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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 21, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRENDA L. LAWRENCE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

MEMORIALIZING POLICE OFFICERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in the wake of National Police Week to memorialize our officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Nearly 3 years ago, on October 8, 2016, Officers Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega from the Palm Springs Police Department were shot and killed in the line of duty responding to what appeared to be a routine domestic disturbance.

Through this tragedy, our community came together, not only to remember Officers Zerebny and Vega, but to do more for their families and the entire law enforcement community.

Together, we found that families of fallen first responders, those who gave their all to protect us all, are being shortchanged. That is why I introduced the Heroes Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega First Responder Survivor Support Act, to honor those who have passed by serving the living.

My bill will increase the Public Safety Officer Benefit from \$350,000 to \$500,000 in order to pay off the calculated national average debt most families have; it will increase the monthly education benefit from \$1,024 per month to \$2,000 per month to ensure they can afford the actual rising costs of an education; and it will fix a bureaucratic loophole that, due to unnecessary red tape and delays in receiving benefits, can cost families up to tens of thousands of dollars through no fault of their own.

I urge all Members of Congress to do the right thing: to follow words with action, to follow praise with pragmatic solutions that will improve the lives of fallen first responders' families. I hope that all Members will cosponsor and support my bipartisan Heroes Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega First Responder Survivors Support Act.

I urge the Speaker to bring it up for a vote immediately. Let's support this bill and stand up for the families of fallen officers who have sacrificed so much for us.

INTERRUPTED FAMILY DINNERS

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, a question for those watching at home.

Do you have a cell phone?

Has your family dinner been interrupted by a local call, only to realize that it was spam?

This is incredibly frustrating and becoming all too common. In 2017, under 4 percent of cell phone calls were spam. In 2018, the number jumped to almost 30 percent.

This year spam calls are expected to rise up to the point of half of all cell phone calls. That is why I am cosponsoring the TRACED Act. This bill gives the FCC broader authority to find scammers and increase penalties for those who are caught.

If you have a cell phone, this legislation will save you a lot of frustration and make those times at home with your family maybe a little bit more enjoyable.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DON'T TRUST
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, the American people don't trust Washington, D.C. And I know that shocks everyone, but it is a perception that every one of us deals with back home, and after what the majority party pulled last week, it is easy to understand why.

Three—get it, three—bipartisan prescription drug pricing bills made it through committee and were ready to vote on.

Now let me say that one more time. Bipartisan healthcare bills, three of them; that is unheard of around here.

But then politics got in the way. The majority decided to add an unrelated poison pill to drive away the Republican support. This healthcare package now has no chance of being considered in the Senate and will never become law.

That is why I urge the majority to bring to the floor H.R. 2700. This legislation includes only the three bipartisan prescription drug pricing bills, no poison pills.

□ 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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Let's come together to address the problem. The American people deserve better than the cynical political games that we are playing.

CELEBRATING THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, Susan B. Anthony once said: "There will never be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers"—and serve as lawmakers and actually serve in the chair.

One hundred years ago, Congress moved one step closer to equality by passing a constitutional Amendment granting women the right to vote.

This week, we celebrate the 19th Amendment. To honor the courageous women who ushered us toward a more perfect Union, we wear yellow roses.

I have two daughters. I have seven granddaughters. I am thankful that they can shape their government because of the generations of women who came before them.

IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, with love of country in my heart and a belief that the Constitution ought to be honored.

Today I rise, some 34 days since the Mueller report has been made public, 34 days since we have concluded that impeachable offenses have been committed—34 days, and yet the President still commits actions that are deemed obstructive; 34 days, which means that, for 34 days now, the President is clearly above the law as it relates to the Mueller report—longer than that, but as it relates to the Mueller report and its being released, 34 days.

But there is good news. A good many Members are now considering joining the impeachment effort, and I salute them. I am more than honored to say that you can never be too late when it comes to being on the right side of history and the right side of justice. So I salute them, and I believe that others will come on board as well.

I believe they are doing this because they believe that no one is above the law. I think they are doing this because they believe that you have to put principle above politics. They are doing this because I think they love their country, and they refuse to allow this condition to continue without the constitutional remedy of impeachment being given its proper place in history as it relates to this President.

And as they do this, I just want to remind us that there is something that is indelible in my mind. I will never forget this image: a baby.

This is a baby crying. I won't forget this image. For this alone, we should consider impeachment. Separating babies from their parents without a means of reuniting them, for this alone, we should consider impeachment.

But there is much more to add: the whole notion that there are s-hole

countries in Africa; that there are very fine people among those who were in Charlottesville where a person lost her life; the whole notion that the Chief Executive Officer of the United States of America, the President, will stand before law enforcement personnel and say: You don't have to be nice when you are bringing people into your care, custody, and control.

And last night, to go to a rally—this is the President of the United States at a rally with people behind him saying, "lock her up," or some equivalent.

This is not some outlaw, renegade country. This is the United States of America. Do we want the President of this country to go before the public and have throngs of people shouting, "Lock her up?"

This is a great country. I love my country, and, for this reason, I want to assure my friends that I am going to thank all who are coming on board.

And the question is not, now: Who is going to be the first to come on board? The question really is this: Who will be the last to come on board? Who will be the last person to say: "I believe that no person is above the law"? Who will be the last to say: "I am going to do what I believe the Constitution requires when we have a person who has demonstrated that he is a lawless, ruthless, reckless person who happens to have control of the executive branch of government"?

It is my belief that sometimes you stand alone and it is better to stand alone than not stand at all. But I also understand that sometimes, when you stand alone, it is just a matter of time before others will stand with you.

I compliment all who are standing with us today, who have been here from the genesis of this.

Madam Speaker, I want to say one final thing.

This is not about whether you are a Republican or a Democrat. I compliment the Republican who had the courage to step forward, the courage, the intestinal fortitude to take the stand for righteousness: Believe me, he won't be the last. There will be others. It is just a matter of time.

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

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY ON THE SOUTH PLAINS OF WEST TEXAS

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the effort to establish a national veterans cemetery on the south plains of west Texas.

Dating back to the Civil War, the 147 national cemeteries across America are a powerful way to honor those who have gone before us who wore the uniform of the United States and remind

us every day of the 1 percent of Americans who were willing to sacrifice everything in defense of our freedom and security.

For some, they serve as what President Lincoln called "a final resting place for those who gave their lives that our Nation might live."

Yesterday, I had the privilege of meeting with several distinguished veterans who have made it their mission to see this vision become a reality.

□ 1015

Among them were four generals, who have chosen to reside in a little slice of heaven that Chairman MIKE CONAWAY and I call west Texas. I am so honored that they are with us here today in the gallery.

General Edgar Murphy was the commanding general of the 49th Armored Division of the Army National Guard for the State of Texas. In his distinguished 42-year military career, he was awarded numerous medals, including the Legion of Merit. Today the Armed Forces Guard and Reserve Center in Lubbock is named in General Murphy's honor.

General Anne Sobel is a former major general in the Arizona Air National Guard who served as the first female homeland security director for the State of New Mexico. Today she continues by serving and teaching at my alma mater, Texas Tech University.

