management, child care assistance, child support services, and transportation assistance; and

“(C) to develop data management systems to assist with programming, evaluation, and records management.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—An eligible entity may reserve not more than 10 percent of the grant funds for the administration of activities under this section.

“(4) CARRY-OVER AUTHORITY.—Any amounts provided to an eligible entity under this section for a fiscal year may, at the discretion

of the Secretary, remain available to that entity for expenditure during the succeeding fiscal year to carry out programs under this section.

“(h) PROGRAM SHARE.—

“(1) PLANNING GRANTS.—The program share for a planning grant awarded under this section shall be 100 percent of the cost described in subsection (a)(2)(A).

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The program share for an implementation grant awarded under this section shall be 50 percent of the cost described in subsection (a)(2)(B).

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Secretary—

“(i) may increase the program share for an eligible entity; and

“(ii) shall increase the program share for an Indian tribe or tribal organization to not less than 95 percent of the cost described in subsection (a)(2)(B).

“(C) NON-PROGRAM SHARE.—The eligible entity may provide the non-program share of the cost—

“(i) in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services; and

“(ii) from State, local, tribal or private (including philanthropic) sources and, in the case of an Indian tribe or tribal organization, from Federal sources.

“SEC. 176C. YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) GRANTS.—Using the amounts made available under 176A(a)(2), the Secretary shall award, on a competitive basis, planning and implementation grants.

“(2) GENERAL USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall award the grants to assist eligible entities by paying for the program share of the cost of—

“(A) in the case of a planning grant, planning a year-round youth employment program to provide subsidized year-round employment opportunities; and

“(B) in the case of an implementation grant, implementation of such a program to provide such opportunities.

“(b) PERIODS AND AMOUNTS OF GRANTS.—The planning grants shall have the periods and amounts described in section 176B(b)(1). The implementation grants shall have the periods and grants described in section 176B(b)(2).

“(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a planning or implementation grant under this section, an entity shall, except as provided in paragraph (2)—

“(A) be a—

“(i) State, local government, or Indian tribe or tribal organization, that meets the requirements of section 176B(c)(2); or

“(ii) community-based organization that meets the requirements of section 176B(c)(3); and

“(B) meet the requirements for a planning or implementation grant, respectively, specified in section 176B(c)(4).

“(2) YEAR-ROUND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any reference in section 176B(c)—

“(A) to a summer youth employment program shall be considered to refer to a year-round youth employment program; and

“(B) to a provision of section 176B shall be considered to refer to the corresponding provision of this section.

“(d) APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an eligible entity desiring to receive a grant under this section for a year-round youth employment program shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require,

including, at a minimum, each of the following:

“(A) With respect to an application for a planning or implementation grant, the information and descriptions specified in section 176B(d)(1)(A).

“(B) With respect to an application for a planning grant, the descriptions specified in section 176B(d)(1)(B), except that the description of an analysis for placing youth in employment described in clause (iv)(II)(bb) of that section shall cover employment that follows a schedule—

“(i) that consists of—

“(I) not more than 15 hours per week for in-school youth; and

“(II) not less than 20 and not more than 40 hours per week for out-of-school youth; and

“(ii) that depends on the needs and work-readiness level of the population being served.

“(C) With respect to an application for an implementation grant, the descriptions and evidence specified in section 176B(d)(1)(C)—

“(i) except that the reference in section 176(d)(1)(C)(ii) to employment described in section 176B(d)(1)(B) shall cover employment that follows the schedule described in subparagraph (B); and

“(ii) except that the reference to programs in clause (vii)(II)(aa) of that section shall be considered to refer only to programs funded under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

“(2) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—

An eligible entity that is an Indian tribe or tribal organization and desires to receive a grant under this section for a year-round youth employment program may, in lieu of submitting the application described in paragraph (1), submit an application to the Secretary that meets such requirements as the Secretary develops after consultation with the tribe or organization.

“(3) MENTOR.—For purposes of paragraph

(1), any reference in subparagraphs (B)(iv), (B)(v), and (C)(iv) of section 176B(d)(1) to a mentor shall be considered to refer to a mentor who—

“(A) shall be an individual described in subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section 176B(d)(3);

“(B) shall make contact with the eligible youth at least twice each week; and

“(C) may be an individual described in section 176B(d)(3)(D).

“(4) YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT.—For purposes of this subsection, any reference in section 176B(d)—

“(A) to summer employment shall be considered to refer to year-round employment; and

“(B) to a provision of section 176B shall be considered to refer to the corresponding provision of this section.

“(e) AWARDS FOR POPULATIONS AND AREAS; PRIORITIES.—

“(1) POPULATIONS.—The Secretary shall reserve, from the amounts made available under section 176A(a)(2)—

“(A) 50 percent to award grants under this section for planning or provision of subsidized year-round employment opportunities for in-school youth; and

“(B) 50 percent to award such grants to plan for planning or provision of such opportunities for out-of-school youth.

“(2) AREAS; PRIORITIES.—In awarding the grants, the Secretary shall—

“(A) carry out section 176B(e)(2); and

“(B) give priority to eligible entities—

“(i) who—

“(I) propose the coordination and plan described paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 176B(f), with respect to year-round youth employment; and

“(II) meet the requirements of section 176B(f)(3); or

“(ii) who—

“(I) propose a plan to coordinate activities with entities carrying out State, local, or tribal summer youth employment programs, to provide pathways to year-round employment for eligible youth who are ending summer employment; and

“(II) meet the requirements of section 176B(f)(3).

“(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section may use the grant funds—

“(1) for services described in subsection (d);

“(2) as described in section 176B(g)(2), with respect to year-round employment programs;

“(3) as described in section 176B(g)(3), with respect to activities under this section; and

“(4) at the discretion of the Secretary, as described in section 176B(g)(4), with respect to activities under this section.

“(g) PROGRAM SHARE.—

“(1) PLANNING GRANTS.—The provisions of section 176B(h)(1) shall apply to planning grants awarded under this section, with respect to the cost described in subsection (a)(2)(A).

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—The provisions of section 176B(h)(2) shall apply to implementation grants awarded under this section, with respect to the cost described in subsection (a)(2)(B).

“SEC. 176D. EVALUATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

“(a) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish performance measures for purposes of annual reviews under subsection (b).

“(2) COMPONENTS.—The performance measures for the eligible entities shall consist of—

“(A) the indicators of performance described in paragraph (3); and

“(B) an adjusted level of performance for each indicator described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The indicators of performance shall consist of—

“(i) the percentage of youth employment program participants who are in education or training activities, or in employment, during the second quarter after exit from the program;

“(ii) the percentage of youth employment program participants who are in education or training activities, or in employment, during the fourth quarter after exit from the program;

“(iii) the percentage of youth employment program participants who obtain a recognized postsecondary credential, or a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (subject to subparagraph (B)), during participation in or within 1 year after exit from the program; and

“(iv) the percentage of youth employment program participants who, during a program year, are in a youth employment program that includes an education or training program that leads to an outcome specified by the Secretary, which may include—

“(I) obtaining a recognized postsecondary credential or employment; or

“(II) achieving measurable skill gains toward such a credential or employment.

“(B) INDICATOR RELATING TO CREDENTIAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii), youth employment program participants who obtain a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent shall be included in the percentage counted as meeting the criterion under such subparagraph only if such participants, in addition to obtaining such diploma or its recognized equivalent, have obtained or retained employment or are in a youth employment program that includes an education or training program leading to a

recognized postsecondary credential within 1 year after exit from the program.

“(4) LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For each eligible entity, there shall be established, in accordance with this paragraph, levels of performance for each of the corresponding indicators of performance described in paragraph (3).

“(B) IDENTIFICATION IN APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity shall identify, in the application submitted under subsection (d) of section 176B or 176C, expected levels of performance for each of those indicators of performance for each program year covered by the application.

“(C) AGREEMENT ON ADJUSTED LEVELS OF PERFORMANCE.—The eligible entity shall reach agreement with the Secretary on levels of performance for each of those indicators of performance for each such program year. The levels agreed to shall be considered to be the adjusted levels of performance for the eligible entity for such program years and shall be incorporated into the application prior to the approval of such application.

“(b) ANNUAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall carry out an annual review of each eligible entity receiving a grant under this subtitle. In conducting the review, the Secretary shall review the performance of the entity on the performance measures under this section and determine if the entity has used any practices that shall be considered best practices for purposes of this subtitle.

“(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

“(1) PREPARATION.—The Secretary shall prepare a report on the grant programs established by this subtitle, which report shall include a description of—

“(A) the eligible entities receiving funding under this subtitle;

“(B) the activities carried out by the eligible entities;

“(C) how the eligible entities were selected to receive funding under this subtitle; and

“(D) an assessment of the results achieved by the grant programs including findings from the annual reviews conducted under subsection (b).

“(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Creating Pathways for Youth Employment Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report described in paragraph (1) to the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(d) APPLICATION TO INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary may issue regulations that clarify the application of all the provisions of this subtitle to Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

“SEC. 176E. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated—

“(1) to carry out section 176B, \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024; and

“(2) to carry out section 176C, \$400,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) REFERENCES.—

(1) Section 121(b)(1)(C)(ii)(II) of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3152(b)(1)(C)(ii)(II)) is amended by striking “subtitles C through E” and inserting “subtitles C through F”.

(2) Section 503(b) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3343(b)) is amended by inserting before the period the following: “(as such subtitles were in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act)”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking the item relating to the subtitle heading for subtitle E of title I and inserting the following:

“Subtitle E—Youth Employment Opportunities

“Sec. 176. Definitions.

“Sec. 176A. Allocation of funds.

“Sec. 176B. Summer employment competitive grant program.

“Sec. 176C. Year-round employment competitive grant program.

“Sec. 176D. Evaluation and administration.

“Sec. 176E. Authorization of appropriations.”

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. Kaine):

S. 1552. A bill to decriminalize marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1552

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 “Marijuana Freedom and Opportunity Act”.

SEC. 2. DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA.

(a) MARIJUANA REMOVED FROM SCHEDULE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.—Subsection (c) of schedule I of section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) is amended—

(1) by striking “marijuana”; and
(2) by striking “tetrahydrocannabinols”.

(b) REMOVAL OF PROHIBITION ON IMPORT AND EXPORT.—Section 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—
(A) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “or” after the semicolon;

(B) by striking subparagraph (G); and
(C) by redesignating subparagraph (H) as subparagraph (G);

(2) in paragraph (2)—
(A) in subparagraph (F), by inserting “or” after the semicolon;

(B) by striking subparagraph (G); and
(C) by redesignating subparagraph (H) as subparagraph (G);

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “paragraphs (1), (2), and (4)” and inserting “paragraphs (1) and (2)”;

(4) by striking paragraph (4); and
(5) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.—The Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 102(44) (21 U.S.C. 802(44)), by striking “marijuana.”;

(2) in section 401(b) (21 U.S.C. 841(b))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (vi), by inserting “or” after the semicolon;

(II) by striking (vii); and

(III) by redesignating clause (viii) as clause (vii);

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking clause (vii); and

(II) by redesignating clause (viii) as clause (vii);

(iii) in subparagraph (C), in the first sentence, by striking “subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) and (B)”;

(iv) by striking subparagraph (D);

(v) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D); and

(vi) in subparagraph (D)(i), as so redesignated, by striking “subparagraphs (C) and (D)” and inserting “subparagraph (C)”;

(B) by striking paragraph (4); and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively;

(3) in section 402(c)(2)(B) (21 U.S.C. 842(c)(2)(B)), by striking “, marihuana,”;

(4) in section 403(d)(1) (21 U.S.C. 843(d)(1)), by striking “, marihuana,”;

(5) in section 418(a) (21 U.S.C. 859(a)), by striking the last sentence;

(6) in section 419(a) (21 U.S.C. 860(a)), by striking the last sentence;

(7) in section 422(d) (21 U.S.C. 863(d))—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “marijuana,”; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “, such as a marihuana cigarette,”; and

(8) in section 516(d) (21 U.S.C. 886(d)), by striking “section 401(b)(6)” each place the term appears and inserting “section 401(b)(5)”.

(d) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 1986.—The National Forest System Drug Control Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 559b et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 15002(a) (16 U.S.C. 559b(a)) by striking “marijuana and other”;

(B) in section 15003(2) (16 U.S.C. 559c(2)) by striking “marijuana and other”; and

(C) in section 15004(2) (16 U.S.C. 559d(2)) by striking “marijuana and other”.

(2) INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 2516 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (1)(e), by striking “marijuana,”; and

(B) in subsection (2) by striking “marijuana.”.

SEC. 3. LEVEL THE ECONOMIC PLAYING FIELD.

(a) ESTIMATE.—On an annual basis, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make a reasonable estimate of total tax revenue generated by the marijuana industry for the previous 12-month period.

(b) TRANSFER.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the general fund of the Treasury to the trust fund established under subsection (c) the greater of—

(1) an amount equal to 10 percent of the amount estimated under subsection (a); and
(2) \$10,000,000.

(c) TRUST FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the Marijuana Opportunity Trust Fund, which shall consist of amounts transferred under subsection (b).

(2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts in the trust fund established under paragraph (1) shall be made available to the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to provide loans under section 7(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)) to assist—

(A) small business concerns owned and controlled by women, as defined in section 3 of that Act (15 U.S.C. 632), that operate in the marijuana industry; and

(B) small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, as defined in section 8(d)(3)(C) of that Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C)), that operate in the marijuana industry.

SEC. 4. HIGHWAY SAFETY RESEARCH.

(a) STUDY; DEVELOPMENT.—The Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (referred to in this section as the “Administrator”) shall—

(1) carry out a study of the impact of driving under the influence of tetrahydrocannabinol on highway safety; and

(2) develop enhanced strategies and procedures to reliably determine the impairment

of a driver under the influence of tetrahydrocannabinol.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

SEC. 5. PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall conduct research on the impacts of marijuana, including—

(1) effects of tetrahydrocannabinol on the human brain;

(2) efficacy of medicinal marijuana as a treatment for specific diseases and conditions; and

(3) identification of additional medical benefits and uses of cannabis.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, for purposes of carrying out the activities described in subsection (a).

SEC. 6. PROTECT KIDS.

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau of the Department of the Treasury shall promulgate regulations that—

(1) require restrictions on the advertising and promotion of products related to marijuana, if the Secretary determines that such regulation would be appropriate for the protection of the public health, taking into account—

(A) the risks and benefits to the population of individuals age 18 and under, including users and nonusers of marijuana products;

(B) the increased or decreased likelihood that existing users of marijuana products who are age 18 and under will stop using such products; and

(C) the increased or decreased likelihood that those age 18 and under who do not use marijuana products will start using such products; and

(2) impose restrictions on the advertising and promotion of products related to marijuana consistent with and to the full extent permitted by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

SEC. 7. GRANTS FOR EXPUNGEMENT OF MARIJUANA CONVICTIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General to award grants to States and units of local government for the purpose of administering, expanding, or developing expungement or sealing programs for convictions of possession of marijuana \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023 with not less than 50 percent of those funds being directed to cover the cost of public defenders or legal aid providers.