Brigadier General Gary Harber is a veteran with 42 years of service and a master army aviator. General Harber also served as the NATO northern regional wartime construction manager and commander from 1989 to 1995, responsible for the United Kingdom, Norway, and Denmark.

Last but certainly not least is my good friend Lieutenant General Bernie Mittermeyer. General Mittermeyer served 28 years in the U.S. Army, earning numerous awards and decorations. He served as our Surgeon General of the Army from 1981 until his retirement in 1985, and he also served as commanding general of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent over 40,000 veterans in my district and rural America. If you take into consideration eastern New Mexico that this national cemetery would serve, it is over 70,000 veterans.

We must ensure that the commitment we make to our veterans isn't reserved only for those veterans living in population centers, whether it is long-term care, services for the disabled, or respect that is owed our honored dead. We must never forget all veterans, including those living in rural parts of our country.

Madam Speaker, no group of Americans believes more adamantly in the importance of a strong defense and the mission of our military to keep us safe and free than the good people of west Texas.

Their duty was to serve. Our duty is to remember them. One of the best

ways we can do that is by giving them a hero's burial in a national cemetery. God bless our veterans. And go west Texas.

RECOGNIZING BOB DINGEMAN

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

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Colonel Robert "Bob" Dingeman, a decorated veteran and beloved community leader who dedicated his entire life to service.

Bob's commitment to service began when he was just a teenager. He was living with his family in Hawaii and serving in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Bob helped to get the women and children to safety before joining the defense of the base, and the events of that day led Bob to a life of military service.

He graduated from West Point in 1945 and went on to serve in World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war. During his decades of service, Bob earned a Silver Star, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

After retiring from the Army, Bob earned multiple master's degrees and worked as a college professor at San Diego Miramar College, teaching math, history, and political science.

Bob became a pillar of San Diego's Scripps Ranch community where he and his wife, Gaye, and their children made their home.

Bob helped create the town's council, the Scripps Ranch Civic Association; organized many annual traditions, including the Fourth of July Parade; and established the community newsletter.

The Robert E. Dingeman Elementary School opened in 1995, so named by the San Diego Unified School District to recognize Bob Dingeman's accomplishments in the community. The school celebrates Bob Dingeman Day every year on June 12, Bob's birthday.

Scripps Ranch and San Diego are better off for Bob's leadership and his community involvement. His legacy of military and volunteer service will continue to be an example for us all.

Please join me in honoring Bob Dingeman for his dedication to Scripps Ranch and his service to the country.

RECOGNIZING MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR'S COMMITMENT TO ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Corps Air Station Miramar on receiving a 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award.

The award recognizes Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's commitment to protecting the environment while supporting the mission of the military.

The United States Department of Defense is the world's largest user of fossil fuels, and when the price of those fuels spike, it harms our mission. That is why the Marine Corps views energy security as national security.

The marines at Miramar have led on energy storage research through a partnership with the California Energy Commission's Electric Program Investment Charge and deployed a methane-to-energy project from an onsite landfill that generates half the base's energy.

MCAS Miramar's installation-wide microgrid delivers 100 percent renewable energy to the base. Its distribution can provide reliable energy to mission-critical facilities for 3 weeks if they are ever disconnected from the grid.

This achievement has wide implications for the Marines, San Diego, and the way we power our world. Energy innovation has always come naturally to the military, and MCAS Miramar embodies San Diego's forward-thinking approach and commitment to sustainability.

I thank Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and all marines stationed there for their service to our Nation. I thank Marine Corps leadership for their dedication to alternative energy.

Please join me in congratulating Marine Corps Air Station Miramar on the 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award.

RECOGNIZING NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF SAN DIEGO

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Children's Museum of San Diego, winner of the 2019 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. This award is the highest honor given to museums that demonstrate extraordinary and innovative approaches to community service.

The New Children's Museum, which will celebrate its 36th anniversary this year, is a cornerstone of arts and culture for San Diego families.

The museum is certainly a model for engaging people of all backgrounds with art. They collaborate with community centers, social service organizations, and schools to spread art, creativity, and play outside the museum.

The New Children's Museum employs a philosophy that enables children to learn through play. Their philosophy is pervasive in their immersive exhibits that allow children to climb, touch, build, and engage with the art.

I brought my own children there to think, play, and create, like so many families, when they were younger.

Today, the museum offers free and reduced admission for military families, Head Start groups, homeless and foster children, migrant families, and more.

This award is a testament to the New Children's Museum's service to San Diegans.

Please join me in honoring the New Children's Museum.

HONORING SENATOR RICHARD LUGAR

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my House colleagues to honor and remember Senator Richard Lugar, a giant in Indiana politics who recently passed away at the age of 87.

For those who had the privilege to serve in Congress alongside Senator Lugar, you simply could not find a better mentor, colleague, and friend. Nor could you find a more honorable and decent individual.

Senator Lugar truly defined what it meant to be a principled statesman, dedicating his life to the betterment of the world, our Nation, and the Hoosier State.

From serving in the United States Navy to being elected mayor of Indianapolis in 1968 and to his service in the United States Senate from 1977 until 2013, he spent his entire life in service to his Nation and his fellow Americans.

While Senator Lugar worked on a wide variety of issues during his time in office, it was in the realm of foreign policy that he made the largest impact. Senator Lugar's knowledge of foreign policy issues was unmatched. Our Nation will forever be stronger and safer because of his tireless efforts.

It was a privilege and honor to serve alongside Senator Lugar during my first term in Congress. As I stand here today, it is truly humbling to say goodbye to a man who inspired so many to answer the call to service.

Our thoughts continue to be with his beloved wife, Charlene; his sons, Mark, Bob, John, David; and the rest of the Lugar family.

May he have fair winds and following seas. Godspeed.

MARKING THE CENTENNIAL OF PASSAGE OF 19TH AMENDMENT IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 100th anniversary of this Chamber's passage of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote.

The battle for the 19th Amendment was long and hard-fought. It was 72 years from the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 to the affirmation in our Constitution that women were owed the right to vote.

But the ultimate goal was not just the vote. It was what the vote means: that American women, all women, could enjoy the same rights and freedoms as American men.

In the last 100 years, we remain well short of that goal. In fact, this past week's latest assault on women's bodily autonomy is proof of that. The fact that women make 80 cents on the dollar compared to men, and much less for women of color, shows that we have a long way to go.

When there is so much work left to do to realize full equality for all American citizens, we cannot afford to move backward.

It is clear we need women's voices now more than ever. I am very proud of the fact that 40 percent of the Democrats in Congress are women, but we need more.

I am proud to serve with the largest group of women in Congress in U.S. history and to call these incredible Congresswomen my friends, colleagues, and Speaker of the House. I look forward to working with them toward full gender equality.

We will not wait another 100 years.

HONORING JIMMIE LEE MASON, SR.

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime good friend of mine named Jimmie Lee Mason from Lubbock, Texas.

Jimmie Lee was a CPA, a consummate professional, and someone who took his profession very seriously and helped create the firm Mason Warner, which is in existence today.

Jimmie Lee passed away on April 5, 2019. He was 89 years old and leaves a giant hole in the hearts of his family, as you might expect.

I first met Jimmie Lee when I joined the State Board of Accountancy in Texas. Jimmie Lee, for whatever reason, and I will now never know, chose to take me under his wing. He mentored me. He was a wise counselor.

As a result of his friendship and his help, I was able to chair the State Board of Accountancy, and I was able to chair the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy. I did that work much better and more professionally because of my friendship and his leadership and help throughout that process.

My story is only one of many, many like it. Jimmie served the Texas State Society of CPAs throughout his entire career. There are countless other CPAs who could have the exact same conversation with you that I am having this morning as a result of his friendship and his leadership.

Jimmie leaves behind a wife of 66 years, Wanda; son Jimmie Lee Mason, Jr.; daughter Kristi Killion and her husband, Jerry; son Greg and his wife, Areace; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jimmie Lee, everywhere he touched got better, whether it was a not-for-profit organization in Lubbock that he served or his profession that he served diligently for all those years. Countless individuals whom he came in contact with are much better off, none more so than the fellow who stands in front of you here today.

My life is better as a result of my friendship with Jimmie Lee Mason, and I miss my friend.

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, one century ago today, the United States House of Representatives passed a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. Just 1 year later, the 19th Amendment was ratified.

Even before women had the right to vote, women from Indiana were on their feet, rallying their voices to be heard. Hoosier suffragettes such as Amanda Way, Zerelda Wallace, May Wright Sewall, Helen Gougar, Dr. Amelia Keller, and Grace Julian Clarke led the push for suffrage in Indiana and inspired Hoosier women to stand up and speak out about their rights.

Each of these women and so many more across the country paved the way so that other women can now vote and hold local, State, and Federal Government positions.

It is an honor to be one of seven Congresswomen elected thus far to represent the Hoosier State in our Nation's Capital, but it began with Representative Virginia Ellis Jenckes, who began her service in 1933; then Cecil Murray Harden, who began her service in 1949; Katie Hall in 1982; Jill Long Thompson in 1989; Julia Carson in 2003; and my good friend JACKIE WALORSKI and I in 2013.

□ 1030

Hoosier women have certainly left their marks in America's history book. But, as I stand here today, I am struck at how much work, yes, we still have to do.

Exercising our right to vote is the most powerful tool we have to share our voice. Today, I join many colleagues here in the House wearing a yellow rose commemorating the suffragettes fight for our rights to vote. So much has been accomplished by women and for women in the past 100 years. Today, I want to encourage all Americans to consider how much farther we can go in the next 100 years.

CHARACTER

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reflect on moral character, which is essential to the promise of America in order for us to flourish.

I am reminded that we stand on the shoulders of so many who have gone before us and impacted our lives in many ways—members of our greatest generation—who bravely fought tyranny and oppression during World War II. They were driven by honor, duty, and country. They were selfless, not drawing attention to themselves or seeking to be a celebrity or a hero.

They are the models for character that we must always celebrate and remember. They would never admit it, but they are heroes, heroes for bravely and humbly doing their part to protect our freedom.

Madam Speaker, why is character so important? Why does it matter? It is because our character—who we are and the decisions that we make when we are tested—is foundational to the rule of law.

In this body, we talk a lot about the Constitution, our God-given rights, bills and laws, checks and balances, the rules and the procedures that govern debate, the branches that make up this government, and so on. All of these pieces of our government are significant, but they are lifeless and have no meaning without the spirit of good faith.

If we, representatives of the people, don't lead with moral character, America doesn't stand a chance against corruption and the breakdown of trust with the people we serve. It is on us, each one of us, doing our part for what is righteous, what is just, and for what will keep America free.

President Reagan once said:

Freedom isn't passed down to us in the bloodstream; it has to be fought for.

In other words, freedom involves choices, and that is precisely why character matters.

Every single day, every single moment, our character is tested. In politics, it is tested by the temptations of power, palace intrigue, ambition, and personalities.

I won't blame either side of the aisle, Madam Speaker, but these are the smoldering fires that burn around us that threaten our institutions and our laws.

Did you know that only 3 percent of Americans trust the government will do the right thing—3 percent. Forty-six percent of Americans say that they have very little confidence in Congress. That is a crisis of confidence, and it is a call for reformation of character, so that people will trust and can trust that their representatives will always act in good faith on their behalf.

Again, it starts with us being better examples, not for the glory or the recognition, but because it is the right thing to do. We must be countercultural to the divisiveness that has taken hold of modern politics today. That means stopping the blame game, honoring another's argument, even when we disagree, and acknowledging, and even celebrating, our differences without attacking the other side's character. That is the way that we will come together to find out how we can make tough decisions without kicking the can down the road.

I fear what may come if things do not change. As Abraham Lincoln famously said, "A House divided against itself cannot stand." The strength of our Nation, our Constitution, our laws, and our institutions have no greater guardians than us. It is this government of

the people, by the people, and for the people.

We must take this responsibility seriously or, again, we won't have a fighting chance to rebuild the trust of "we, the people" and keep the promise of America alive. I have said it before in the well of this House: this is the promise that will keep us free and empower the next generation to shine. For their sake, our character, the spirit that leads us to do what is right and just, must be our guide so our House will forever stand.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the new trade agreement negotiated with Mexico and Canada, or the USMCA.

My district that I represent, the 11th District of Pennsylvania, is one of the top ten dairy producing counties in the Nation and is the number one producing county for egg layers.

One thing that I can tell you about the farmers of the 11th District is that they adapt, and they hold on to hope that better times are yet to come. I agree with them: better times are coming for these farmers because the Trump administration has worked to do right by the American farmer in negotiating the USMCA.

Under the agreement, Canada would eliminate its price control systems, which have effectively locked out America's dairy industry.

The agreement also makes improvements for the egg and poultry industry, with Canada agreeing to increase its quota regimes to allow for more American eggs and chicken into the market.

The farmers of my district are eagerly calling for the USMCA to be enacted as soon as possible, and I join them today in that call. I am hopeful that we can get there.

That is why I urge the leadership across the aisle to join in standing up for our Nation's farmers and to allow a vote on the USMCA. We have a generational opportunity to help American farmers compete and to thrive. Let's take that opportunity.

HONORING WARDEN CHERYL STEBERGER

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, earlier this month was National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, and I rise today to recognize individuals from Lancaster County, who are making a difference improving criminal justice and public safety in our community.

I would like to recognize Lancaster County Prison Warden Cheryl Steberger, who has shown exceptional leadership in managing the Lancaster County Prison. Warden Steberger has substantially improved the welfare of those repaying their debts to society

while in prison and helped with their transition out of incarceration.

The warden has done so by meticulously following the data with a program known as Prison Stat. Prison Stat is run in conjunction with the Lancaster County Prison Board, led by Lancaster County Commissioner and Chairman Josh Parsons. This program monitors key metrics on the prison's performance and holds leaders accountable through transparent and frequent public review of the data.