SEC. 8. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or an amendment made by this Act, may be construed to modify the authority of the Federal Government to prevent marijuana trafficking from States that have legalized marijuana to those that have not.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I have 4 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They

have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, May 20, 2019, at 5 p.m., to conduct a hearing

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, May 20, 2019, at 5 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, May 20, 2019, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, May 20, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Boozman:									
Germany	Euro	550.72							550.72
Kosovo	Euro	336.55							336.55
Israel	Shekel	1,040.00							1,040.00
Ethiopia	Birr	800.00							800.00
Rwanda	Franc	289.00							289.00
Algeria	Dinar	319.00							319.00
Spain	Euro	241.00							241.00
Rosie Heiss:									
Germany	Euro	523.64							523.64
Kosovo	Euro	336.55							336.55
Israel	Shekel	1,040.00							1,040.00
Ethiopia	Birr	800.00							800.00
Rwanda	Franc	289.00							289.00
Algeria	Dinar	287.00							287.00
Spain	Euro	200.00							200.00
Senator Chris Van Hollen:									
Germany	Euro	1,095.08							1,095.08
France	Franc	839.00							839.00
Austria	Euro	1,834.38							1,834.38
Cyprus	Pound	648.89							648.89
Senator Richard Shelby:									
United Kingdom	Pound	3,965.35							3,965.35
United States	Dollar			9,007.33					9,007.33
Senator James Lankford:									
Israel	Shekel	811.25							811.25
United Kingdom	Pound	716.98							716.98
United States	Dollar			11,913.63					11,913.63
Adam Farris:									
Israel	Shekel	781.75							781.75
United Kingdom	Pound	687.50							687.50
United States	Dollar			13,217.73					13,217.73
Paul Grove:									
Jordan	Dinar	704.60							704.60
Iraq	Dinar	76.00							76.00
United States	Dollar			10,366.53					10,366.53
Adam Yezerski:									
Jordan	Dinar	704.60							704.60
Iraq	Dinar	76.00							76.00
United States	Dollar			7,492.63					7,492.63

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Sarita Vanka:									
Jordan	Dinar		704.60						704.60
Iraq	Dinar		76.00						76.00
United States	Dollar				10,366.53				10,366.53
Katherine Jackson:									
Jordan	Dinar		704.60						704.60
Iraq	Dinar		76.00						76.00
United States	Dollar				10,366.53				10,366.53
Laura Friedel:									
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		2,135.00						2,135.00
United States	Dollar				14,164.13				14,164.13
Richard Eddings:									
United Arab Emirates	Dirham			2,135.00					2,135.00
United States	Dollar			14,164.13					14,164.13
Paul Grove:									
France	Franc		943.00						943.00
Israel	Shekel		1,040.00						1,040.00
United States	Dollar				8,095.14				8,095.14
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro					3,069.87			3,069.87
Kosovo	Euro					1,138.36			1,138.36
Israel	Shekel					2,829.12			2,829.12
Ethiopia	Birr					446.96			446.96
Rwanda	Franc					765.56			765.56
Algeria	Dinar					1,773.67			1,773.67
Spain	Euro					79.67			79.67
United Kingdom	Pound					6,651.42			6,651.42
Israel	Shekel					6,637.38			6,637.38
Lebanon	Pound					100.00			100.00
United Kingdom	Pound					1,305.45			1,305.45
France	Franc					912.00			912.00
Israel	Shekel					7,136.95			7,136.95
Iraq	Dinar					10,232.00			10,232.00
Jordan	Dinar					523.55			523.55
Total			27,808.04		109,154.31		43,601.96		180,564.31

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RICHARD SHELBY,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, May 9, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator James M. Inhofe:									
Germany	Euro		548.06						548.06
Kosovo	Euro		271.65						271.65
Israel	New Shekel		983.55						983.55
Ethiopia	Birr		779.54						779.54
Rwanda	Franc		331.46						331.46
Algeria	Dinar		201.27						201.27
Spain	Euro		158.09						158.09
Lucas Holland:									
Germany	Euro		557.01						557.01
Kosovo	Euro		284.01						284.01
Israel	New Shekel		1,005.83						1,005.83
Ethiopia	Birr		820.14						820.14
Rwanda	Franc		358.82						358.82
Algeria	Dinar		213.63						213.63
Spain	Euro		182.53						182.53
Tony Pankuch:									
Germany	Euro		544.65						544.65
Kosovo	Euro		246.62						246.62
Israel	New Shekel		970.18						970.18
Ethiopia	Birr		718.49						718.49
Rwanda	Franc		384.37						384.37
Algeria	Dinar		203.64						203.64
Spain	Euro		209.58						209.58
John M. Powers:									
Germany	Euro		531.01						531.01
Kosovo	Euro		285.65						285.65
Israel	New Shekel		988.27						988.27
Ethiopia	Birr		727.54						727.54
Rwanda	Franc		341.46						341.46
Algeria	Dinar		236.28						236.28
Spain	Euro		175.13						175.13
Elizabeth Burke:									
Germany	Euro		544.65						544.65
Kosovo	Euro		271.65						271.65
Israel	New Shekel		989.41						989.41
Ethiopia	Birr		755.05						755.05
Rwanda	Franc		331.46						331.46
Algeria	Dinar		201.27						201.27
Spain	Euro		175.13						175.13
Senator Mike Rounds:									
Germany	Euro		229.49						229.49
Kosovo	Euro		293.69						293.69
Israel	New Shekel		907.64						907.64
Ethiopia	Birr		738.24						738.24
Rwanda	Franc		330.80						330.80
Algeria	Dinar		192.75						192.75
Spain	Euro		143.20						143.20
Daniel Adelstein:									
Germany	Euro		229.49						229.49
Kosovo	Euro		281.31						281.31
Israel	New Shekel		943.44						943.44

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Ethiopia	Birr	762.83							762.83
Rwanda	Franc	280.19							280.19
Algeria	Dinar	165.77							165.77
Spain	Euro	167.22							167.22
Thomas Gofius:									
United States	Dollar			8,807.70					8,807.70
Germany	Euro	708.72							708.72
Dustin Walker:									
United States	Dollar			8,807.72					8,807.72
Germany	Euro	934.14							934.14
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro			10,443.89		4,905.46			15,349.35
Kosovo	Euro					3,984.27			3,984.27
Israel	New Shekel			1,731.81		10,150.51			11,882.32
Ethiopia	Birr					1,564.36			1,564.36
Rwanda	Franc					2,679.47			2,679.47
Algeria	Dinar					6,207.83			6,207.83
Spain	Euro					142.34			142.34
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:									
Germany	Euro	272.01							272.01
Senator Rick Scott:									
Germany	Euro	1,639.36							1,639.36
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro					1,928.53			1,928.53
Senator Roger F. Wicker:									
Germany	Euro			1,255.00					1,255.00
France	Euro			925.33					925.33
Cyprus	Euro			582.22					582.22
Austria	Euro			1,627.16					1,627.16
Robert Murray:									
Germany	Euro			1,255.00					1,255.00
France	Euro	925.33							925.33
Cyprus	Euro	582.22							582.22
Austria	Euro	1,627.16							1,627.16
Senator Martin Heinrich:									
Germany	Euro	1,095.09							1,095.09
France	Euro	843.33							843.33
Cyprus	Euro	615.22							615.22
Austria	Euro	1,836.16							1,836.16
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro					950.28			950.28
France	Euro			1,382.25		332.25			1,714.50
Cyprus	Euro			474.12		1,520.25			1,994.37
Austria	Euro			2,906.44		3,674.68			6,581.12
Senator Joni Ernst:									
United States	Dollar			10,240.38					10,240.38
Ukraine	Hryvnia	898.13							898.13
Nicolas Adams:									
United States	Dollar			10,240.38					10,240.38
Ukraine	Hryvnia	931.43							931.43
Delegation Expenses:*									
Ukraine	Hryvnia			2,597.73		7,629.53			10,227.26
Ozge Guzelsoz:									
United States	Dollar			5,737.00					5,737.00
Singapore	Dollar								1,120.21
Japan	Yen	1,120.21							978.74
Delegation Expenses:*									
Japan	Yen			857.85		51.29			909.14
Mariyah McNamara:									
United States	Dollar			17,992.53					17,992.53
Cameron	Franc	977.38							977.38
Delegation Expenses:*									
Cameron	Franc			66.31					66.31
Robert Winkler:									
United States	Dollar			12,500.73					12,500.73
Germany	Euro	164.50							164.50
Turkey	Lira	323.00							323.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Turkey	Lira			28.33		136.41			164.74
Senator Tim Kaine:									
United States	Dollar			2,459.03					2,459.03
Colombia	Peso	908.40							908.40
Ryan Colvert:									
United States	Dollar			2,459.03					2,459.03
Colombia	Peso	912.61							912.61
Mary Taylor:									
United States	Dollar			2,459.03					2,459.03
Colombia	Peso	894.86							894.86
Delegation Expenses:*									
Colombia	Peso					874.13			874.13
Adam Barker:									
United States	Dollar			14,263.83					14,263.83
Germany	Euro	433.99							433.99
Tanzania	Shilling	509.00							509.00
Mariyah McNamara:									
United States	Dollar			14,356.00					14,356.00
Germany	Euro	433.99							433.99
Tanzania	Shilling	467.00							467.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Tanzania	Shilling					263.18			263.18
Senator Marsha Blackburn:									
United States	Dollar			13,249.33					13,249.33
Poland	Zloty	223.64							223.64
Germany	Euro	144.13							144.13
Emily Manning:									
United States	Dollar			13,249.03					13,249.03
Poland	Zloty	246.86							246.86
Germany	Euro	187.91							187.91
Thomas Gofius:									
United States	Dollar			18,013.80					18,013.80
Belarus	Ruble	574.46							574.46
Ukraine	Hryvnia	747.11							747.11
Turkey	Lira	590.85							590.85
Dustin Walker:									
United States	Dollar			9,186.59					9,186.59

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Belarus	Ruble		454.52						454.52
Ukraine	Hryvnia		739.83						739.83
Turkey	Lira		577.66						577.66
William G.P. Monahan:									
United States	Dollar				15,221.03				15,221.03
Belarus	Ruble		403.52						403.52
Ukraine	Hryvnia		439.97						439.97
Delegation Expenses:*									
Belarus	Ruble						248.92		248.92
Ukraine	Hryvnia						651.40		1,120.45
Turkey	Lira						277.54		277.54
Senator Deb Fischer:									
Poland	Zloty		590.00						590.00
Hungary	Forint		559.88						559.88
Ukraine	Hryvnia		337.18						337.18
Brianna Puccini:									
Poland	Zloty		590.00						590.00
Hungary	Forint		559.88						559.88
Ukraine	Hryvnia		255.31						255.31
Belgium	Euro		745.98						745.98
Delegation Expenses:*									
Hungary	Forint				200.00		1,020.00		1,220.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia						585.33		585.33
Belgium	Euro						337.84		1,283.90
Dustin Walker:									
United States	Dollar				6,988.43				6,988.43
Taiwan	Dollar		251.46						251.46
South Korea	Won		1,140.86						1,140.86
Ozge Guzelsoz:									
United States	Dollar				5,161.23				5,161.23
Taiwan	Dollar		322.00						322.00
South Korea	Won		1,160.33						1,160.33
Delegation Expenses:*									
Taiwan	Dollar				24.94				24.94
South Korea	Won				801.94				801.94
Total			55,068.46		219,968.23		50,115.80		325,152.49

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JAMES INHOFE,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, May 8, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Mike Crapo:									
Poland	Zloty		267.35						267.35
Hungary	Forint		323.59						323.59
Ukraine	Hryvnia		310.96						310.96
Belgium	Euro		378.68						378.68
Senator John Kennedy:									
Poland	Zloty		615.00						615.00
Hungary	Forint		846.00						846.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		449.00						449.00
Belgium	Euro		1,224.00						1,224.00
Gregg Richard:									
Poland	Zloty		376.50						376.50
Hungary	Forint		607.50						607.50
Ukraine	Hryvnia		210.50						210.50
Belgium	Euro		985.50						985.50
John Stelz:									
Poland	Zloty		615.00						615.00
Hungary	Forint		846.00						846.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		449.00						449.00
Belgium	Euro		1,224.00						1,224.00
Susan Wheeler:									
Poland	Zloty		457.41						457.41
Hungary	Forint		688.41						688.41
Ukraine	Hryvnia		291.41						291.41
Belgium	Euro		1,066.41						1,066.41
Delegation Expenses:*									
Poland	Zloty						3,052.99		3,052.99
Hungary	Forint						6,100.00		6,100.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia						2,793.29		2,793.29
Belgium	Euro						4,730.28		4,730.28
Total			12,232.22				16,676.56		28,908.78

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MIKE CRAPO,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, May 8, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Mike Lee:									
Germany	Euro		2,176.08		1,057.73		752.31		3,986.12

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
France	Euro		614.00		232.83		338.67		1,185.50
Austria	Euro		1,318.38		1,692.66		1,936.37		4,947.41
Cyprus	Euro		308.89		197.55		633.44		1,139.88
Total			4,417.35		3,180.77		3,660.79		11,258.91

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,
Apr. 9, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Barrasso:									
Poland	Zloty		590.38						590.38
Hungary	Forint		796.00						796.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		424.00						424.00
Belgium	Euro		1,149.21						1,149.21
Delegation Expenses:*									
Poland	Zloty						1,526.50		1,526.50
Hungary	Forint						2,033.34		2,033.34
Ukraine	Hryvnia						439.00		439.00
Belgium	Euro						1,576.76		1,576.76
Total			2,959.59				5,575.60		8,535.19

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOHN BARRASSO,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, May 8, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Robert Casey:									
Germany	Euro		1,202.73						1,202.73
France	Euro		678.65						678.65
Cyprus	Euro		330.14						330.14
Austria	Euro		1,462.21						1,462.21
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro						2,450.19		2,450.19
France	Euro						1,206.59		1,206.59
Cyprus	Euro						658.27		658.27
Austria	Euro						730.39		730.39
Total			3,673.73				5,045.44		8,719.17

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, May 9, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Barrasso:									
Germany	Euro		1,665.18						1,665.18
United States	Dollar				6,181.23				6,181.23
Delegation Expenses: *									
Germany	Euro						936.49		936.49
Senator Christopher Coons:									
Germany	Euro		1,609.70						1,609.70
United Kingdom	Pound		983.95						983.95
United States	Dollar				4,458.13				4,458.13
Thomas Mancinelli:									
Germany	Euro		903.95						903.95
United Kingdom	Pound		864.64						864.64
United States	Dollar				13,955.83				13,955.83
Delegation Expenses: *									
Germany	Euro						2,301.43		2,301.43
United Kingdom	Pound						2,201.02		2,201.02
Senator Robert Menendez:									
Germany	Euro		1,754.13						1,754.13
Belgium	Euro		1,257.61						1,257.61
United States	Dollar				12,335.83				12,335.83
Jessica Lewis:									
Germany	Euro		983.95						983.95
United States	Dollar				8,527.33				8,527.33
Damian Murphy:									
Germany	Euro		1,147.67						1,147.67

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019—Continued

	Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
			Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
	Belgium	Euro		1,362.84						1,362.84
	United States	Dollar				8,563.00				8,563.00
Juan Pachon:										
	Belgium	Euro		1,362.84						1,362.84
	United States	Dollar				2,087.33				2,087.33
Delegation Expenses:*										
	Germany	Euro						2,188.95		2,188.95
	Belgium	Euro						5,776.88		5,776.88
Senator Jeff Merkley:										
	Guatemala	Quetzal		299.48						299.48
	El Salvador	Dollar		228.90						228.90
	United States	Dollar				3,546.65				3,546.65
Matt Traylor:										
	Guatemala	Quetzal		347.00						347.00
	Honduras	Lempira		24.06						24.06
	El Salvador	Dollar		277.02						277.02
	United States	Dollar				3,216.10				3,216.10
Delegation Expenses:*										
	Guatemala	Quetzal						2,516.54		2,516.54
	Honduras	Lempira						524.64		524.64
	El Salvador	Dollar						1,796.09		1,796.09
Senator Jeff Merkley:										
	Mexico	Peso		436.25						436.25
	United States	Dollar				386.59				386.59
Matt Traylor:										
	Mexico	Peso		426.25						426.25
	United States	Dollar				1,078.61				1,078.61
Delegation Expenses:*										
	Mexico	Peso						4,937.00		4,937.00
Senator Christopher Murphy:										
	United Kingdom	Pound		1,281.19						1,281.19
	Ireland	Euro		414.08						414.08
	United States	Dollar				10,205.43				10,205.43
Jessica Eledge:										
	United Kingdom	Pound		1,281.19						1,281.19
	Ireland	Euro		424.08						424.08
	United States	Dollar				10,205.43				10,205.43
Delegation Expenses:*										
	United Kingdom	Pound						3,783.27		3,783.27
Senator James Risch:										
	Germany	Euro		1,642.68						1,642.68
	United States	Dollar				16,222.88				16,222.88
Suzanne Wrasse:										
	Germany	Euro		1,664.80						1,664.80
	United States	Dollar				14,951.83				14,951.83
Christopher Socha:										
	Germany	Euro		1,652.80						1,652.80
	Belgium	Euro		169.49						169.49
	Greece	Euro		963.00						963.00
	North Macedonia	Denar		312.79						312.79
	United States	Dollar				12,087.43				12,087.43
Hannah Thoburn:										
	Germany	Euro		1,577.47						1,577.47
	Belgium	Euro		473.98						473.98
	Greece	Euro		642.00						642.00
	North Macedonia	Denar		367.79						367.79
	United States	Dollar				12,032.43				12,032.43
Lydia Westlake:										
	North Macedonia	Denar		153.54						153.54
	United States	Dollar				6,314.21				6,314.21
Delegation Expenses:*										
	Germany	Euro						5,057.95		5,057.95
	Greece	Euro						885.00		885.00
	North Macedonia	Denar						331.00		331.00
Senator Marco Rubio:										
	Colombia	Peso		604.75						604.75
	United States	Dollar				1,689.03				1,689.03
Viviana Bovo:										
	Colombia	Peso		604.75						604.75
	United States	Dollar				3,154.03				3,154.03
Delegation Expenses:*										
	Colombia	Dollar						1,615.33		1,615.33
Senator Marco Rubio:										
	Haiti	Dollar		8.67						8.67
	United States	Dollar				2,879.63				2,879.63
Viviana Bovo:										
	Haiti	Dollar		8.67						8.67
	United States	Dollar				2,879.63				2,879.63
Delegation Expenses:*										
	Haiti	Dollar						168.00		168.00
Senator Tom Udall:										
	Germany	Euro		1,095.08						1,095.08
	France	Euro		500.22						500.22
	Cyprus	Euro		958.33						958.33
	Austria	Euro		1,836.16						1,836.16
Delegation Expenses:*										
	Germany	Euro						1,206.68		1,206.68
	France	Euro						571.50		571.50
	Cyprus	Euro						816.06		816.06
	Austria	Euro						3,133.87		3,133.87
Sarah Arkin:										
	United Arab Emirates	Dirham		1,040.59						1,040.59
	Saudi Arabia	Riyal		1,007.60						1,007.60
	United States	Dollar				9,333.89				9,333.89
Delegation Expenses:*										
	United Arab Emirates	Dirham						331.83		331.83
Brian Cullen:										
	Israel	Shekel		1,772.50						1,772.50
	Iraq	Dinar		36.00						36.00
	United States	Dollar				5,529.37				5,529.37
Delegation Expenses:*										
	Israel	New Israel Shekel						346.36		346.36
	Iraq	Dinar						5,116.00		5,116.00
Margaret Dougherty:										
	Switzerland	Franc		1,280.58						1,280.58

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Italy	Euro		902.68						902.68
United States	Dollar				2,482.33				2,482.33
Joshua Klein:									
Bangladesh	Taka		1,024.00						1,024.00
United States	Dollar				2,932.53				2,932.53
Delegation Expenses:*									
Bangladesh	Taka							2,670.64	2,670.64
Rollie Michael Schiffer:									
China	RMB		741.00						741.00
Korea	Won		752.18						752.18
Japan	Yen		495.64						495.64
United States	Dollar				4,056.74				4,056.74
Delegation Expenses:*									
China	RMB						131.00		131.00
Korea	Won						561.20		561.20
Japan	Yen						343.08		343.08
Lowell Schwartz:									
France	Euro		1,509.33						1,509.33
Germany	Euro		690.00						690.00
United States	Dollar				5,519.33				5,519.33
Megan Bartley:									
France	Euro		1,495.20						1,495.20
Germany	Euro		981.76						981.76
United States	Dollar				3,772.33				3,772.33
Delegation Expenses:*									
France	Euro						884.00		884.00
Germany	Euro						1,008.65		1,008.65
Brandon Yoder:									
Colombia	Peso		842.92						842.92
United States	Dollar				1,920.93				1,920.93
Charlotte Oldham Moore:									
Colombia	Peso		1,105.02						1,105.02
United States	Dollar				1,885.93				1,885.93
Juan Pachon:									
Colombia	Peso		1,074.87						1,074.87
United States	Dollar				1,885.93				1,885.93
Delegation Expenses:*									
Colombia	Peso						6,407.00		6,407.00
Total			51,324.80		175,867.04		78,958.32		306,150.16

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, May 8, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Ron Johnson:									
United States	Dollar				14,749.36				14,749.36
Germany	Euro		1,136.78						1,136.78
Belgium	Euro		190.46						190.46
Lydia Westlake:									
United States	Dollar				6,314.22				6,314.22
Germany	Euro		679.76						679.76
Belgium	Euro		191.06						191.06
Delegation Expenses:*									
Belgium	Euro						898.59		898.59
Senator Thomas R. Carper:									
United States	Dollar				4,573.40				4,573.40
Guatemala	Quetzal		557.17						557.17
Honduras	Lempira								
El Salvador	Dollar		252.00						252.00
Abigail Shenkler:									
United States	Dollar				3,536.10				3,536.10
Guatemala	Quetzal		557.71						557.71
Honduras	Lempira								
El Salvador	Dollar		412.90						412.90
Delegation Expenses:*									
Guatemala	Quetzal						5,033.08		5,033.08
Honduras	Lempira						1,049.28		1,049.28
El Salvador	Dollar						6,585.58		6,585.58
Senator Michael B. Enzi:									
Germany	Euro		508.97						508.97
Kosovo	Euro		265.53						265.53
Israel	Shekel		933.46						933.46
Ethiopia	Birr		431.58						431.58
Rwanda	Franc		294.80						294.80
Algeria	Dinar		192.75						192.75
Spain	Euro		219.89						219.89
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro						490.55		490.55
Kosovo	Euro						569.18		569.18
Israel	Shekel						1,697.47		1,697.47
Ethiopia	Birr						223.48		223.48
Rwanda	Franc						382.78		382.78
Algeria	Dinar						886.83		886.83
Spain	Euro						39.83		39.83
Total			6,824.82		29,173.08		17,856.65		53,854.55

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RON JOHNSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
May 8, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b). COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1, 2019 TO MAR. 31, 2019.

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Turkey	Lira .....	.....	812.95	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	812.95
Craig Abele:									
Turkey	Lira .....	.....	812.95	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	812.95
Matt Rumkunas:									
Turkey	Lira .....	.....	812.95	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	812.95
Delegation Expenses:*									
Turkey	Lira .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,091.13	.....	2,091.13
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Germany	Euro .....	.....	1,716.12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,716.12
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
Germany	Euro .....	.....	1,716.12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,716.12
Alice James:									
Germany	Euro .....	.....	1,377.52	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,377.52
Matt Rimkunas:									
Germany	Euro .....	.....	1,377.52	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,377.52
Christopher Mewett:									
Germany	Euro .....	.....	1,016.35	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,016.35
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,840.32	.....	7,840.32	7,840.32
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Israel	New Shekel .....	.....	1,140.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,140.00
France	Euro	993.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	993.00
Delegation Expenses:*									
Israel	New Shekel .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,136.95	.....	7,136.95	7,136.95
France	Euro .....	.....	.....	.....	912.00	.....	.....	912.00	912.00
Kristina Seseck:									
Panama	Peso .....	.....	336.62	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	336.62
Mexico	Peso .....	.....	791.10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	791.10
United States				.....	2,909.63	.....	.....	.....	2,909.63
Total .....	.....	.....	12,903.20	.....	2,909.63	.....	17,980.40	.....	33,793.23

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, May 7, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and may include S. Res. 179 funds agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RICHARD BURR,
Chairman, Select Committee on Intelligence, May 10, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Tom Udall: Germany	Euro		1,095.08						1,095.08

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
France	Euro	842.00							842.00
Cyprus	Euro	648.89							648.89
Austria	Euro	1,834.38							1,834.38
Kyle Parker:									
Germany	Euro	573.64							573.64
France	Euro	842.00							842.00
Cyprus	Euro	587.12							587.12
Austria	Euro	1,834.38							1,834.38
Mark Toner:									
Germany	Euro	573.64							573.64
France	Euro	842.00							842.00
Cyprus	Euro	587.12							587.12
Austria	Euro	1,834.38							1,834.38
Jordan Warlick:									
Germany	Euro	573.64				5,105.93			5,679.57
France	Euro	842.00							842.00
Cyprus	Euro	587.12							587.12
Austria	Euro	1,834.38							1,834.38
Rachel Bauman:									
Germany	Euro	573.64							573.64
France	Euro	843.00							843.00
Cyprus	Euro	587.12							587.12
Austria	Euro	1,834.38							1,834.38
Alex Tiersky:									
Germany	Euro	1,016.35			12,419.23				13,435.58
France	Euro	842.00							842.00
Austria	Euro	3,054.78							3,054.78
Everett Price:									
Cyprus	Euro	1,215.04			10,371.93				11,586.97
Robert Hand:									
Austria	Euro	3,492.98			1,494.93				4,987.91
Paul Massaro:									
Austria	Euro	3,492.98			10,590.93				14,083.91
Delegation Expenses:*									
Germany	Euro	9,027.67							9,027.67
France	Euro	6,858.00							6,858.00
Cyprus	Euro	10,861.30							10,861.30
Austria	Euro	23,236.38							23,236.38
Janice Helwig:									
Austria	Euro	21,266.00			13,243.01				34,509.01
Total:		104,133.39		53,225.96					157,359.35

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,
Chairman, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe,
May 10, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Robert Karem:									
United States	Dollar					12,985.23			12,985.23
Germany	Euro	578.14							578.14
United Kingdom	Pound	1,373.35							1,373.35
Total:		1,951.49		12,985.23					14,936.72

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, May 9, 2019.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2019

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Michael Kuiken:									
United States	Dollar					1,617.23			1,617.23
United Kingdom	Pound	1,461.35							1,461.35
Lane Bodian:									
United States	Dollar					2,115.03			2,115.03
Colombia	Pesos	605.00						1,627.50	2,232.50
Chris Homan:									
United States	Dollar					2,115.03			2,115.03
Colombia	Pesos	660.61						1,627.50	2,288.11
Total:		2,726.96		5,847.29		3,255.00			11,829.25

SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER,
Democratic Leader, May 8, 2019.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS ACT

On Thursday, May 16, 2019, the Senate passed S. 1208, as follows:

S. 1208

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 "Protecting America's First Responders Act".

SEC. 2. PAYMENT OF DEATH AND DISABILITY BENEFITS UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' DEATH BENEFITS PROGRAM.

Section 1201 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: "unless the claim under this subsection has been pending for more than 1 year, in which case the amount payable shall be the amount that would be payable if the catastrophic injury occurred on the date on which the Bureau makes a final determination that the public safety officer is entitled to a benefit payment under this subsection";

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "\$3,000" and inserting "\$6,000, adjusted in accordance with subsection (h)";

(3) in subsection (h), by inserting "and the level of the interim benefit payable immediately before such October 1 under subsection (c)" after "subsection (a)";

(4) by striking subsection (i) and inserting the following:

"(i) The amount payable under subsection (a), with respect to the death of a public safety officer, shall be the greater of—

"(1) the amount payable under that subsection as of the date of death of the public safety officer; or

"(2) the amount that would be payable under that subsection if the death of the public safety officer occurred on the date on which the Bureau makes a final determination that the public safety officer is entitled to a benefit payment under that subsection"; and

(5) in subsection (m), by inserting "(b)" after "subsection (a)".

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' DEATH BENEFITS PROGRAM.

Section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) 'catastrophic injury' means an injury, the direct and proximate consequences of which—

"(A) permanently prevent an individual from performing any gainful work; or

"(B) cause an individual to become—

"(i) paraplegic;

"(ii) quadriplegic; or

"(iii) blind;"

(2) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "at the time of the public safety officer's fatal or catastrophic injury" and inserting "as of the date of the public safety officer's death from a fatal injury or the date of determination of the public safety officer's disability from a catastrophic injury";

(3) in paragraph (4), by inserting "including an individual who, in the capacity of the individual as such a member, engages in scene security or traffic management as the primary or only duty of the individual during emergency response" before the semicolon;

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (9) as paragraphs (6) through (10), respectively; and

(5) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) 'gainful work'—

"(A) means any activity usually performed for pay or profit, regardless of whether a profit is realized; and

"(B) does not include work performed in a situation in which, after an individual sustains an injury—

"(i) the individual—

"(I) re-enters the workforce; and

"(II) leaves the workforce after less than 90 days because of the inability of the individual to overcome the injury;

"(ii) because of the injury—

"(I) the individual is permitted, in carrying out work, to—

"(aa) perform at a lower standard of productivity or efficiency than other similarly situated employees;

"(bb) work irregular hours; or

"(cc) take frequent rest periods; or

"(II) the individual is only able to work within a framework of specially arranged circumstances, such as a circumstance in which 1 or more other individuals are required to assist the individual in preparing for work or traveling to and from work;

"(iii) the individual practices a hobby usually performed for pay or profit, regardless of whether a profit is realized; and

"(II) the primary intent of the individual in practicing the hobby described in subclause (I)—

"(aa) is physical, mental, or emotional rehabilitation of the individual from the injury; and

"(bb) is not realization of profit; or

"(iv) the individual is given the opportunity to work—

"(I) despite the injury of the individual; and

"(II) on the basis of—

"(aa) a family relationship of the individual;

"(bb) a past association of the individual with the employer giving the individual the opportunity to work; or

"(cc) any other altruistic reason;"

SEC. 4. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section—

(1) the term "covered beneficiary" means an individual who—

(A) is, or was, a child or spouse of a covered individual described in paragraph (3)(B); and

(B) would have been eligible for educational assistance under subpart 2 of part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) if the amendments made by section 3 of this Act had been in effect on the date on which the determination described in paragraph (3)(B)(i) of this subsection was made;

(2) the term "covered claimant" means an individual who is a claimant on the estate of a deceased covered individual—

(A) described in paragraph (3)(B); and

(B) who died on or before the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) the term "covered individual" means—

(A) a beneficiary of a benefit under the Public Safety Officers' Death Benefit Program that was paid—

(i) with respect to a death or disability of a public safety officer sustained as the direct or proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty; and

(ii) during the covered period; or

(B) a public safety officer who—

(i) was determined during the covered period to be ineligible for a benefit payment under section 1201(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)); and

(ii) would have been eligible for a benefit payment under subpart L of that title due to

the disability of the public safety officer if the amendments made by section 3 had been in effect on the date on which the determination described in clause (i) was made;

(4) the term "covered period" means the period—

(A) beginning on the date of enactment of title XIII of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-647; 104 Stat. 4834); and

(B) ending on the day before the date of enactment of the Protecting America's First Responders Act;

(5) the term "public safety officer" has the meaning given the term in section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284); and

(6) the term "Public Safety Officers' Death Benefit Program" means the program established under part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281 et seq.).