Their work in Lancaster County has been honored by the National Association of Counties, who awarded both Commissioner Parsons and Warden Steberger with the 2018 Achievement in Criminal Justice and Public Safety Award.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate the work of our correctional officers and we thank Warden Steberger for her dedication and leadership.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

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

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Foster Care Month, I would like to address a vital issue in today's foster care system: the need for more foster care parents. I would also like to recognize a few foster care organizations in Nebraska's Second Congressional District. These organizations embrace children in the foster care system and are committed to helping youth find permanent homes through foster parents, so that they, too, can experience love, stability, and the freedom to reach their full potential, regardless of their circumstances.

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska has been an advocate in the child foster care system for more than 125 years. This year, their mission is to secure 100 foster families who can offer a mature and stable environment.

Boys Town Nebraska, where I was fortunate to speak this last weekend at their high school graduation, directly serves about 30,000 children every year and believes that foster parents are the heart of high-quality foster care by offering children protection, permanency, and comfort.

The Child Saving Institute values the overall well-being of children by offering free, trauma-informed training to individuals and couples who want to serve as foster parents.

And the Nebraska Children's Home Society not only strives to find permanent homes for children, but they also address the need to foster teenagers.

All four of these organizations provide care and assistance to the abused and neglected and encourages the need for foster parents for children of all ages.

Each year, hundreds of Nebraska youth are removed from their homes due to unfortunate circumstances. Many of them fear where they will end up or if they will ever find their forever home.

My wife, Angie, and I adopted two children, Austin and Jessica, from the foster care system when they were just 8 and 9 years old. Even though we already had two sons, we knew that there were not enough homes for older children and siblings. Austin and Jessica are blessings to our family. Even though foster parenting was challenging, choosing to adopt them was one of the best and most rewarding decisions Angie, my wife, and I have ever made.

Even though foster children are hurting, they are just looking for someone to be committed to them and help them succeed. It is time to realize that everyone can play a part in enhancing the lives of children and youth in foster care and that these children just want someone to care for them. It is the hope that one day, through opportunity and lessons, these children will grow up and provide safety for their own children, benefiting future generations.

The idea of children being placed with stable and devoted families is not a partisan issue. I am very appreciative to my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, and I am thankful to serve as a co-chair for the Foster Care Caucus. I will continue to be an advocate for foster children and encourage the need for foster parents. We must remember that every child, no matter the age, is worthy of love and deserves a family.

HONORING MAJOR JOHN E. CLECKNER, SR.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great man and a great patriot from Redding, California, in my district. His commitment to his fellow veterans is certainly unparalleled. Major John Cleckner, Sr. passed away on May 11, but he leaves behind a tremendous legacy of service.

During a 22-year military career that began in 1957 in the 82nd Airborne Division and later the U.S. Army Special Forces, John received far too many awards and honors to list in this time. During his time as a veteran of the Vietnam war, he was wounded multiple times and received three Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars.

In 1969, he was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group. Upon arriving, he initiated a massive rebuilding of their camp's defenses and intelligence gathering when he heard of increased activity by North Vietnamese units in the area. Not long afterward, a North Vietnamese heavy weapons regiment laid siege to their camp for 5 months, but, thanks to John's efforts, the camp held.

After receiving his third Purple Heart, John was medically retired in 1979.

As impressive as his military service record is, it might even pale in comparison to his 35 years of dedicated

service to his fellow veterans, both in northern California and across the United States. Much like his military career, his accomplishments as an advocate for veterans are too numerous to properly list in this format.

He has worked closely with me and my office and others previous to me over the years as an adviser on all things veterans related and as a tireless partner and champion of programs and legislation that can make a real impact to help our veterans thrive.

He was a leader in every sense of the word. John was instrumental in getting a new VA clinic in Redding, whose groundbreaking will be very soon, and started the quest for a veterans' cemetery in Shasta County, both of which have now come to fruition, thanks to his relentless efforts.

John even collaborated with country music legend Merle Haggard, who is a Redding resident, to coordinate a national fishing tournament for combat-disabled veterans to have a chance to get out and relax and enjoy the outdoors with people who they can relate to. For him, it was all part of making the lives of veterans better in any way that he could.

When John discovered that many veterans struggled to obtain legal help, he went back to college at the age of 62 to get a degree that would allow him to serve as a legal assistant to in-need veterans at no charge to the veteran. That is amazing service. That is the kind of person John Cleckner was.

For his impressive track record, both on the battlefield and in civilian life, the Special Operations Center of Excellence at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School inducted John into the Distinguished Members of Special Operations Regiment in 2010.

□ 1045

I know this: Major John Cleckner was an American hero, on and off the battlefield. He devoted his life to his country, and when he could no longer serve his country, he devoted himself to improving the lives of his fellow veterans.

I have seen it firsthand. I consider myself fortunate to have known him as a friend, and I am grateful for the things he helped us—in my office and others—do to accomplish things for veterans in northern California.

John was tough, even a little scary, especially if he thought you weren't being true to what you were saying you would do. But if you were, you wouldn't have a stronger ally than Major John Cleckner in what we pursue to help our veterans, to help our Nation be strong, to be true.

His commitment has only strengthened my own resolve to further some of the initiatives he started and we have helped with and to never stop fighting for our veterans who deserve it.

I thank John for his service, his sacrifice, his dedication. We will miss him in northern California but will ensure

his legacy lives on through our efforts—all of us—to help our veterans, to help our Nation remain strong.

God bless Major John Cleckner, his faithful wife, Doris, his amazing family, and all that he has ever had touch with during his life of service to his nation and to his brothers.

IN MEMORY OF TROOPER DONALD C. BRACKETT

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of Trooper Donald C. Brackett, a dedicated law enforcement professional with the Pennsylvania State Police. Trooper Brackett passed away while on duty Saturday morning at the age of 58.

Our Nation just recognized National Police Week, a time to reflect upon and honor the sacrifices made by the men and women in law enforcement. Trooper Brackett was no exception.

A resident of Bensalem, Trooper Brackett served nearly 18 years in the United States Marine Corps and enlisted in the Pennsylvania State Police in October of 2001. He was most recently assigned to the patrol section of Troop T, King of Prussia, and was previously assigned to Troop K, Media, and Troop M in Trevose throughout his distinguished career.

Madam Speaker, Trooper Brackett lived his life in service to our Nation and to our community. He is truly an American hero, and I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Marta, and his children, Gabriella and Brianna.

Trooper Brackett lived his entire life in service to our community. He set the example for our entire Nation to follow.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL STEKLENSKI

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a native of Perkaskie in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who is promoting animal welfare through the nonprofit organization he established 4 years ago.

Paul Steklenski, an Army veteran and a network engineer, founded Flying Fur Animal Rescue in 2015. Flying his 1970 Beechcraft single-engine airplane, Paul transports shelter animals, mostly dogs, at risk of being euthanized to rescue groups along the East Coast. To date, Paul estimates he has saved the lives of over 1,300 animals in need.

Paul credits Rick Witt, who helps manage the operations at Doylestown Airport, for the success of this organization. Rick allows Paul to use the original aircraft he used to transport the animals.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the work of Flying Fur Animal Rescue and thank Paul for his work. I encourage all of us to follow his lead of being a voice for the voiceless.