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sections 2 and 3 shall apply to a death or disability of a public safety officer sustained as the direct or proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty—

(1) subject to subsection (c), during the covered period; or

(2) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) PAYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), upon application of a covered individual, covered beneficiary, or covered claimant, the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall make a lump sum payment to the covered individual, covered beneficiary, or covered claimant in the amount equal to the difference, if any, between—

(A) in the case of a covered individual—

(i) the amount of the total benefit payment the covered individual would have received under the Public Safety Officers' Death Benefit Program as of the date of the lump sum payment, if the amendments made by sections 2 and 3 had been in effect on the date on which the covered individual—

(I) received the final benefit payment under the Public Safety Officers' Death Benefit Program; or

(II) was determined to be ineligible for a benefit payment under section 1201(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)); and

(ii) the amount of the total benefit payment the covered individual received under the Public Safety Officers' Death Benefit Program before the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) in the case of a covered beneficiary, the amount of the total benefit payment the covered beneficiary would have received under subpart 2 of part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) if the amendments made by section 3 of this Act had been in effect on the date on which the determination described in subsection (a)(3)(B)(i) of this section was made; and

(C) in the case of a covered claimant, the amount of the total benefit payment the covered individual on whose estate the covered claimant is a claimant would have received under the Public Safety Officers' Death Benefit Program as of the date of the lump sum payment, if the amendments made by sections 2 and 3 had been in effect on the date on which the determination described in subsection (a)(3)(B)(i) of this section was made.

(2) APPLICATION.—A covered individual, covered beneficiary, or covered claimant desiring a lump sum payment under paragraph (1) shall apply to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for such lump sum payment not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. DUE DILIGENCE IN PAYING BENEFIT CLAIMS UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' DEATH BENEFITS PROGRAM.

Section 1206(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10288(b)) is amended by striking “the Bureau may not” and all that follows and inserting the following: “the Bureau—

“(1) shall use all available investigative tools, including subpoenas, to—

“(A) expedite the processing of the benefit claim; and

“(B) obtain necessary information or documentation from third parties, including public agencies; and

“(2) may not abandon the benefit claim unless the Bureau has used the investigative tools available to the Bureau to obtain the necessary information or documentation, including subpoenas.”.

SEC. 6. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO DEPENDENTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS KILLED OR DISABLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

Section 1216(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10306(b)) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

SEC. 7. COLLECTION OF DATA ON KILLED OR DISABLED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

Section 534(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) operate a central clearinghouse for statistics on law enforcement officers under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, including data on law enforcement officers who, while performing their duties, were—

“(A) feloniously killed;

“(B) accidentally killed;

“(C) feloniously assaulted; or

“(D) severely and permanently disabled.”.

SEC. 8. GAO REPORT ON MEDICAL COSTS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “disabled officer” means a public safety officer to whom a benefit is payable under subpart 1 of part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281 et seq.) based on the permanent and total disability of the officer, as described in section 1201(b) of that subpart (34 U.S.C. 10281(b)).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that estimates the average medical costs incurred by a disabled officer over the lifetime of the officer after sustaining the injury that caused the disability.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 312 AND H.R. 2578

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the second time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 312) to reaffirm the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 2578) to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

ALASKA REMOTE GENERATOR RELIABILITY AND PROTECTION ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 19, S. 163.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The senior legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 163) to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 163

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 “Alaska Remote Generator Reliability and Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. REVISION OF REGULATIONS REQUIRED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall revise section 60.4216(c) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), by striking “that was not certified” and all that follows through “compared to engine-out emissions” and inserting “must have that engine certified as meeting at least Tier 3 PM standards”.

(b) EMISSIONS AND ENERGY RELIABILITY STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report assessing options for the Federal Government to assist remote areas in the State of Alaska in meeting the energy needs of those areas in an affordable and reliable manner using—

(1) existing emissions control technology; or

(2) other technology that achieves emissions reductions similar to the technology described in paragraph (1).

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 21; further, that following the prayer and

pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Collins nomination. Finally, I ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. 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 Senator WHITEHOUSE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here today for the 243rd time to call on this Chamber to wake up to the reality of climate change. I thank my colleague Senator CORNYN for his recent statement acknowledging that the days of ignoring this are over. Now it is time to do something with keeping global warming below the 1.5 or 2 degrees Centigrade threshold target.

I speak regularly about the fossil fuel industry’s relentless grip on Congress and how that grip prevents action on climate. Don’t get me wrong—they are still at it, but they are not the only thing slowing progress. Another impediment is the wide swathes of our news media that cover the issue torpidly or not at all or as actual propagators of falsehood.

Look at the big climate stories the media ought to be covering just from 2018. The year 2018 brought two landmark climate science reports. One was the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on what warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels will do. The other was the Trump administration’s own National Climate Assessment. These two studies delivered the starker warnings on climate change ever—that the damage from climate change is already occurring, that world economies are now at risk, and that we are almost out of time to prevent the worst consequences.

Even the fossil fuel industry and its stooges in the Trump administration didn’t contest the science behind these reports. They know their science-denial campaign is phony. They know the real science is irrefutable. So it is better to hide from it than fight it, I guess.

The year 2018 also brought devastating natural disasters linked to climate change. Out West, wildfires in California broke records. Hurricanes supercharged by warming oceans slammed the east coast, gulf coast, and Caribbean. Floods, droughts, and rising seas were reported across the United States and around the globe.

Mr. President, 2018 also brought dire warnings of economic dangers from climate change. At the U.N. climate summit in December, a group of 415 global investors—not environmentalists; investors—managing \$32 trillion of investments warned that unless carbon emissions are urgently cut, the world faces a financial crash worse than the 2008 economic meltdown. The group called for the end of fossil fuel subsidies and the introduction of substantial prices on carbon to rebalance the market failure.

The Union of Concerned Scientists separately found that over 300,000 coastal homes, with a collective market value of over \$130 billion, are at risk of chronic flooding by 2045. UCS showed that by the end of the century, 2.4 million homes, worth more than \$1 trillion, could be at risk. Decisions we make now will determine whether those risks come to pass. By the way, First Street Foundation found that coastal property values are already beginning to slide.

Unprecedented catastrophes, forceful warnings from scientists and financial experts—surely the viewers of America's top television networks should be focused on these things—or not. According to the media watchdog Media Matters, our major television networks—ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX—aired 45 percent less climate change coverage on their marquee news programs in 2018 than in 2017. Climate coverage on network nightly news and Sunday morning political shows fell to just 142 minutes in all of 2018, down from an already lame 260 minutes in 2017. That is less than 1 minute a day of coverage from all four major networks combined.

Kudos to NBC, which actually upped its coverage by about one-quarter from the year before. Without NBC, the numbers look even worse. Media Matters found CBS's climate coverage down 56 percent from 2017 to 2018. "FOX News Sunday" is down 75 percent, and ABC is down a whopping 81 percent from a pretty low performance to begin with.

I have noticed this trend, so I have begun keeping an eye on the Sunday shows' coverage this year. Each month, I look at how many substantive segments on climate change each show runs. It is not good. In April, for instance, there were only two substantive segments on climate change across all five shows. They have basically become Sunday morning political gossip columns.

If you move from quantity to quality, well, with TV still the top way Americans get their news, the quality of news coverage really matters. How are television news shows doing in that department? Too often, also badly. Many of these shows still give airtime to clownish climate deniers just to create a pro and con.

The Weather Channel tracked reaction on television shows to the Trump administration's National Climate As-

essment this past fall and found airtime still given to debunked climate nonsense—for instance, the American Enterprise Institute's Danielle Pletka's ridiculous falsehoods about recent cold weather; conservative political commentators Rick Santorum and Stephen Moore's argument that climate scientists cooked up the assessment to enrich themselves; and a Member of Congress's argument that "our climate always changes, and we see those ebb and flows through time," as if million-year climate changes are in any way comparable to the rapid punch in the face we are giving to our climate with carbon emissions right now, manmade.

Allowing this falsehood on the air tilts Americans' perception of climate change. "Placing a climate contrarian behind a scientist is effectively shrinking the 97 percent consensus on the issue to 50 percent—two people arguing opposite sides," the Weather Channel pointed out.

In the Columbia Journalism Review last month, author and journalist Mark Hertsgaard and editor and publisher Kyle Pope describe this troubling trend as follows:

Climate deniers are still given respectful treatment by US news outlets across the ideological spectrum. [They] in fact deserve to have their social licenses revoked, just as tobacco companies did. More than anyone else, it is climate deniers who got us into this mess; they don't get to decide what we do with it now.

Again, on this front, NBC has been the best. In December, NBC's "Meet the Press" devoted an entire show to climate coverage, delving into the science and discussing climate solutions in detail. It began with a clear message from host Chuck Todd. He said:

We're not going to debate climate change, the existence of it. The Earth is getting hotter. And human activity is a major cause, period. We're not going to give time to climate deniers. The science is settled, even if political opinion is not.

That is the right place to start the discussion in the media on climate change. Facts are facts. Falsehood is falsehood and does not deserve equal time. I hope other networks take note.

If they want to cover climate denial, cover it the way it should be covered: investigatively, as a fraudulent enterprise with big secret money behind it. Trust me, there is a lot to investigate. Don't legitimize lies.

Newspapers and online news are a mixed bag. As a group, our top national papers are improving their coverage of climate change. According to the University of Colorado Boulder's International Collective on Environment, Culture, & Politics, the five major national newspapers—the Washington Post, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and the Los Angeles Times—published 282 articles about climate change in January 2009. A decade later, January of this year, those papers published 469—282, up to 469. That is a good sign. So, too, generally is the quality of coverage.

Big publications like the New York Times and Washington Post and smaller, independent, and web-based publications like InsideClimate News, Years of Living Dangerously, and Grist have brought us into the midst of climate crisis with brilliant reporting and storytelling. The Guardian, from overseas, may be the best of all. The Guardian just decided, as editorial policy, to use "climate emergency crisis or breakdown" instead of "climate change," "global heating" instead of "global warming," and "climate science denier" instead of "climate skeptic." These outlets all offer readers captivating photos, videos, and graphics that illustrate exactly how the climate is changing and what that will mean.

In Rhode Island, our Providence Journal has done exceptional reporting on carbon pollution's effects on our climate and oceans. This year alone, the Journal has published in-depth, front-page articles on how Rhode Island's real estate market is already experiencing the effects of climate change, on scientists' warnings of massive flooding risk to coastal towns, and on the risks facing Providence's hurricane barrier as sea levels rise and storm surges loom in the decades to come. Here is an example of that, like that from our home State paper.

Mr. President, other Rhode Island papers, like the Newport Daily News, the Westerly Sun, and ecoRI, cover climate change in their communities with vigor and skill. They supply the news Rhode Islanders need to understand and prepare for the effects of climate change.

Elsewhere, the record is not so good. Take USA Today, a paper with a circulation to 1.8 million Americans and a broad online readership. According to the University of Colorado, the paper ran 25 articles on climate change in January 2009. It ran only 14 this January.

On its editorial page, however, USA Today's editorial board wrote one of the strongest climate editorials so far this year, making the case for meaningful action on climate change. They cited real science and dismissed Republican leaders' cynical campaign against the Green New Deal. The editorial concluded: "The critics owe this and future generations more than scorn; they have an obligation to put better ideas and solutions on the table."

Bravo and well said to that.

The reverse is the Wall Street Journal, with pretty good news coverage. It is a respectable news-gathering newspaper—in fact, a first-order one. But its opinion page emits toxic climate waste. For decades, the Wall Street Journal's editorial page has been a haven for outlandish science denial, but they truly outdo themselves when it comes to climate denial. Take a piece that the Journal published just last year titled, "The Sea Is Rising, but Not Because of Climate Change." Riddled with scientific errors, it ignores all of the legitimate science on

climate change. The author whom they published, a notorious climate denier, has for years been affiliated with or funded by the Heritage Foundation, the Heartland Institute, the Cato Institute—a rogues' gallery of industry-funded climate denial front groups.

The sum of this is an American media too often asleep at the switch when warnings need to be made.

The Washington Post media columnist and former public editor of the New York Times, Margaret Sullivan, wrote this past fall:

Just as the world, especially the United States, needs radical change to mitigate the

coming crisis, so too for the news media. . . . This subject must be kept front and center, with the pressure on and the stakes made abundantly clear at every turn. . . . Just as the smartest minds in earth science have issued their warning, the best minds in media should be giving sustained attention to how to tell this most important story in a way that will create change.

There is some exceptional climate change coverage reaching readers today. Indeed, American voters increasingly name climate change as a big priority for them at the ballot box, but the pace of climate disruption demands urgency. Columbia Journalism Review's Hertsgaard and Pope write:

"If American journalism doesn't get the climate story right—and soon—no other story will matter."

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:54 p.m. adjourned until Tuesday, May 21, 2019, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NOAH WEBSTER STUDENT GOVERNMENT

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of five students from the Noah Webster Charter School in Mesa, Arizona. Madisin Bauer, Brody Kelly, Lucas Martin, Kelly Conboy, and Logan Carter were elected by their peers to lead the Wildcat's student government in the 2019–2020 school year. To qualify for the election, each student was recognized by their teachers for outstanding leadership skills and exceptional moral character.

Over the next year, I have no doubt that these young leaders will excel in service to their school and one another. I look forward to hearing about their experiences as they plan town hall-style meetings, run pep assemblies, and organize community projects.

These students' willingness to serve gives me hope for our future. Our country needs people of all ages with hearts of servants to represent and lead Americans who need a voice. I am honored to have such talent and leadership in my district.

RECOGNIZING PETER VARGAS

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Peter Vargas for his twenty years of dedicated service to the City of Allen, Texas.

Mr. Vargas earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Education from the University of North Colorado in 1972, and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado, Denver, in 1978. Following his graduation, Paul began his career in municipal management in the City of Arvada where he swiftly rose from serving as an Administrative Assistant to Assistant to the City Manager. He would later hold the position of Assistant City Manager for the City of Englewood, Colorado, and eventually be selected as the City Manager in Laredo, Texas.

Mr. Vargas would later serve as the Executive Director of the City of Dallas' Trinity River Corridor Project, prior to joining the City of Allen in 1999 as City Manager. As Allen's long-time City Manager, Peter has worked tirelessly to improve the City's financial stability, raise the bond rating, and improve and increase the City's capital infrastructure program. Such efforts to create a high-quality, sustainable community have led to Allen's national recognition as a "Community of the Year" and "20 Best Places to Live in America." Peter is also known for championing the

development of regional economic development programs with area governments in our fast-growing region.

Peter is often lauded throughout North Texas for his efforts to build sustaining relationships with partners in both the public and private sectors. His unique ability to work in tandem with Allen's citizens and City employees to ensure that expectations are exceeded has earned him the respect of his colleagues and all those in the community.

While the list of professional associations and accolades for Mr. Peter Vargas is impressive, perhaps his proudest achievement is serving as husband to Cheryl Dyer Vargas, and the father to his daughter, Jenna.

The Allen community and all those who have had the honor of working with Peter over the years have been witness to the tremendous growth and success of the region due in part to his vision. Today, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Peter for his dedicated and tireless efforts to make Allen a great place to live, work, and raise a family. We wish Peter well as he begins this next chapter in his life.

ESCAPE ACT OF 2019

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Enhancing the Strength and Capacity of America's Primary Evacuation routes (ESCAPE) Act," with Congressman WILLIAM R. KEATING (D-MA). I want to thank Congressman KEATING for his leadership as the sponsor last Congress and partnering with me this year.

This bicameral bill would establish a new U.S. Department of Transportation grant program for roadway, bridges, and other transportation projects that strengthen and protect routes essential for mass evacuations caused by natural disasters and other emergency events. With increasingly frequent and severe disasters across the country due to climate change, Congress must provide dedicated funding for resilient evacuation routes.

In 2017, nearly 200,000 Californians were forced to evacuate when they learned that Oroville Dam, the tallest dam in the nation, was on the verge of failing. Thousands of drivers funneled onto a narrow two-lane highway, spending hours in bumper-to-bumper traffic to reach safety along the Sacramento Valley's major north-to-south evacuation route.

Last year, Paradise, California, just north of my district was reduced to rubble by the devastating Camp Fire. As the flames engulfed the single-lane road that served as the city's primary evacuation route, residents were forced to abandon their vehicles and escape on foot—some to their death. The lack of adequate evacuation routes in our nation—par-

ticularly for small rural communities—is costing lives every year. Our bicameral legislation would provide dedicated federal funding for evacuation routes that save lives in times of crisis.

I hope that any infrastructure package passed this Congress will include our "ESCAPE Act." I plan on making this a major priority in my work as a senior member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join Congressman KEATING and me in cosponsoring this critical legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, during these votes, I was with the President in Louisiana. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 203; YEA on Roll Call No. 204; NAY on Roll Call No. 205; NAY on Roll Call No. 206; NAY on Roll Call No. 207; NAY on Roll Call No. 208; and YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORARY CONSULATE OF LATVIA IN MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the official opening of the Honorary Consulate of Latvia in Norwell, Massachusetts.

The United States and the Republic of Latvia share an important bilateral relationship that has only grown stronger with time. The ties that our two nations have fostered over the years remain meaningful, whether it be through security assistance and cooperation, trade agreements, or our shared membership in critical international organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, United Nations, and World Trade Organization.

In today's ever-changing international climate, it is crucial to applaud and encourage new opportunities for cooperation, dialogue, and friendship with treasured allies. The opening of this new Honorary Consulate is such an opportunity, and I am thrilled that my district can have a place in this progress. I would like to extend particular commendation to Uldis K. Sipols, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Latvia in Massachusetts. As a longtime resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a seasoned professional in the business world, I know that he will bring much needed enthusiasm and experience to his new diplomatic role, and I wish him the best.

● 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.

Madam Speaker, it brings me great pleasure to recognize the opening of this important consular office and to call attention yet again to the invaluable relationship between the United States and the Republic of Latvia.

**MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE
RESERVATION REAFFIRMATION
ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Congressional Budget Office communication regarding H.R. 312.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2019.

Hon. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 312, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act.

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

Sincerely,

MARK P. HADLEY,
(For Keith Hall, Director).

Enclosure.

H.R. 312, MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE RESERVATION REAFFIRMATION ACT—MAY 15, 2019

[By fiscal year, millions of dollars]

	2019	2019– 2024	2019– 2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Deficit Effect	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	*	n.e.

Pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030? No

Mandate Effects

Contains intergovernmental mandate? Yes,
Under Threshold

Contains private-sector mandate? Yes,
Under Threshold

n.e. = not estimated; * = between zero and
\$500,000.

H.R. 312 would ratify and reaffirm the status of land taken into trust in 2015 by the Department of the Interior (DOI) for the benefit of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in Massachusetts. The act also would prohibit any lawsuits, including pending lawsuits, related to that land.

DOI is currently holding the land in trust pending ongoing legal review of the acquisition. Using information from DOI, CBO estimates that implementing the act would have no significant effect on the costs of managing the land.

By prohibiting pending and future lawsuits, H.R. 312 would end rights of action related to the land held in trust for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe of Massachusetts that are available to public and private entities under current law. That prohibition imposes both an intergovernmental and private-sec-

tor mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The cost of the mandates would be the forgone value of compensation and settlements associated with such legal actions if they would have been successful under current law. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City of Taunton, and the Town of Mashpee have each entered into agreements with the tribe related to the use of the land. In light of those agreements as well as the land's reported value, CBO expects that under current law it is unlikely that any entity would bring an action resulting in compensation that would exceed the annual thresholds established in UMRA. In 2019 those thresholds totaled \$82 million for intergovernmental mandates and \$164 million for private-sector mandates, adjusted annually for inflation.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Jon Sperl (for federal costs) and Rachel Austin (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

**REMEMBERING ELLEN VAN
EDWARDS**

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life of Ellen Odellas Van Edwards, a native Washingtonian and my former classmate at Dunbar High School.

On May 11, 2019, Ellen Odellas Van Edwards passed away in the arms of her daughter L. Robin V. Smith, while listening to praise and worship music. Throughout Van Edward's life, she brought joy to the District of Columbia community as a wife, mother and grandmother; a dedicated employee at the Department of Commerce; and later as "Hajji the Magic Clown".

Van Edwards was born in Washington, D.C. and attended Dunbar High School. We graduated together in 1955, the year before the school was desegregated. After graduating from Dunbar, Van Edwards attended the Atlantic Business College and earned her bachelor's degree in Business. She went on to work at the Department of Commerce for 42 years in the Office of the Secretary and the U.S. Patent office, where she was an administrative assistant and the first African American woman to work for the U.S. Board of Patent Appeals. She also worked in the International Affairs division.

Van Edwards lost her husband in 1974 and raised her two daughters, L. Robin V. Smith and Adriene Jordan, alone. Bringing light to a time of sadness, she became "Hajji the Magic Clown." She completed clown class at Montgomery College and magic class at Catholic University. She shared her talent with children around Washington, D.C. and used her clowning abilities to win Ms. Senior District of Columbia.

On June 29, 2003, at the age of 66, Van Edwards was crowned the 21st Ms. Senior District of Columbia. She proudly represented D.C.'s other senior citizens for one year, encouraging them to live active lives. She was said to have won the crown by exemplifying

"the dignity, maturity and inner beauty of senior Americans."

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in remembering the life of Ellen Van Edwards.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRANDVIEW BULLDOGS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Grandview High School men's varsity basketball team and their 2019 state championship. This victory has earned the team the honor of being the Missouri Class 4 State Champions for the second consecutive year. This remarkable achievement is a result of strong leadership and dedication from both players and coaches.

This is a significant achievement for Coach Reggie Morris, who was recognized this spring for his outstanding coaching with the Paul Lambert Coach of the Year Award for the second consecutive year. In 2018, Morris led his team to the school's first ever State Championship. Following that victory, many of the team's best players graduated and went on to play at the collegiate level. A mere twelve months later, Morris was able to rebuild his squad and return to Springfield to claim another State Championship.

The new team was headlined by senior point guard DeAndre Sorrells who set the school record for 3-point baskets. With the leadership of Morris and Sorrells, the team cultivated an atmosphere of trust and hard work, establishing a tight-knit team chemistry both on and off the court. Their championship victory in Springfield as the penultimate reward for such a remarkable team and a fitting end to a season that saw them win twenty straight games.

The many accolades of Grandview's basketball team are a testament to the program that they have built. In addition to winning the State Championship, the Bulldogs were the only team from Missouri recognized on the Super 25 Regional Rankings list. Furthermore, Coach Reggie Morris was named the 2019 Class 4 Coach of the Year, and DeAndre Sorrells was recognized as Hy-Vee's 41 Five-Star Athlete of the Week.

The Grandview community rallied around the Bulldogs during the season as they progressed game after game towards their incredible victory in the State Championship. Now, the players look forward to enjoying fruitful careers in various athletic and academic fields after their graduation, and I encourage each of them to continue challenging themselves on and off the court as they move forward in life.

Madam Speaker, please join with Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of the Grandview Bulldogs. It is my pleasure to congratulate each of the players and coaches that helped this superb team claim their title, and I am exceedingly proud to represent such exemplary student-athletes like those of the Grandview High School basketball team.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted against this legislation. I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 217.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I missed votes Tuesday, May 14, through Friday, May 17. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call Vote Number 203 (Passage of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act): “yes”; Roll Call Vote Number 204 (Passage of H.R. 2379): “yes”; Roll Call Vote Number 205 (Ordering the Previous Question): “yes”; Roll Call Vote Number 206 (Passage of H. Res. 377): “yes”; Roll Call Vote Number 207 (Passage of H.R. 312, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Reservation Reaffirmation Act): “yes”; Roll Call Vote Number 208 (Passage of H.R. 375): “yes”; Roll Call Vote Number 209 (Passage of H.R. 1892, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act): “yes”; Roll Call Vote Number 210 (Passage of H. AMDT. 221 to H.R. 987 offered by Rep. DAVID MCKINLEY): “no”; Roll Call Vote Number 211 (Passage of H. AMDT. 225 to H.R. 987 offered by Rep. JOSH HARDER): “yes”; Roll Call Vote Number 212 (Passage of H. AMDT. 240 to H.R. 987 offered by Rep. JENNIFER WEXTON): “yes”; Roll Call Vote Number 213 (Adoption of Motion to Recommit to H.R. 987): “no”; Roll Call Vote Number 214 (Passage of H.R. 987, the Marketing and Outreach Restoration to Empower Health Education Act of 2019 or MORE Health Education Act): “yes”; Roll Call Vote Number 215 (Approval of the Journal): “yes”; Roll Call Vote Number 216 (Adoption of Motion to Recommit to H.R. 5): “no”; and Roll Call Vote Number 217 (H.R. 5, the Equality Act): “yes”.

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE RESERVATION REAFFIRMATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following article from The Washington Post regarding consideration of H.R. 312.

[From the Washington Post, May 13, 2019]
A RIDDLE IN NEW ENGLAND: A CASINO, 321 ACRES OF INDIAN TRIBAL LAND AND A PRESIDENTIAL TWEET

(By Marc Fisher)

Between a boast about bringing jobs to Ohio and a statement of sympathy for vic-

tims of a school shooting in Colorado, President Trump last week found time to tweet about an obscure House bill that would assure a Massachusetts Indian tribe control of 321 acres of land it wants to use for a gambling casino.

The president was against the bill, he wrote, because it was “unfair and doesn’t treat Native Americans equally!”

Presidents don’t usually get involved in local tiffs over a planned 900-room casino hotel. And even though this president has a four-decade-long record of slamming American Indian casinos as scams that pose unfair competition to other gambling enterprises, notably his own, Trump’s decision to weigh in on a measure that had strong bipartisan support seemed unusual for a chief executive who doesn’t like to be bothered with the little stuff.

But a closer look at House Bill 312 and the favor it would do for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reveals a sprawling network of Trump-related interests, from the National Enquirer to a Rhode Island casino company—a small but strikingly intricate example of the ways this president’s business dealings, personal bonds and political alliances can complicate and color the ordinary doings of government.

On the surface, the matter is a simple dispute over who wants a casino and who doesn’t. The Mashpee Tribe seeks to build a casino in southeastern Massachusetts. If the federal government decreed the land to be the tribe’s sovereign property, the casino would be exempt from many taxes.

But some residents of the town where the casino would be built sued over the project, and after the tribe broke ground, a federal judge sided with the residents, ruling that, because of the history of that parcel of land, the feds didn’t have the authority to guarantee it to the tribe.

So far, no Trump connection. But the tribe’s site is about 18 miles from Rhode Island, and that state’s politicians aren’t keen to have a new competitor go up against their two casinos, both of which are run by Twin River Worldwide Holdings, a public company with strong Trump ties.

Twin River’s president, George Papanier, was a finance executive at the Trump Plaza casino hotel in Atlantic City earlier in his career, and Twin River’s chief marketing officer, Phil Juliano, also lists experience at a Trump casino on his résumé.

For decades, Trump, whose Atlantic City casinos were his first big venture outside New York—they became some of his biggest failures when they suffered bankruptcies in the early 1990s—has spoken of casinos built by Indian tribes as fraudulent ventures: “the biggest scandal ever,” he said.

In 1993, concerned about competition from the Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut, Trump urged a House committee on native affairs to investigate whether members of the tribe that operates that resort were really Native Americans.

“They don’t look like Indians to me,” Trump said. In an earlier interview, he opined that “I might have more Indian blood than a lot of the so-called Indians that are trying to open up the reservations” to gambling.

In 2000, when New York state considered expanding Indian casinos in the Catskill Mountains north of New York City, Trump, working through his longtime ally Roger Stone, funded a group that paid for TV and print ads accusing prominent members of the Mohawk Indian tribe of having mob connections and criminal records. Trump and Stone failed to report their spending on the ads as lobbying, as the state required, and state regulators imposed their largest-ever civil penalty, \$250,000, on Trump, who was forced to issue a public apology.

But Trump has not always opposed Indian casinos. In 1997, he cut a deal with another Connecticut tribe, the Paucatuck Indians, who agreed to pay him a management fee in exchange for his efforts to win the tribe the federal recognition it needed to open a casino.

In the Mashpee case, Twin River, the operator of the two Rhode Island casinos, has hired Matthew Schlapp, chairman of the American Conservative Union and a vocal Trump supporter, to lobby for it on the land issue. Schlapp’s wife, Mercedes, is director of strategic communications at the White House.

Matthew Schlapp said last week that his wife played “no role in my advocacy” and that he lobbied against the casino because it was a “terrible idea.”

The lobbyist apparently focused Trump’s attention on the casino bill by connecting it to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who is seeking her party’s presidential nomination and has been for years a favorite target of Trump’s because of her since-retracted claim to be Native American. But there is no Senate version of the House bill, which the House is scheduled to vote on this week, and Warren has made no statement on the casino project.

Twin River has paid Schlapp’s company, Cove Strategies, \$30,000 this year, according to federal records. Another lobbyist, Black Diamond Strategies, also got \$30,000 from the casino firm to work on the Mashpee case, records show. One of Black Diamond’s lobbyists working for Twin River, Doug Davenport, was a delegate strategist for Trump’s 2016 campaign and formerly worked for ex-Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort’s lobbying company, where he handled public affairs for clients including Trump.

As a candidate, Trump repeatedly promised to “drain the swamp,” describing Washington as a den of elite thieves—politicians, lawyers, lobbyists, domineering corporations—whose interlocking interests were more powerful than any political party or ideological allegiance.

But as president, Trump has embraced the very structures he railed against in the 2016 campaign, for example picking more than 350 former lobbyists to serve in his administration, most in agencies that they used to lobby.

Spokesmen for the White House and Twin River did not respond to requests for comment.

The intersections between Trump and entities involved with Twin River can be complex.

Among Twin River’s major investors is a \$4 billion New Jersey-based hedge fund called Chatham Asset Management and its founder, Anthony Melchiorre, according to SEC records. Chatham also owned about 80 percent of American Media Inc., the publisher of the National Enquirer, the supermarket tabloid that took payments from Trump’s longtime lawyer and fixer, Michael Cohen, to make certain that no stories were published about two women’s allegations that they had affairs with Trump.

A spokesman for Chatham declined to speak on the record about Twin River’s involvement in the Mashpee Indian matter, but Chatham and Twin River have been embroiled in a lawsuit in Delaware, where Chatham accused top executives at the casino company of self-dealing and “placing their personal financial interests above those of Twin River’s stockholders.” Twin River has denied the allegations.

David Pecker, American Media’s chief executive and a longtime ally of Trump’s, has said that Chatham saved his company from financial collapse. Pecker last fall signed an agreement to cooperate with federal prosecutors in New York who were investigating the

payments made to Trump's accusers. As part of the agreement, Pecker and the Enquirer's chief content officer, Dylan Howard, admitted to paying the women to "influence the election."

According to the company's website, AMI's four-person board of directors consists of Pecker, two Chatham executives and a former chief financial officer of Trump Entertainment Resorts, David R. Hughes.

American Media agreed last month to sell the Enquirer to the chief executive of Hudson News, a chain of airport newsstands, for \$100 million. The sale was prompted by Melchiorre's unhappiness with the Enquirer's actions on Trump's behalf, including the so-called "catch and kill" gambit in which the tabloid bought the two accusers' stories and then published nothing about them, and the Enquirer's exposé an extramarital affair conducted by Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos, who also owns The Washington Post.

American Media's board and Melchiorre "didn't want to deal with hassles like this anymore," according to an individual familiar with the board's deliberations who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private talks.

That individual said Trump "has been somewhat estranged from Pecker" since the Enquirer executive began talking to federal prosecutors.

HONORING MICHELLE VANCE

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. McCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Michelle Vance, who will be leaving as District Manager of the Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District after more than 10 years of service to the community of Tehachapi, California, which I represent.

Michelle earned her Bachelor of Science at California State University, Bakersfield, in Public Policy Administration. After obtaining her degree, Michelle worked as the Executive Director of Main Street Tehachapi, a business advocacy group focused on creating a friendlier environment for Tehachapi's businesses, while recruiting new businesses to open up in the city. She then served as a Field Representative for the 2nd Supervisorial District for the County of Kern, where she acted as a liaison between the people of Tehachapi and the County Board of Supervisors. Her next job, Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Tehachapi, combined her experiences working for the County and the non-profit world. During her time in Tehachapi, Michelle helped bring new businesses into the region and focused on revitalizing the downtown core, as well as the Greater Tehachapi Area. And most recently as Direct Manager, spearheaded the Tehachapi Gran Fondo, a hundred-mile bike ride through the mountains of Tehachapi, something our community is very proud of.