RECOGNIZING BRUSH WITH THE LAW

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding nonprofit organization in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, that is serving individuals in need in our community.

Brush With the Law, based in Montgomeryville, was founded as a visual arts program at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in 2013. The program quickly grew popular and was transitioned into one that helps marginalized individuals trying to re-enter society.

Brush With the Law works with municipalities and small businesses in their endeavors, which involves creation of conceptual art installations to beautify our community. These installations seek to raise awareness for issues important to local residents, such as drug addiction, homelessness, and climate change. The principal goal of Brush With the Law is to bring people together, a vision which we all should applaud.

I would like to recognize the founder and director, Maria Maneos of North Wales, for her leadership and for her work in empowering our community.

MOVE ON FROM THE RUSSIAN INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, on April 18, 2019, my Democratic colleagues were overjoyed. The report on the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election was released. It was two volumes, volume I and volume II. Volume I was 199 pages long, volume II, 182 pages long.

Special Counsel Mueller's report was my colleagues' dream: the smoking gun. Now we can impeach President Donald Trump. The taxpayers spent \$2.5 million so far, but that is a victory.

The folks back home heard this, one ugly thud. There was no collusion and no obstruction.

So why do my colleagues keep the investigation going? Why are they threatening subpoenas, contempt of Congress?

Well, it is because Mr. Putin hacked into our elections with a wide open door given to him by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, the DCCC.

Volume I, page 38:

On April 12, 2016, the GRU, the Russians, had gained access to the DCCC computers using the credentials stolen from a DCCC employee who had been successfully spearfished the week before.

A few lines later:

Approximately 6 days after the first hack into the DCCC network on April 18, 2016, the GRU—again, the Russians—gained access to the DNC network via a virtual private network connected between the DCCC and the DNC.

Mr. Putin was not interfering in our elections to help Mr. Trump. The report shows he was motivated by the fact of most of my people back home: He wanted anybody but Mrs. Clinton.

Volume I, page 23:

Here is the main idea: Use any opportunity to criticize Hillary and the rest—except for Mr. Sanders and Mr. Trump. We support them.

It is time for my friends on the other side of the aisle to admit they left the barn door open, and Mr. Putin let those cows out to run free in our elections.

It is over. Let's move on. Join us in doing the people's work. That means issues they care about, like how about having lower unemployment? That is historical right now for Asians, African Americans, and Hispanic Americans. Let's give that a round of applause.

How about energy independence? Yes, our world is clear because of American energy.

How about helping us secure our border? Address the crisis on our border, have an immigration policy that works.

The American people want this. They are sick and tired of investigation after investigation after investigation. It is over. Let's move on.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) for 5 minutes.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, on June 4, we will celebrate 100 years since Congress passed the 19th Amendment, which correctly recognized women's right to vote.

At that time, only one woman had served in Congress: Jeannette Rankin, in 1916, from Montana. But today, we have more women serving in this Congress than ever before, with 131.

In this proud moment for both women and our Nation's history, we also honor the suffragists who, more than a century ago, paved the way that allows women to take part in this democratic process and that also allows me to stand here as the first woman elected to represent Puerto Rico in Congress.

Because of our territorial status, Puerto Rico has been historically excluded from our national process, including the 19th Amendment ratification process.

Prior to becoming a U.S. territory in 1898, Puerto Rico was a Spanish colony, and people on the island advocated for political equality for women, beginning with a right to education. But it wasn't long after becoming a U.S. territory that Susan B. Anthony advocated for equal political and civil rights for men and women in the new possessions, including Puerto Rico.

This advance in civil rights was one of the first reasons why people on the island began to fight for the conversion of Puerto Rico as a State of the Union.

It was the leaders of the Republican party who first included women's vote as part of their platform, and they also presented legislation to achieve it. As the measure did not progress, our suffragists sought support from national organizations and the United States Congress, which introduced legislation extending women's right to vote in Puerto Rico.

Finally, in 1929, Puerto Rico's Legislature recognized the right to vote, but only for literate women; and in 1935, the right to vote was granted to all women.

These series of events led to the election of Maria Luisa Arcelay, who became the first woman in Puerto Rico to be elected to a government legislative body in 1932.

However, because Puerto Rico is an incorporated territory of the United States, despite being U.S. citizens since 1917, Puerto Ricans cannot vote for the U.S. President, and they are also denied voting representation in this Congress.

While this Congress is legislating to extend benefits to all women, I must raise my voice many times to advocate for these rights to be extended to territories like Puerto Rico that still lack, at a general level, full equality in relation to a State.

Statehood for Puerto Rico will happen. The question is when this Congress will do it.

The end of slavery, the end of segregation, and women's right to vote are just examples of civil rights that took a while to become the law of the land. Statehood for Puerto Rico will follow.

We are still fighting for equal pay, for equal work, for being able to walk safely without fear of sexual harassment, for eradicating gender violence, for having more access to where decisions are made, for having more representation in different fields, such as science, arts, sports, business, and economics.

As we rejoice and celebrate progress in equality for women, I ask my colleagues to be reminded that their job continues and much more remains to be done to achieve equality for all Americans.

That also includes the veterans of Puerto Rico, veterans that lack access to TRICARE Prime options on the island. Instead, only Active Duty servicemembers and their family members have access to TRICARE Prime, specifically TRICARE Prime Overseas.

This also affects the access by spouses and dependents to benefits as their family member serves our country.

Current law dictates that military retirees under the age of 65 in Puerto Rico and the territories are eligible only for TRICARE Standard.

That is the reason I filed H.R. 2171, which seeks to rectify this problem by making TRICARE Prime available to over 29,000 servicemembers in Puerto Rico, who have retired from the Armed Forces, and their dependents.

According to the report by the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico, not having access to TRICARE Prime is one way in which Puerto Rico is treated differently under several Federal programs.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2171.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Reverend R. Perez Gatling, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

O, Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the Earth.

We give thanks for this day that You have made, and we give thanks for these courageous and committed public servants who You have called and commissioned to be the voices of the people. We are grateful for the freedoms we enjoy in this country, and we are thankful for all of the patriarchs and matriarchs and our uniformed and civilian soldiers who unselfishly sacrificed their lives as payment for this freedom.

I pray that You will endow our legislative leaders with knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and discernment. Give each leader in this Chamber a heart for the people they represent. I pray that through today's proceedings, a more perfect Union will be formed, justice will be established, domestic tranquility will be assured and ensured, and the blessings of liberty will be secured to ourselves and our posterity.

In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ESCOBAR 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND R. PEREZ GATLING

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Perez Gatling, the 13th pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Virginia Beach. I thank him for his powerful and poignant prayer on the House floor and know that his words will give Congress strength.

Known as "the church that reaches out," Ebenezer Baptist Church is the oldest African American church in the city of Virginia Beach and has been the cornerstone of our community since 1859.

Pastor Gatling leads it by humble example, sharing with whomever he meets his personal motto: "I'm just a nobody trying to tell everybody about somebody who can save anybody."

Pastor Gatling is not only a faith leader, but also a mentor to so many through his church's prolific community outreach, specifically, for students of all ages.