Michelle always fought for the people of Tehachapi and will be remembered throughout the community as someone who stood up for their economic interests and helped make our community the thriving, robust, and vibrant place it is today. Michelle will be remembered in Tehachapi for her tireless work ethic, her can-do attitude, and her fervent belief in the

community she called home. As Michelle starts a new chapter in her life, I want to thank her for her service on behalf of the 23rd District of California, and wish her well in all future endeavors.

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TB, AND MALARIA

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, as a member of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I rise regarding today's full Appropriations Committee action on the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Fiscal Year 2020 funding bill.

This bill provides vital resources and programs supporting American and global interests around the world. As you know, the United States is a leader in global health, and it is important that we remain engaged and not become complacent, especially as life-threatening diseases begin to advance and mutate.

The State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill funds several health-related foreign policies that provide assistance, along with our partners, to eradicate deadly and preventable diseases worldwide.

The Global Fund is one of these critical programs funded in this bill. As one of the world's most effective health organizations, it has delivered real results combatting deadly diseases, saving over 27 million lives since its conception. The Global Fund partnership invests billions of dollars annually to support programs fighting AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria around the world.

Madam Speaker, unfortunately, due to policies unrelated to the Global Fund, I was unable to support this funding bill in its entirety during last week's Committee consideration. However, I would like to express the importance of the United States' participation in this partnership, and the clear signal to the rest of the world that the United States will continue to lead with its commitment to the Global Fund.

I remain committed to working with my colleagues to find an agreement with the Senate and the Administration on the overall Fiscal Year 2020 funding level. Without an agreement, the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations process will continue to have a difficult path towards funding the government.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues from both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol to come together and work towards a common goal of getting to an agreement for the overall funding amount for Fiscal Year 2020.

POLICE WEEK/OPERATION SMACK DRAGON

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, our local law enforcement stand in the gap between our families and danger.

Every day, they choose to put the safety of our communities above their own.

This National Law Enforcement Week, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the many police officers in my district and across our country who protect our families.

In Tulsa, just this week, local police caught and arrested 24 individuals in connection to a drug trafficking cartel from Mexico. Operation Smack Dragon made 73 indictments against 29 individuals, seized 3 kilograms of heroin, and \$150,000 in drug money.

Several of the arrested individuals were in the country illegally.

Along with the community of Tulsa, I am so thankful for the officers who put themselves in danger to keep our people safe.

It is perhaps more dangerous to be a police officer today than at any other period in history and congressional inaction on key issues has resulted in increased burdens on the police force.

I stand with our law enforcement officers today and every day.

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE RESERVATION REAFFIRMATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following article from The Washington Examiner regarding consideration of H.R. 312.

[From the Washington Examiner, May 13, 2019]

HOUSE DEMOCRATS RESCHEDULE VOTES ON TRIBAL BILLS PULLED AFTER TRUMP TWEET

(By Naomi Lim)

House Democrats have rescheduled votes on two Native American tribal bills this week after they were yanked from the floor at the last minute following pressure from President Trump.

Democratic leadership has set a vote for Wednesday on H.R. 312, legislation co-sponsored by Rep. William Keating, D-Mass., maintaining the status of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation in the Bay State.

A second proposal, H.R. 375, introduced by Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., would reaffirm Interior Secretary David Bernhardt's authority to take land into trust on behalf of Indian tribes. That measure is also due to be considered Wednesday, but under a streamlined process requiring two-thirds support in the House. As such, it needs the backing of House Republicans.

"Both of the bills pulled from the floor of the House, H.R. 375 and H.R. 312, are important to Indian Country," Cole told the Washington Examiner in a statement on Monday. "I support both of the bills and look forward to working with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to pass them on the floor. I believe we will be successful in doing so."

But GOP lawmakers like Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., have said they will not help the legislation pass the chamber. A spokeswoman for Gosar told the Washington Examiner on Monday her boss, who sits on the House Natural Resources Committee with Cole, was "strongly opposed" to the proposals and would vote against them "in their current form."

“Gosar has been leading the charge against these bills since they were first brought up in Natural Resources Committee. He offered two amendments to both bills in committee—both failed,” the spokeswoman said.

H.R. 312 and H.R. 375 were originally scheduled for votes on May 8, but were yanked after Trump tweeted that they would be “unfair” to Native Americans.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe wants to build a \$1 billion casino on its land, but the deal has been delayed by the Interior Department and Rhode Island lawmakers worried the development will undercut profits generated by its own casino industry.

The opposition has resulted in the Massachusetts congressional delegation, including Democratic 2020 presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, to push for the measure so the tribe can have full control of the reservation. Matt Schlapp, American Conservative Union chairman and husband of White House communications director Mercedes Schlapp, additionally runs a firm that lobbied against the casino.

“Republicans shouldn’t vote for H.R. 312, a special interest casino Bill, backed by Elizabeth (Pocahontas) Warren,” Trump tweeted last Wednesday. “It is unfair and doesn’t treat Native Americans equally!”

Schlapp did not immediately respond to request for comment.

HONORING THE 2019 UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY-BOUND STUDENTS

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to come before my colleagues today to recognize those young men and women from Texas’ Third Congressional District who have accepted an appointment to one of our prestigious United States Service Academies.

The United States Services Academies have a long-standing tradition of offering its students the highest caliber education and officer military training in the world. Each of the individuals recognized today began their journey of service by applying through their Member of Congress or qualified source via a highly competitive process. However, only a select few are found to meet the necessary standards set forth by the Academies.

These outstanding students have proven they are the gold standard by demonstrating their excellence in academics, athletics, and commitment to their community both inside and outside of the classroom. I am confident these young men and women will achieve great success while further developing the qualities of leadership, honor, and self-sacrifice as they prepare to lead our Nation’s Armed Forces.

As one who has worn the uniform, I thank these young patriots for their courage and commitment to our Nation. It is my privilege to congratulate these leaders as they embark on a new mission of service to America.

CLASS OF 2023 APPOINTMENTS

U.S. Air Force Academy: Hayden Archer, Frisco Liberty High School; Allie Dyer, Plano East Senior High School; Andrew Ferkany, Plano Senior High School*; Aidan Gardiner, Wylie High School; Marcus Hill, U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School;

Madison Martin, Texas Connections Academy; Jordan Simmons, Greenhill School*; Conley Walters, U.S. Air Force Academy; Jace Waters, Allen High School.

U.S. Naval Academy: Joseph Carter, Plano East High School; Alexander Kramer, U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School; Morgan Krepp, Mercersburg Academy; Aidan Waits, U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School; Jaylen Walker, U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School.

U.S. Military Academy: Jonah Barton, U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School; Melic Belong, U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School; Elijah Boyd, U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School; Logan Brown, U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School; Caleb Doyle, McKinney Christian Academy; Eric Han, U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School; Makenna Kelty, McKinney Boyd High School; Samuel Kim, Frisco High School; Jalen Morgan, Plano West Senior High School; Christopher Sowinski, Allen High School; Parker Stevens, Allen High School; Austin Widner, Liberty High School.

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: Mitchell Boone, McKinney Christian Academy; Jonathan Greer, Allen High School; Paul Han, Independence High School.

* Denotes acceptance to one of the academy preparatory schools.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I am not recorded for roll call vote No. 216 on Friday, May 17, 2019 because I was meeting with 8th grade Hoosiers from the Saint Bartholomew Catholic School in Columbus, Indiana. Since my first day in office, I have been squarely focused on what I was sent here to do: Represent Hoosiers of the 6th District.

As a man of faith, I am wholeheartedly opposed to H.R. 5—a bill that limits our nation’s founding principles of freedom of religion, conscience, and speech. We are a nation that allows and embraces diverse thoughts and opinions, but this bill would grant special privileges to individuals at the expense of the freedoms of others. Many women in Indiana’s 6th District depend on athletic scholarships to obtain higher education and career aspirations, and this legislation would unfairly force female athletes to compete against biological males.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on the Republican Motion to Recommit, RC No. 216. This Motion to Recommit would have amended H.R. 5 to ensure that nothing in the bill may be construed to diminish any protections under Title IX, therefore safeguarding the integrity of female sports.

RECOGNIZING BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Building Safety Month and the men and women of the International Code Council (ICC) for their dedication to public safety and our communities.

Year round, building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, design professionals, laborers, and others in the construction industry work to ensure the safe construction of buildings. They are dedicated members of the International Code Council, a national standards developing organization, that brings together local, state and federal officials to develop voluntary consensus codes that protect Americans in the buildings where we live, work, and play. The International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety and fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities and counties, and in all 50 states, including the State of Maryland.

With natural disasters expected to increase in frequency and severity, building codes include important safeguards to protect the public from hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, fires, floods, and earthquakes. In January 2019, the congressionally-established National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) released a study finding that adopting modern model building codes saves \$11 for every \$1 invested through earthquake, flood, and wind mitigation benefits, with a \$4 to \$1 wildfire mitigation benefit. These benefits represent avoided casualties, property damage, business interruptions, and insurance costs, and are enjoyed by all stakeholders—from developers, titleholders, and lenders, to tenants and communities.

This month is Building Safety Month, during which we should recognize the critical role our communities’ code officials in assuring us safe, efficient, and livable buildings. Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking International Code Council Board President, and my constituent from Anne Arundel County, Maryland, William R. Bryant, as well as ICC’s Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, the International Code Council leadership, and ICC’s Members and staff as they recognize Building Safety Month.

HONORING HANNAH KARANICK—
ONE OF THE TOP 10 YOUTH VOLUNTEERS IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Hannah Karanick, 13, of Anaheim, California, who was named one of America’s top 10 youth volunteers of 2019 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards during the program’s 24th annual national award ceremony on May 9 in Washington, D.C.

Selected from a field of more than 29,000 youth volunteers from across the country, Hannah has earned the title of National Honoree, along with a personal award of \$5,000, an engraved gold medallion, a crystal trophy for her school, and a \$5,000 grant from The Prudential Foundation for a nonprofit charitable organization of her choice.

An eighth-grader at Orangeview Junior High School, Hannah established a “closet” at her former elementary school that provides new clothing, laundry products, toiletries, quilts and school supplies to students there whose families can’t afford to buy such necessities. Her

project was sparked by a boy at her school who never had a backpack and wore the same clothes every day. "He was funny and smart, but he was often teased for his hygiene and his clothes, and I saw his eyes fill up with tears many times," said Hannah.

When the boy and several other students ended up living with Hannah's family as foster kids, "I watched their grades soar and their attitudes turn around," she said.

Since her family couldn't take every child in need into their home, Hannah had to find another way to help. After meeting with the principal of her old school and sending an opinion poll to its staff members, she decided to create a closet at the school where students could discreetly obtain basic necessities.

She asked friends and family members to help her buy supplies, and then began obtaining items from the congregation of a local church. Nearly 50 children benefited from "Hannah's Helpful Hands" closet in its first three months. "I am disappointed that I can't help more kids at this point," said Hannah, "but I am committed to expanding the program!"

Madam Speaker, Hannah Karanick has not only done important work in support of people in need—but has also shown her peers that young people can, and do, create meaningful change. I commend this young volunteer for all she's contributed to her community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY OFFICER PROTECTION ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Department of the Treasury Officer Protection Act of 2019. I appreciate the bipartisan original cosponsorship of Representative PETER KING, who introduces the bill with me today. Our bill would help ensure the safety of Treasury Department police officers by allowing those officers, including those who work at the Mint and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP), to carry their service weapons home with them after they are no longer on duty.

BEP officers were some of the first responders when a gunman opened fire at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2009. However, BEP officers also can be targets because they wear uniforms to and from work. Many officers carry personal weapons to and from work because they are not allowed to take their government firearms home, and some are forced to leave those personal firearms in their cars while they are on duty, creating a possibly dangerous situation.

Allowing BEP officers to carry their weapons home will put them in the same position as U.S. Mint officers. Although both are uniformed police officers working for the Treasury Department, under current agency rules, U.S. Mint officers are allowed to carry their service weapons home, while BEP officers are not. There is no meaningful distinction between officers for the two agencies. They should be treated equally.

Our bill would allow all uniformed officers in the Treasury Department to carry their service

weapons home to protect officers and the public and so that the Department does not have separate rules for different law enforcement agencies under its umbrella.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING BARRY "BONES" PATTON

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the musical accomplishments of Barry "Bones" Patton.

When traveling near Winfield in south central Kansas, there are two sounds that one might hear: cattle and bluegrass.

Winfield—home of the nationally recognized Walnut Valley Festival for bluegrass and acoustic music—is where Barry Patton uses cattle rib bones to create unique music that has put him on the world stage. His exceptional talent earned him the nickname Barry "Bones" Patton.

Refining his craft since the age of 13, Patton told KAKE-TV in a 2006 interview that he'd been encouraged to "carry that tradition on of bone playing because it's really an old lost art." And that's precisely what he's done.

The art of playing bones finds its roots in ancient history, from Mesopotamia and Egypt to the Roman Empire and ancient Greece. The instrument—often associated with folk music—takes the simple remains of an animal and turns it into a complex rhythm that takes skill and practice to perfect.

The fact that Patton can play bones well in both hands makes the sound of his music even more impressive.

Representing the United States at the Fleadh by the Feale music festival in Abbeyfeale, Ireland, Barry "Bones" Patton competed in their International Bone Playing Competition and earned the title of best bone player in the world on May 6.

I want to congratulate Patton on his international recognition and ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his bona fide success.

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE RESERVATION REAFFIRMATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following article from the Daily Beast regarding consideration of H.R. 312.

[From the Daily Beast, May 14, 2019]

A DARK MONEY GROUP IS RUNNING STUNNINGLY RACIST ELIZABETH WARREN ADS IN ORDER TO KILL A CASINO

A racist ad targeting Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and an obscure bill to allow a Native American tribe to open a casino in Massachusetts is connected to a longtime conservative, dark money operative, The Daily Beast has learned.

The Coalition to Restore American Values has been running ads since November 2018

that, among other things, feature Warren in an Indian headdress and warn against her "casino plan." The group was registered to David R. Langdon, a long time culture warrior, in July 2018, according to Ohio state records.

The online ad was one of the first public salvos linking Warren to the project in an attempt to rally conservatives against legislation recognizing a Native American tribe seeking a new casino in Massachusetts. President Donald Trump himself has since declared his opposition to the legislation last week in a tweet that dubbed Warren "Pocahontas."

The Coalition to Restore American Values has been trying to tie Warren to the measure since last year. In September, it ran an ad in The Hill newspaper, declaring in block letters "Pocahontas' End Run On POTUS and the U.S. DOI", using President Trump's favorite racist nickname for the Massachusetts Senator. An accompanying website, nofauxcasino.com, features Warren in Native American garb beside a graphic depicting "The Fauxcahontas Casino."

Langdon is an Ohio-based lawyer who also serves as treasurer for the Campaign for American Principles, the political arm of the American Principles Project, a conservative advocacy outfit. And APP, it turns out, put the Coalition to Restore American Values ad on Congress's radar.

Last week, Jon Scheweppe, APP's director of government affairs, reached out to Jeff Small, executive director of the Congressional Western Caucus and a senior adviser to Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ), urging the congressman to oppose legislation recognizing the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe in Massachusetts. The tribe plans to build a casino in Taunton, MA, and Scheweppe explicitly invoked Warren in pressing for Gosar to oppose the measure.

"Warren's involvement is especially strange, given her past ideological opposition to casino gambling and her record of voting against gambling expansion—could this be about image rehabilitation after years of embellishing her fake Native American ancestry?" Scheweppe wrote, before linking to the Coalition to Restore American Values ad.

Warren, who was a co-sponsor of the bill in the last Congress, is not actually involved in the bill at issue. In fact, the legislation doesn't even have a Senate companion. But when Gosar circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter last week urging his colleagues to oppose the bill, he too invoked Warren's supposed involvement. He also included a link to Scheweppe's email.

In an email to The Daily Beast, Scheweppe downplayed ties between APP and CRAV. "I'm fairly certain [Langdon] does work for dozens of groups on the conservative side of things," he wrote.

Langdon did not respond to a request for comment.

But the connections don't end there. CRAV's website was designed by the Drogan Group, a conservative digital vendor, according to the firm's website. That website also boasts a testimonial from APP executive director Terry Schilling, who touts Drogan as "a well-rounded digital media vendor that is technically savvy and can also offer website design, brand strategy and messaging." The Campaign for American Principles engaged Drogan's services as late as October 2018 for digital advertising attacking Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA), according to Federal Election Commission records.

Scheweppe did not respond when asked directly if his group has any affiliation with CRAV.

Langdon's and American Principles Project's involvement in the push against

the bill shows the degree to which the 2020 election is injecting itself into issues as seemingly obscure and regional as the recognition of a Native American tribe and its plans for a casino. Warren has been routinely criticized by Trump and others for claiming Native American heritage—though there's no evidence it secured her a post or a job.

But some opposition to the casino measure seems to be rooted in money as much as politics.

Several Trump-connected lobbying groups have been hired on behalf of Twin River Management Group, which owns a Rhode Island-based casino that would compete with Mashpee Wampanoag's casino if they get the greenlight from Congress.

One firm hired by Twin River is run by Trump adviser Matt Schlapp, who has, since January, been lobbying Congress and the White House on their behalf. Twin River has paid his firm, Cove Strategies, \$30,000 for its work so far this year.

An hour after Schlapp tweeted his opposition to the bill last Wednesday, President Trump himself tweeted his own call to kill the legislation—a move that effectively scuttled Republican support and stalled its progress on the House floor.

The legislation is expected to be up for a vote again on May 15. Without congressional action to enshrine their tribal rights, the casino deal in Taunton, Massachusetts will fall through.

Unlike Schlapp, APP doesn't appear to have a vested financial interest in the Mashpee Wampanoag issue. Its top donors over the past few years include major conservative funders such as the Mercer family, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Missouri roofing magnate David Humphreys, and Equinox Partners president Sean Fielker, according to financial records left unredacted on the website of Florida's secretary of state.

None of those funders appear to have an immediate interest in the construction of a new Massachusetts casino. Instead, APP's opposition appears rooted entirely in Warren's perceived involvement in the issue—and her ongoing campaign for the White House.

The legislation pulled from the House floor last week, Schweppie wrote, "amounted to a taxpayer bailout for a corrupt casino conglomerate, which wouldn't stand to benefit American families but would stand to benefit Senator Liz Warren, one of the leading Democratic candidates for President."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. DUFFY. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 16, 2019 I missed the following vote and was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 211. On Friday, May 17, 2019 I missed the following votes and was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 215; YEA on Roll Call No. 216; and NAY on Roll Call 217.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF JJ BABBITT

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elkhart instrument manufacturer jj Babbitt Company, Inc., and to join them in celebrating 100 years of success.

In 1919, Jesse James Babbitt produced the first of many beautifully crafted mouthpieces in his garage in northern Indiana before launching a family business that would last for generations. A century later, jj Babbitt has now grown to help musicians at every level deliver great music and dazzling performances by producing the industry's finest mouthpieces for clarinet and saxophone.

From the beginning, the company has focused on unique craftsmanship and a commitment to innovation to produce the high-quality mouthpieces they have made for 100 years. Not much has changed about the Babbitt business model or vision, and even some of the original machines from the 1930s remain at the heart of production.

Elkhart, Indiana, is the Band Instrument Capital of the World, and as a community we are grateful to have this company as a leader and pioneer to inspire future generations of instrument manufacturers to carry on the legacy. It is an honor to represent the hardworking employees of the jj Babbitt Company, who continue to play such a vital role in delivering the perfect mouthpieces for musicians.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of 2nd District Hoosiers, I want to thank everyone at jj Babbitt for an incredible 100 years, and I look forward to many more incredible years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from votes on 5/16/2019 as I was with my family at my daughter's college graduation. Had I been present, I would have voted on the following roll call votes in the manner recorded below: "yea" on Roll Call No. 210; "nay" on Roll Call No. 211; "nay" on Roll Call No. 212; "yea" on Roll Call No. 213; "nay" on Roll Call No. 214; "nay" on Roll Call No. 215; "yea" on Roll Call No. 216; and "nay" on Roll Call No. 217.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPE ABILITIES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Cape Abilities, a treasured organization that has touched countless lives through its tireless advocacy for individuals with disabilities in Massachusetts.

First founded in 1968 as Nauset Workshop, Cape Abilities has steadily grown into a pillar of the Cape Cod community. Over the past 50 years they have provided disabled individuals with high quality services and opportunities to have meaningful access to employment, housing, community support, counseling, education, and more.

Every year Cape Abilities organizes the Harbor Walk, a 2.2 mile walk along the Hyannis Harbor that brings together staff, participants, partners, and supporters to help raise funds and awareness for the important work that Cape Abilities does. This year's walk is particularly meaningful, as it will be held in celebration of the more than 50 years of service that Cape Abilities has provided since its inception. By treating the people it serves with dignity and respect, the positive impact that Cape Abilities has had in the Cape Cod community is unparalleled.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the 50th anniversary of Cape Abilities and offer my sincere gratitude for their dedication to bettering their community. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their service and wishing them all the best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Friday May 17, 2019 due to a family commitment. I took my oldest son on a college visit. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 215; YEA on Roll Call No. 216; and NAY on Roll Call No. 217.

HOUSE PASSAGE OF THE EQUALITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to note the House's passage of the Equality Act (H.R. 5), to afford nationwide protection against discrimination for LGBTQ people in employment, housing, credit, education, public service and spaces, federally funded programs and federal jury service. Equality for all Americans has long been one of my signature issues, but my work for equal treatment for the LGBTQ community has had to have an additional dimension. Republicans have often tried to use the District of Columbia's unequal status as a weapon against the LGBTQ community. Opponents of equality for the LGBTQ community have consistently targeted the District to pass their discriminatory agenda. I have fought them off at every turn, beginning with protecting D.C.'s domestic partnerships law, ahead of its time in 1992, defending the District's marriage equality and same-sex adoption laws, and protecting D.C.'s law that prohibits religiously affiliated schools from denying LGBTQ students access to services and facilities. In addition, I recently reintroduced bills to protect LGBTQ jurors from discrimination in local D.C. courts, action only Congress

can take because of the requirements of the Home Rule Act, and to end the unique applicability of the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to the District.

The Equality Act is uniquely comprehensive. Historically, when Congress has passed civil rights legislation, it typically has done so by category, whether in employment, or housing, or the rest. However, the Equality Act, encompassing all forms of typical discrimination, sends a special message. It is too late for anything except legislation that takes on discrimination against our LGBTQ community once and for all.

The Equality Act also fills a large space I have tried to fill ever since being elected to Congress. My work for the LGBTQ community has come naturally. As a lifelong fighter for equal rights, I have always seen congressional failure to address discrimination against the LGBTQ community as no different from congressional failure to bar segregation in the public schools I attended as a child in the District, or to address discrimination in voting rights and public accommodations I went to Mississippi to fight as a student in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The Equality Act stands for the impossibility of parsing discrimination. The history of discrimination in the United States teaches that all bigotry is unacceptable.

REAFFIRMING AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST FOR INDIAN TRIBES

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following article from The Washington Examiner regarding consideration of H.R. 375.

[From The Washington Examiner, May 13, 2019]

HOUSE DEMOCRATS RESCHEDULE VOTES ON TRIBAL BILLS PULLED AFTER TRUMP TWEET
(by Naomi Lim)

House Democrats have rescheduled votes on two Native American tribal bills this week after they were yanked from the floor at the last minute following pressure from President Trump.

Democratic leadership has set a vote for Wednesday on H.R. 312, legislation co-sponsored by Rep. William Keating, D-Mass., maintaining the status of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe reservation in the Bay State.

A second proposal, H.R. 375, introduced by Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., would reaffirm Interior Secretary David Bernhardt's authority to take land into trust on behalf of Indian tribes. That measure is also due to be considered Wednesday, but under a streamlined process requiring two-thirds support in the House. As such, it needs the backing of House Republicans.

"Both of the bills pulled from the floor of the House, H.R. 375 and H.R. 312, are important to Indian Country," Cole told the Washington Examiner in a statement on Monday. "I support both of the bills and look forward to working with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to pass them on the floor. I believe we will be successful in doing so."

But GOP lawmakers like Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., have said they will not help the legislation pass the chamber. A spokeswoman for Gosar told the Washington Examiner on Monday her boss, who sits on the House Natural Resources Committee with Cole, was "strongly opposed" to the proposals and would vote against them "in their current form."

"Gosar has been leading the charge against these bills since they were first brought up in Natural Resources Committee. He offered two amendments to both bills in committee—both failed," the spokeswoman said.

H.R. 312 and H.R. 375 were originally scheduled for votes on May 8, but were yanked after Trump tweeted that they would be "unfair" to Native Americans.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe wants to build a \$1 billion casino on its land, but the deal has been delayed by the Interior Department and Rhode Island lawmakers worried the development will undercut profits generated by its own casino industry.

The opposition has resulted in the Massachusetts congressional delegation, including Democratic 2020 presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren, to push for the measure so the tribe can have full control of the reservation. Matt Schlapp, American Conservative Union chairman and husband of White House communications director Mercedes Schlapp, additionally runs a firm that lobbied against the casino.

"Republicans shouldn't vote for H.R. 312, a special interest casino Bill, backed by Elizabeth (Pocahontas) Warren," Trump tweeted last Wednesday. "It is unfair and doesn't treat Native Americans equally!"

Schlapp did not immediately respond to request for comment.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOUSE PASSAGE OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of House passage of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution—prohibiting the government from denying the right to vote to citizens on the basis of sex.

In the year of 1893, the first attempt to organize the Women's Suffrage Movement in the state of Texas took place in Dallas, with the formation of The Texas Equal Rights Association.

Twenty-six years later Texas became the first state in the south to ratify the 19th amendment. From raising families, to organizing political movements, to fighting overseas, our country could not thrive without the influence of so many strong and determined women.

It is with great admiration that I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the pioneering efforts of women 100 years ago that are still shaping our nation today.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE HONORABLE JOHN JAMES CONYERS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Honorable John J. Conyers, who celebrated his 90th birthday on May 16th.

Mr. Conyers is a distinguished public servant who represented the people of Michigan in the U.S. House of Representatives for 52 years. During his tenure, he held a number of reputable positions, including Chairman of the House Oversight Committee, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and the 44th Dean of the House of Representatives. Mr. Conyers was an effective legislator who was known among the Halls of Congress as champion of justice and judiciary issues.

As the longest-serving African-American member of Congress, Mr. Conyers was a trailblazer for civil rights during his time in Congress and is credited as one of the 13 original founders of the Congressional Black Caucus. He was the first to introduce a bill calling for the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. to be recognized as a national holiday dedicated to his life and legacy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Conyers as he celebrates this momentous achievement. I also wish him many more happy birthdays in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: "nay" on Roll Call No. 210; "yea" on Roll Call No. 211; "yea" on Roll Call No. 212; "nay" on Roll Call No. 213; "yea" on Roll Call No. 214; "yea" on Roll Call No. 215; "nay" on Roll Call No. 216; and "yea" on Roll Call No. 217.

THE HONORABLE DAMON JEROME KEITH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, as the representative of the 30th District of Texas, I'd like to recognize the passing of The Honorable Damon Jerome Keith, Senior Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Judge Damon J. Keith, one of the nation's longest-serving federal judges, was a tireless champion of civil rights and civil liberties. Born in Detroit in 1922, Judge Keith was the grandson of enslaved people. He went on to become the sixth African American in U.S. history to serve on the federal court of appeals. During his time on the bench, he made a series of landmark decisions that changed the social and legal landscape of the country.

Judge Keith graduated from West Virginia State College in 1943 before serving in a segregated army during World War II. He would go on to receive his J.D. from Howard Law School in 1949, pass the Michigan bar exam in 1950 and earn an L.L.M. from Wayne State University School of Law in 1956.

By 1967, Judge Keith was on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. By 1975, he was chief judge, and in 1977 he was nominated by President Jimmy Carter to succeed Wade McCree on the federal court of appeals.

Judge Keith's legacy was cemented when he famously ruled in 1971 that President Richard Nixon's Attorney General John Mitchell had to disclose the transcripts of illegal wiretaps Mitchell had authorized without first obtaining a search warrant. Judge Keith's decision was upheld by the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court's landmark decision in *United States v. U.S. District Court* also known as "the Keith Case," contributed in 1978 to President Jimmy Carter signing the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).

In one of the federal judiciary's longest and most prolific careers, Judge Keith was a fountainhead of regional rulings with national implications. He attacked racial segregation in education, housing and employment; conservative efforts to limit African-American voting; and after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, secret hearings to deport hundreds of immigrants deemed suspicious led by Attorney General John Ashcroft.

America is a better country because she had Judge Keith to help safeguard our civil liberties. I want to honor Judge Keith for his tireless commitment to providing equality and justice to all.

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, May 21, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 22

9 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

SR-222

9:30 a.m.	Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of the Interior.	SD-124
	Special Committee on Aging To hold hearings to examine aging and disability in the 21st century, focusing on how technology can help maintain health and quality of life.	SD-562
9:45 a.m.	Committee on Environment and Public Works To hold hearings to examine legislation to address the risks associated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).	SD-406
10 a.m.	Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Department of Defense To hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Missile Defense Agency.	SVC-217
	Committee on the Judiciary To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel Aaron Bress, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Michael S. Bogren, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, Stephanie Dawkins Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Jason K. Pulliam, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Frank William Volk, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia, and David Austin Tapp, of Kentucky, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.	SD-226
10:15 a.m.	Committee on Foreign Relations To hold closed hearings to examine the reconciliation process in Afghanistan.	SVC-217
2 p.m.	Committee on Foreign Relations Business meeting to consider S. 178, 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. 249, to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, S. 1025, to provide humanitarian relief to the Venezuelan people and Venezuelan migrants, to advance a constitutional and democratic solution to Venezuela's political crisis, to address Venezuela's economic reconstruction, to combat public corruption, narcotics trafficking, and money laundering, S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, H.R. 31, to require certain additional actions in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria, S. Res. 74, 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. 81, calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, S. Res. 135, expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and valor by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commanding those individuals for leadership and bravery in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II, S. Res. 184, condemning the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, offering sincere condolences to the victims, to their families and friends, and to the people and nation of Sri Lanka, and expressing solidarity and support for Sri Lanka, S. Res. 188, encouraging a swift transfer of power by the military to a civilian-led political authority in the Republic of the Sudan, the nomination of Jeffrey L. Eberhardt, of Wisconsin, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Non-proliferation, with the rank of Ambassador, Department of State, and other pending calendar business.	S-116
	Joint Economic Committee To hold hearings to examine the economic impacts of the 2020 Census and business uses of Federal data.	CHOB-210
2:30 p.m.	Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy.	SD-106
	Committee on Veterans' Affairs To hold hearings to examine S. 123, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and to provide individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services to which they received was below the standard of care, S. 221, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Under Secretary of Health to report major adverse personnel actions involving certain health care employees to the National Practitioner Data Bank and to applicable State licensing boards, S. 318, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish medically necessary transportation for newborn children of certain women veterans, S. 450, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to expedite the onboarding process for new medical providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to reduce the duration of the hiring process for such medical providers, S. 514, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, S. 524, to establish the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs, S. 711, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include members of the reserve components of	

the Armed Forces, S. 746, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities, S. 785, to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 805, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing of veterans benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recover overpayments made by the Department and other amounts owed by veterans to the United States, to improve the due process accorded veterans with respect to such recovery, S. 850, 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. 857, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of special pension for Medal of Honor recipients, S. 980, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans.

erans, S. 1101, to ensure that only licensed health care providers furnish disability examinations under a certain Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations, S. 1154, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the Department of Veterans Affairs of an electronic health record, an original bill entitled, “Janey Ensminger Act of 2019”, and an original bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to continue to pay educational assistance or subsistence allowances to eligible persons when educational institutions are temporarily closed.