Pastor Gatling is accompanied today by his loving family: Veleka Gatling, Lewis Gatling, Russell Gatling, Cleo Gatling, Leo V. Williams, Carolyn Williams, and Mary Bowen.

Thank you for joining us today. Thank you, Pastor Gatling, for bringing your wise words and your wonderful family to visit us in Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING GOLD STAR FAMILIES

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, we are reminded of the brave servicemen and -women who have given their lives to defend our country.

The families of those who died in conflict, known as the Gold Star families, can never forget these sacrifices. Our country is indebted to these selfless Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice.

No amount of financial support can ease the pain of losing a loved one, but veterans' benefits to surviving spouses and children provide an important lifeline during these times of need.

The 2017 tax law brought many unintended consequences that Congress is

now trying to fix, including a significant increase in tax rates on benefits for children of these fallen service-members. This is completely unacceptable. Congress must pass legislation to fix this now so families that have already given so much are not asked to give even more.

COMMEMORATING THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, today we celebrate an important moment in our Nation's history: 100 years ago, today, Clifford Randall, the Representative from the First District of Wisconsin, left his office like all of his colleagues in the House, walked to this very Chamber, and cast his vote in favor of women's suffrage.

The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. Today we commemorate that vote.

Wisconsin was a leader in the women's suffrage movement. In fact, Wisconsin was the first State to ratify the 19th Amendment.

I am wearing a yellow rose today just as the supporters of women's rights did a century ago.

As we commemorate the 19th Amendment, let's focus on how we can work together to support women and ensure that future generations will never forget that historic vote.

EMPOWERING WOMEN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, what an amazing day: 100 years ago, the Congress voted out a resolution to empower women with the right to vote.

What is interesting, the last day, the last State, Tennessee, when the vote was taken, or when it was about to be taken, the then-Speaker, who was against it, wearing a red rose, said: We have got the votes.

But there is nothing like the power of a woman and the power of a mother. And a young legislator got a letter from his mother that very morning that said: Son, be a good boy, and vote to let women vote.

And, lo and behold, Tennessee ratified that right because that 24-year-old voted to let women vote.

It is an important time now for women to be empowered, because the States of Alabama and Texas and Mississippi and Missouri and others are now trying to reign back the rights of women and the right to choose.

We respect other values. We respect the Constitution and the Ninth Amendment, but Alabama and Mississippi and Texas and Missouri, we are not going back, because women got the right to vote. And just like that young man, be

a good boy and leave women alone, for them to choose their own right, the right to vote.

HONORING MADISON DOZIER

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

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent Madison Dozier of Alexandria, Kentucky.

Madison is an honor roll student at Reiley Elementary and the daughter of proud parents Ronnie and Melanie Dozier.

Madison is also the 2019 national winner of the annual National Missing Children's Day poster competition, sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the Department of Justice.

Each year, all fifth graders in the United States are invited to participate in the missing children's day poster competition. The purpose of this competition is to foster awareness and discussion among schools and law enforcement regarding the tragedy of missing and exploited children.

This year, Madison's poster received the national award, following a unanimous decision from the judging panel.

Congratulations to Madison and her teacher and her proud family as they visit Washington, D.C., for the awards ceremony this week. Her poster will be on display in the Great Hall at the Department of Justice. Check it out.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, today marks the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

It is hard to think that, 100 years later, for most of our Nation's history, including my grandmother's and great-grandmother's generations, women contributed to the building of our Nation but lacked this basic civil right.

In America, your vote is your voice; it is what makes all of us equal. We each have one vote. Voting is one of the most important things that you can do as a citizen.

When the 19th Amendment passed over 100 years ago, only one woman served in the United States House of Representatives. When I began my congressional career here in 2003, 60 women were serving in the House.

Today, I am proud to serve in the House with 127 women, including 14 other Latinas. That, my friends, is progress.

While we have made significant improvements to expand the representation of women in our political system, we still have a long way to go. So let

us honor this anniversary by committing ourselves to continuing the unfinished work toward achieving full equality for women in this country.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the efforts of the women's suffrage movement in the United States.

Susan B. Anthony once said: "Oh, if I could but live another century and see the fruition of all the work for the women. There is so much yet to be done."

Now that we stand on the other side of that century, it is only fitting that we honor the suffragettes who paved the way for millions of women to vote and hold public office.

By a vote of 74-15, my home State of Arkansas became the 12th State to ratify the 19th Amendment.

I would like to specifically recognize Ms. Hattie Wyatt Caraway from Jonesboro, Arkansas, the first woman to be elected to the United States Senate and whose portrait is prominently displayed outside the Senate Chamber.

A truly representative democracy necessitates that all voices be heard, and the 19th Amendment signified a turning point in government.

America's legacy of strong women continues on today in the lives of each woman who casts a ballot and runs for office. I am honored to serve alongside many of these women.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

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

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join in celebrating the 66th Congress.

100 years ago today, in 1919, this House voted to pass the 19th Amendment to grant women the right to vote. I rise today to celebrate the women's suffrage movement and the women who, at the time, were seen as revolutionary for demanding a voice, a representation in our democracy.

Today, we applaud the women who organized in upstate New York, in Seneca Falls, who marched down Pennsylvania Avenue, and who lifted their voices across this country to demand "votes for women."

As we prepare to celebrate a century of women's suffrage, let us acknowledge the tireless work of women to demand the right to vote and the women, including Ulster County's own Sojourner Truth, who recognized that suffrage still denied treatment under the law for all.

Today, I am proud to celebrate the tireless work of women to demand the

right to vote and the men who stood on the right side of history by voting to pass the 19th Amendment.

Their work set the stage for the historic 116th Congress, full of trailblazing women, and firsts in their own right.

□ 1215

CELEBRATING BOLD TRAILBLAZERS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

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

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bold trailblazers like Susan B. Anthony, a pro-life woman and Republican, and others like Emma Smith DeVoe and May Arkwright Hutton, who both led the suffrage movement in Washington State.

It was exactly 100 years ago today that this body passed a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. Its leaders like Susan B. Anthony and others have inspired generations of women to live their dreams, to be courageous, and to be risk-takers. They fought in search of a more perfect union to make sure the promise of America was available to women of all walks of life so that we, the people, are able to make our voices heard.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for them. I am honored to stand here today, 100 years later. Their legacy reminds us all why we are empowered to do our part and write the next chapter of America's history.

JOHN BOLTON BEATING DRUMS OF WAR

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, if you listen carefully, you can hear drums faintly in the background. It is not a prayer circle. It is John Bolton down at the White House, beating the drums of war.

This is the same John Bolton who thought invading Iraq was a really, really great idea. In fact, he said, "I expect that the American role actually will be fairly minimal." Minimal? The greatest foreign policy mistake in the history of the United States of America fairly minimal?

Now he wants to do the same thing in Iran.

Iraq was one thing, with Saddam Hussein in a relatively small country. Iran? Really, buddy? He hasn't seen any problem around the world that you can't change by regime change: North Korea, regime change; Venezuela, oh, that worked out really well a couple of weeks ago, regime change; now Iran.

What about Russia? He is kind of quiet about Russia. I wonder why that is. It might have something to do with his boss.

Now, his boss goes back and forth: War, no war. War, no war. I don't know.

We have to hope Bolton doesn't win this debate. He has never repented. He said, in 2019, "I still think the decision to overthrow Saddam was correct." The same guy said, "I confess I had no desire to die in a Southeast Asian rice paddy." Chicken hawk.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, exactly 100 years ago today, this House passed the 19th Amendment. On June 4, 1919, the Senate approved it.

The women's right to vote began the race to ratification, requiring three-fourths of the 48 States to ratify it before it was added to the Constitution. That happened on August 26, 1920.

Madam Speaker, a woman having the right to vote is not at all controversial today. However, in 1848, when the first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York, the issue was so contentious that the group of mostly women only narrowly passed including voting rights in their Declaration of Sentiments.

We know some of the leaders of the movement, like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Ida B. Wells, but there are thousands of other women whose names will never be known. They also gave heart and courage to ensuring equality for women.

The passage of the 19th Amendment ensured that all Americans were included in steering our Nation toward the future. One hundred years later, it remains just as important.

CELEBRATE 19TH AMENDMENT WITH POLICIES TO SUPPORT ALL WOMEN

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Suffragettes across the country bravely fought for decades to make that moment possible, enduring hardship and pervasive discrimination. I think about trailblazing women like Oregon's Abigail Scott Duniway.

The right to vote empowered women to shape policy, elevated public discourse, and more.

We have come a long way. There is a record number of women not only voting but serving in Congress. With more women at the table, I hope we will finally enact policies that support all women and their rights, including the right to make our own reproductive

healthcare decisions, to affordable childcare, to paid family and medical leave, to retirement security, and to equal pay for equal work.

We still have work to do. We must continue breaking down barriers so future women leaders of all backgrounds can be heard. Together, we will achieve great things.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in the celebration of the 19th Amendment.

19TH AMENDMENT ENSURED WOMEN FULL PARTICIPATION IN OUR DEMOCRACY

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 354, celebrating the 100th anniversary of this body passing the 19th Amendment.

On May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives approved a proposed amendment to the Constitution that provided suffrage for women. This amendment not only ensured that all women are full participants in our democracy, but it also ensured that the United States is a full democracy.

Women and girls have always possessed the same fundamental rights as men and are essential to a stable, peaceful society.

On behalf of every woman in the Second District of Missouri, I honor the role that the ratification of the 19th Amendment played in fulfilling the principles of the Constitution for women.

I commit to working to strengthen our democracy as we remember remarkable women like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and others who fought for our freedoms.

CONTINUE FIGHTING FOR EQUAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, today, we recognize a historic day in our Nation, the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment, which, once ratified, granted most women the right to vote, bringing them one step closer to equality with their male peers.

That ratification was 10 years in the making. Sadly, this pace of progress, this slow pace, is still all too common. Throughout history, women have had to fight for the same rights automatically afforded to men. Today, that fight continues.

As we stand on the shoulders of all the women who challenged convention, who fought and refused to quit so that we could be here in a moment where some 68 million women vote in America and the first two Latina women represent Texas in the people's House, our responsibility is to continue that

fight against the erosion of women's rights that we are witnessing today and to fight for equal treatment and opportunity for all.

HONOR 19TH AMENDMENT BY EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, going door to door in my first campaign, a sweet, elderly lady invited me in for iced tea. As she discussed my race, she shared that she had never missed a chance to vote since she was a young girl.

One day, her mother had hitched the horses to the wagon, pulled up in front of the house, told her to get in, flicked the reins, and they were on their way to town. With determination and pride, her mother announced, "Today, for the first time in our country, we get to vote. We must always exercise this privilege." And that girl did, every election, for over 74 years.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of this Chamber passing the 19th Amendment to our Constitution, giving women the right to vote, we must all reflect on what this right to vote truly means. I am grateful for this privilege not only to vote on election day but also to stand here and represent the good people of Missouri's Fourth District and cast their vote here in Congress.

We live in the greatest country in the world. Let us always remember those who secured our freedoms and honor their legacy by exercising the right to vote.

HONORING COURAGEOUS WOMEN WHO WON RIGHT TO VOTE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, just over 100 years ago, my mother was born without the right to vote. Like other women of her time, she had no vote, and she had no voice in her government.

Today, we honor the courageous women who marched, staged hunger strikes, went to jail, and persevered in order to win this fundamental right for half the country, forever altering our democracy by ensuring that everyone in this country, including women, had the constitutional right to vote.

I am deeply grateful that my mother benefited from their efforts and that she would live to see her daughter run for and be elected to Congress.

Millions of women voted for the first time in November 1920 and in the nearly 100 years since. But we still have much more work to do.

I am determined that, one day soon, all of our daughters and sons will witness the ratification of the Equal

Rights Amendment, which, at long last, makes it clear that equal means equal.

CELEBRATING THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to speak before the U.S. House of Representatives in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the House passage of the 19th Amendment that gave all women the right to vote. This centennial is one of the most important in our Nation's history, and I am thrilled to be celebrating it with my colleagues here on the House floor.

The fight for women's suffrage in my State of Arizona began when we were still a territory in the 1800s. Brave women, like Josephine Hughes of Tucson, Frances Munds of Prescott, and others, led the suffragist movement in Arizona so that women in Arizona won the right to vote even before the 19th Amendment passed.

Let us celebrate the many women and men who fought for so much over so many years to ensure the right to vote for women in America.

As the daughter of a great mother, as the mother of a wonderful daughter, and as the grandmother to a 1-week-old granddaughter, I am so proud to be here today to honor this great, historic moment.

PROTECTING RIGHT TO CHOOSE

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, as States like Alabama move forward implementing medieval laws that seek to imprison doctors and punish women for their personal healthcare decisions, I want to make one thing absolutely clear: I will always stand up and defend a woman's fundamental right to choose.

These near-total bans on abortion are not only unconstitutional, but they also endanger the lives of countless women who will be forced to turn to unsafe procedures.

In 1930, illegal abortion was listed as the official cause of death for almost 2,700 women, nearly 20 percent of maternal deaths recorded that year.

We have come too far in the fight for women's equality to retreat to an era when women lacked the basic right to autonomy over their own bodies.

My district of Rochester, New York, is the proud home of Susan B. Anthony. Today, we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, but the fight for women's rights is far from over.

We must remain resolute in our commitment to protecting and upholding *Roe v. Wade*. We must support critical

healthcare programs like Planned Parenthood. We must ensure that every single woman across America has the right to make her own decisions.

□ 1230

HONORING SUFFRAGIST MARY ANN SHADD CARY

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

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, standing on the achievements of brave women who came before me, to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment House passage, expanding the right for women to vote.

As we celebrate this historic day, I want to pay tribute to an overlooked but trailblazing woman who helped make it possible, Delaware pioneer and suffragist, Mary Ann Shadd Cary. In her prophetic words: "We should do more and talk less."

Using the power of the pen, Shadd Cary was the first woman to edit and publish a newspaper in North America, using that role to combat systemic racism and slavery.