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine resources needed to protect and secure the homeland.

SD-342

9:45 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
To hold hearings to examine the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act in action, focusing on the benefits of economic diplomacy.

SD-419

MAY 24

9:30 a.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To receive a briefing with the House Committee on Financial Services on trade-based money laundering.

RHOB-2360

MAY 23

9 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

SR-222

SR-418

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2951–S2984

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills were introduced, as follows: S. 1541–1552. **Page S2962**

Measures Passed:

Alaska Remote Generator Reliability and Protection Act: Senate passed S. 163, to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices. **Page S2982**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, with respect to the stabilization of Iraq; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–18) **Page S2961**

Collins Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Pages S2957–59**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 117), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2957–58**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, all post-cloture time on the nomination expire. **Page S2982**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. **Page S2982**

Messages from the House: **Pages S2961–62**

Measures Referred: **Page S2962**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S2962**

Executive Communications: **Page S2962**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2962–64**

D562

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S2964–72

Additional Statements:

Pages S2960–61

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S2972

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—117) **Pages S2957–58**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:54 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2982.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support met in closed session and approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland met in closed session and approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

AUTHORIZATION: DEFENSE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces met in closed session and approved for full committee consideration those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

PROSPECTS FOR AFGHAN PEACE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on the prospects for Afghan peace from William Burke, National Intelligence Officer

for Afghanistan, and Randall Blake, National Intelligence Officer for Transnational Threats, both of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 2837–2838, 2840–2854; 1 private bill, H.R. 2855; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 390, were introduced.

Pages H4009–10

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H4011–12

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2326, to amend the Social Security Act, to amend the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012, and to direct the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, Labor, and Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, to take certain actions to improve transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who separate, retire, or are discharged from the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–73, Part 1);

H.R. 2480, to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–74);

H.R. 1812, to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to certain individuals, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–75);

H.R. 1947, to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act, with amendments (H. Rept. 116–76);

H.R. 2340, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress notice of any suicide or attempted suicide of a veteran in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–77);

H.R. 2839, making appropriations for Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–78);

H. Res. 389, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1500) to require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to meet its statutory purpose, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the

bill (H.R. 1994) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes; providing for the proceedings during the period from May 24, 2019, through May 31, 2019; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–79); and

Committee on Appropriations. Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2020 (H. Rept. 116–80).

Page H4009

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Clay to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H3965

Recess: The House recessed at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H3965

Recess: The House recessed at 2:04 p.m. and reconvened at 4:02 p.m.

Page H3966

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Global Fragility Act: H.R. 2116, to enhance stabilization of conflict-affected areas and prevent violence and fragility globally;

Pages H3966–69

Refugee Sanitation Facility Safety Act of 2019: H.R. 615, to provide women and girls safe access to sanitation facilities in refugee camps;

Page H3970

Digital Global Access Policy Act of 2019: H.R. 1359, to promote Internet access in developing countries and update foreign policy toward the Internet;

Pages H3970–73

Intercountry Adoption Information Act of 2019: H.R. 1952, amended, to amend the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 397 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 218;

Pages H3973–75, H3995

Global Electoral Exchange Act of 2019: H.R. 753, to promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world;

Pages H3975–76

Denouncing female genital mutilation/cutting as a violation of the human rights of women and girls and urging the international community and

the Federal Government to increase efforts to eliminate the harmful practice: H. Res. 106, denouncing female genital mutilation/cutting as a violation of the human rights of women and girls and urging the international community and the Federal Government to increase efforts to eliminate the harmful practice, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 393 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 219; and

Pages H3976–78, H3996

Stronger Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act: H.R. 2480, amended, to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Pages H3978–94

Recess: The House recessed at 5:36 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H3995

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the stabilization of Iraq is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2019—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–36).

Pages H3994–95

Senate Referrals: S. 744 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. S. 820 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. S. 998 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. S. 1379 was held at the desk.

Page H4007

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H3965–66.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3995 and H3996. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SETTING EVERY COMMUNITY UP FOR RETIREMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2019; CONSUMERS FIRST ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1500, the “Consumers First Act”; and H.R. 1994, the “Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 6–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1500, the “Consumers First Act”, and H.R. 1994, the “Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1500, the “Consumers First Act”, under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking mi-

nority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–15 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part A of the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. 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 amendments printed in part A of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1994, the “Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019”, under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Section 3 of the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from May 24, 2019, through May 31, 2019: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. The rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3.

The rule provides that each day during the period addressed by section 3 shall not constitute a legislative day for the purposes of clause 7 of rule XV, the Consensus Calendar. The rule provides that it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of May 23, 2019, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to a measure

making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. The rule waives the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of May 23, 2019, relating to a measure making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. Finally, the rule provides that the Committee on Appropriations may, at any time before 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, 2019, file privileged reports to accompany measures making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020. Testimony was heard from Chairman Neal, Chairman Waters, and Representatives Smith of Nebraska, Mitchell, McHenry, Steil, Jackson Lee, and Rodney Davis of Illinois.

BUSINESS MEETING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a business meeting on public release of Michael Cohen interview transcripts (February 28 and March 6, 2019) and certain exhibits. Public Release of Michael Cohen interview transcripts (February 28 and March 6, 2019) and certain exhibits, was approved, without amendment. This meeting was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine climate change and the agriculture sector, 9:30 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, 9:30 a.m., SR-232A.

Subcommittee on SeaPower, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, 11 a.m., SR-232A.

Subcommittee on Personnel, business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, 2:15 p.m., SD-G50.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the

proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, 4:30 p.m., SR-232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine combating illicit financing by anonymous shell companies through the collection of beneficial ownership information, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider the nominations of Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor, and Mark Lee Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, both of the Department of the Interior; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine opportunities to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts in the United States, 10:15 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Pamela Bates, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, and Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, both of the Department of State, Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Eliot Pedrosa, of Florida, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and other pending nominations, 11 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, to hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's annual duplication report, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the digital advertising ecosystem and the impact of data privacy and competition policy, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters, 9:30 a.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture: hearing entitled "To Review Animal Pest and Disease Prevention and Response Capabilities", 11 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee, markup on the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020; and the Defense Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, 10:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel; and Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, joint hearing entitled "Military and Veteran Suicide: Understanding the Problem and Preparing for the Future", 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee, hearing entitled "Eliminating Barriers to Employment: Opening Doors to Opportunity", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Undermining Mercury Protections: EPA Endangers Human Health and the Environment”, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Improving Drug Pricing Transparency and Lowering Prices for American Consumers”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Housing in America: Oversight of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, hearing entitled “Undermining Democracy: Kremlin Tools of Malign Political Influence”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, hearing entitled “The TSA Workforce Crisis: A Homeland Security Risk”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Innovation, hearing entitled “Growing and Diversifying the Cyber Talent Pipeline”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Election Assistance Commission”, 2 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Report by Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III: Former White House Counsel Donald F. McGahn, II”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing entitled “Examining the President’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “Trump’s War on a Merit Based Civil Service”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled “The Need for Resilience: Preparing America’s Transportation Infrastructure for Climate Change”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulation, hearing entitled “Investing in Community: The SBA’s Community Advantage Loan Program”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “Review of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Hearing on Protecting Patients from Surprise Medical Bills”, 3 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 21 through May 24, 2019

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, 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 Daniel P. Collins, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

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 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: May 21, to hold hearings to examine climate change and the agriculture sector, 9:30 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Appropriations: May 22, Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD-124.

May 22, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Missile Defense Agency, 10 a.m., SVC-217.

Committee on Armed Services: May 21, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, 9:30 a.m., SR-232A.

May 21, Subcommittee on SeaPower, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, 11 a.m., SR-232A.

May 21, Subcommittee on Personnel, business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, 2:15 p.m., SD-G50.

May 21, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, 4:30 p.m., SR-232A.

May 22, Full Committee, closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, 9 a.m., SR-222.

May 23, Full Committee, closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020, 9 a.m., SR-222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: May 21, to hold hearings to examine combating illicit financing by anonymous shell companies through the collection of beneficial ownership information, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 21, business meeting to consider the nominations of Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor, and Mark Lee Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, both of the Department of the Interior; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine opportunities to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts in the United States, 10:15 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: May 22, to hold hearings to examine legislation to address the risks associated with per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), 9:45 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: May 21, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Pamela Bates, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, and Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, both of the Department of State, Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Eliot Pedrosa, of Florida, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and other pending nominations, 11 a.m., SD-419.

May 22, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine the reconciliation process in Afghanistan, 10:15 a.m., SVC-217.

May 22, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 178, 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. 249, to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, S. 1025, to provide humanitarian relief to the Venezuelan people and Venezuelan migrants, to advance a constitutional and democratic solution to Venezuela's political crisis, to address Venezuela's economic reconstruction, to combat public corruption, narcotics trafficking, and money laundering, S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, H.R. 31, to require certain additional actions in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria, S. Res. 74, 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. 81, calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, S. Res. 135, expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and valor by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending those individuals for leadership and bravery in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II, S. Res. 184, con-

demning the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka, offering sincere condolences to the victims, to their families and friends, and to the people and nation of Sri Lanka, and expressing solidarity and support for Sri Lanka, S. Res. 188, encouraging a swift transfer of power by the military to a civilian-led political authority in the Republic of the Sudan, the nomination of Jeffrey L. Eberhardt, of Wisconsin, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, with the rank of Ambassador, Department of State, and other pending calendar business, 2 p.m., S-116, Capitol.

May 23, Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act in action, focusing on the benefits of economic diplomacy, 9:45 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: May 21, Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, to hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's annual duplication report, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

May 22, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, with the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

May 23, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine resources needed to protect and secure the homeland, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: May 21, to hold hearings to examine the digital advertising ecosystem and the impact of data privacy and competition policy, 10 a.m., SD-226.

May 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel Aaron Bress, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Michael S. Bogren, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, Stephanie Dawkins Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Jason K. Pulliam, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Frank William Volk, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia, and David Austin Tapp, of Kentucky, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: May 22, with the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: May 22, to hold hearings to examine S. 123, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and to provide individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services to which they received was below the standard of care, S. 221, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require

the Under Secretary of Health to report major adverse personnel actions involving certain health care employees to the National Practitioner Data Bank and to applicable State licensing boards, S. 318, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish medically necessary transportation for newborn children of certain women veterans, S. 450, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to expedite the onboarding process for new medical providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to reduce the duration of the hiring process for such medical providers, S. 514, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, S. 524, to establish the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs, S. 711, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, S. 746, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities, S. 785, to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 805, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing of veterans benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recover overpayments made by the Department and other amounts owed by veterans to the United States, to improve the due process accorded veterans with respect to such recovery, S. 850, 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. 857, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of special pension for Medal of Honor recipients, S. 980, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of services for homeless veterans, S. 1101, to ensure that only licensed health care providers furnish disability examinations under a certain Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations, S. 1154, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the Department of Veterans Affairs of an electronic health record, an original bill entitled, “Janey Ensminger Act of 2019”, and an original bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to continue to pay educational assistance or subsistence allowances to eligible persons when educational institutions are temporarily closed, 2:30 p.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: May 21, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing to examine certain intelligence matters, 9:30 a.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: May 22, to hold hearings to examine aging and disability in the 21st century, focusing on how technology can help maintain health and quality of life, 9:30 a.m., SD-562.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, May 22, Full Committee, markup on the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020; and the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, 10:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

May 23, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, markup on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, 8:30 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

May 23, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, markup on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, FY 2020, 10 a.m., 2362 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, May 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Key Design Components and Considerations for Establishing a Single-Payer Health Care System”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, May 22, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment, hearing entitled “Engines of Economic Mobility: The Critical Role of Community Colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions in Preparing Students for Success”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, May 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “LIFT America: Modernizing Our Infrastructure for the Future”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 23, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, hearing entitled “Summer Driving Dangers: Exploring Ways to Protect Drivers and their Families”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

New Committee on Financial Services, May 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Annual Testimony of the Treasury on the State of the International Financial System, Part II”, 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, May 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Searching for Solutions in Syria: The Trump Administration’s Strategy”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 22, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2615, the “United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act”; H.R. 2744, the “USAID Branding Modernization Act”; H.R. 598, the “Georgia Support Act”; H.R. 2140, the “Preventing Child Marriage Act”; H.R. 2023, the “Protect European Energy Security Act”; H.R. 2046, the “Energy Diplomacy Act”; H. Res. 129, condemning the Government of Saudi Arabia’s continued detention and alleged abuse of women’s rights activists; H. Res. 372, expressing concern for the United States-Turkey alliance; H. Res. 345, recognizing widening threats to freedoms of the press and expression around the world, reaffirming the centrality of a free and independent press to the health of democracy, and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority of the United States, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, May 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “A Review of the Fiscal Year

2020 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security”, 9:30 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, May 22, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2820, the “Dream Act of 2019”; H.R. 2821, the “American Promise Act of 2019”; H.R. 549, the “Venezuela TPS Act of 2019”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, May 22, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing on H.R. 182, to extend the authorization for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission; H.R. 307, the “Preserving America’s Battlefields Act”; H.R. 473, to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; H.R. 1088, the “FIRST Act”; H.R. 1130, the “Fort Pillow National Battlefield Park Study Act”; H.R. 1179, the “African-American Burial Grounds Network Act”; H.R. 1248, the “York River Wild and Scenic River Act of 2019”; H.R. 1472, to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park; H.R. 1487, the “Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Study Act”; H.R. 1727, the “Complete America’s Great Trails Act”; H.R. 2369, the “Long Island Aviation History Act”; H.R. 2427, the “Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act of 2019”; H.R. 2490, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; H.R. 2525, to establish the Steel Valley National Heritage Area in the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

May 22, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing entitled “Responding to the Global Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

May 23, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Insular Areas Medicaid Cliff”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, May 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Facial Recognition Technology (Part 1): Its Impact on our Civil Rights and Liberties”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

May 22, Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, hearing entitled “Examining For-Profit College Oversight and Student Debt”, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

May 22, Subcommittee on National Security Hearing, hearing entitled “Securing U.S. Election Infrastructure

and Protecting Political Discourse”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, May 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Immigration and the Small Business Workforce”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, May 22, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Policies, Recommendations, and Impacts of the President’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

May 22, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Disaster Preparedness: DRRA Implementation and FEMA Readiness”, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, May 22, Subcommittee on Health; and Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, joint hearing entitled “MISSION Critical: Caring for our Heroes”, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

May 22, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Improving the Department of Veterans Affairs Effectiveness: Responding to Recommendations from Oversight Agencies”, 2 p.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Ways and Means, May 22, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled “Enforcement in the New NAFTA”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, May 22, Full Committee, business meeting on Committee Vote on Enforcement Action regarding the Subpoena Issued by the Committee to the Attorney General on May 8, 2019, for Foreign Intelligence, Counterintelligence and Other Information Related to the Special Counsel’s Investigation, 9:30 a.m., HVC-304. This meeting is closed.

May 23, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Mission Imperative: Diversity and Inclusion in the Intelligence Community”, 5:45 p.m., HVC-304.

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, May 23, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Creating a Climate Resilient America”, 9 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: May 22, to hold hearings to examine the economic impacts of the 2020 Census and business uses of Federal data, 2 p.m., 210, Cannon Building.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: May 24, to receive a briefing with the House Committee on Financial Services on trade-based money laundering, 9:30 a.m., 2360, Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Daniel P. Collins, of California, 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 Daniel P. Collins, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Howard C. Nielson, Jr., of Utah, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah.

(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, May 21

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

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