After the Civil War, she set her sights on a new cause: voting. She became one of the first Black female lawyers in the United States to testify before the House Judiciary Committee, in 1874, advocating for women's suffrage in these very Halls.

Described by W.E.B. Du Bois as "well-educated, vivacious, with determination shining from her sharp eyes," Mary Ann Shadd Cary blazed trails for women everywhere, and throughout her life, always fought in the name of justice and equality.

We owe it to her and we owe it to all to continue to fight for our rights.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

The 19th Amendment played a pivotal role in paving the way for a new agenda that would finally put women's issues at the forefront of our democracy. Not only did it help women move closer to equality, it created more opportunities for jobs, fairer wages, access to education, and more health benefits. Eventually, more women began to run for office.

Madam Speaker, 100 years later and women have made an impact at the ballot box like never before, electing a record-breaking number of women to Congress. But there is still work to be done.

We are still fighting for full equality for all women, including LGBTQ women.

We are still fighting for reproductive rights. We have seen countless States enact laws that strip away a woman's reproductive freedom, criminalizing a decision that should be between her and her doctor. But core to women's constitutional liberties is autonomy over their own body and well-being. In order to truly support women, we need to safeguard and improve, not limit, access to comprehensive healthcare.

As we celebrate the strides that women have made in our country, we also recommit ourselves to the fight that women have endured since the founding of our Nation.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, America has always been a work in progress, and, therefore, we always have the opportunity to make our democracy better, stronger, when we simply do the right thing.

The Declaration of Independence may have said that "all men are created equal," but it took a brave group of Americans to say that it should really be "all people." If the law applies to each of us equally, then the right to vote must always be equal.

The women who fought for their right to vote weren't in it to make friends. They were mocked and beaten, called extremists, told to slow down, told that good things would come if they simply waited. But, nevertheless, they persisted.

Today, on the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment passed in the House, let's be inspired by this group of women who took the hard fight and did the right thing, because they knew our democracy would be stronger and better for it.

YOU CAN'T BE WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, "Young girls need to see role models in whatever careers they may choose just so they can picture themselves doing that job some day. You can't be what you can't see."

Madam Speaker, Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, spoke those words. She was a personal hero of mine, one of the few women in STEM I could look up to as a child. And to this day, I am grateful to Sally because she showed me, as a young girl, that being a woman did not prevent her from pursuing her dream, from entering a male-dominated world and space.

Yesterday, I spoke on television with my friend Representative MIKIE SHERRILL, about the launch of the first ever Servicewomen and Women Veterans Congressional Caucus, and it turns out another young girl was watching.

"Why do those two girls have the same necklace on?" she asked her father, referring to my and Representative SHERRILL's pins. Her father explained the meaning of the pin, explained how we were two women elected to serve in the United States Government.

True equality can only be achieved when every young girl can look up to her leaders and see herself reflected, see a legitimate path for achieving her dreams. For that, we need more women in leadership, more people of color. Our elected representatives need to be a more accurate reflection of America that we represent.

Maybe that young girl yesterday will go into politics, maybe she won't, but she saw two women who were elected by their peers to serve.

"You can't be what you can't see."

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the vote to pass the 19th Amendment, I would like to recognize Tennessee's crucial role in the Amendment's ratification.

State Representative Harry T. Burn was a slow learner. He was originally antisuffragist, but he ultimately changed his "nay" vote to "yea" just in time to heed his mother's advice to "be a good boy" and vote for ratification.

His was the deciding vote in the Tennessee General Assembly, making Tennessee the 36th State, and final State, needed for ratification. Representative Burn explained his vote this way: "I know that a mother's advice is always safest for her boy to follow, and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification."

So thank you to Representative Burn and, above all, to his mother, Ms. Phoebe Burn, for her crucial role in aiding women's right to vote.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I am so honored to join my colleagues in commemorating the 100th anniversary of House passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote everywhere in our country.

My State, Wisconsin, was the very first State to ratify the 19th Amendment, and I am wearing this yellow rose today in honor of the remarkable women who fought for their seat at the table.

They persevered; they resisted; they persisted; and the face of Congress is different because of them. Women like Ida B. Wells, Susan B. Anthony, and Sojourner Truth said that, if women want rights, we must be sisters in arms and fight for what is right.

Wisconsin was the first State to ratify the 19th Amendment, and, unfortunately, they are now leading in the efforts to disenfranchise people. But it is because of the powerful legacy that I will continue to fight to make sure that no one is denied access to the ballots due them as citizens.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE AND RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT, PROVIDING FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 354, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 354

Whereas Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, guided by the shared ideals of freedom, sovereignty, democracy, civil liberties, and individual rights;

Whereas from 1919 to 1920, the Sixty-Sixth Congress debated, and State legislatures considered, an amendment to the Constitution to provide suffrage for women;

Whereas on May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives approved a proposed amendment, followed by the Senate a few weeks later on June 4, 1919;

Whereas the introduction, passage, and ultimate ratification of the 19th Amendment were the culmination of decades of work and struggle by advocates for the rights of women across the United States and worldwide;

Whereas the ratification of the 19th Amendment ensured women could more fully participate in our democracy and fundamentally changed the role of women in the civic life of our Nation;

Whereas August 18, 2020, marks the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by three-fourths of the States, providing the support necessary under article V of the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas August 26, 2020, marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment becoming a part of the Constitution of the United States, providing for women's suffrage; and

Whereas the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment represents a historical milestone to be lauded

and celebrated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, providing for women's suffrage, to the Constitution of the United States;

(2) honors the role of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in further fulfilling the promise of the Constitution of the United States and promoting the core values of our democracy;

(3) reaffirms the opportunity for people in the United States to learn about and commemorate the efforts of the women's suffrage movement and the role of women in our democracy; and

(4) reaffirms the desire of Congress to continue strengthening democratic participation and to inspire future generations to cherish and preserve the historic precedent established under the 19th Amendment.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 21, 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 21, 2019, at 9:24 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 163.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

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. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 389 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 389

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1500) to require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to meet its statutory purpose, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-15 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1994) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. 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 report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from May 24, 2019, through May 31, 2019—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall

not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XV.

SEC. 6. 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 as though under clause 1 of rule XV, relating to a measure making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

SEC. 7. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of May 23, 2019, relating to a measure making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

SEC. 8. 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.

□ 1245

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, the Rules Committee met on Monday night and reported a rule, House Resolution 389, which covers a lot of territory. It provides for consideration of H.R. 1500, the Consumers First Act under a structured rule which makes in order 17 amendments.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 1994, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act, or the SECURE Act, under a closed rule which self-executes Chairman NEAL's manager's amendment.

Additionally, the rule provides same-day authority and suspension authority through Thursday, May 23, and it provides filing authority for the Committee on Appropriations through 5 o'clock p.m., Sunday, June 2.

Finally, the rule provides recess instructions through next Friday, May 31.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1500, the Consumers First Act, reverses the anti-consumer actions taken by this administration to ensure the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau once again serves the needs of American consumers.

More than a decade ago, the United States experienced one of the worst financial crises in our history, caused, in part, by a failure to have strong pro-

tections for consumers of financial products and services.

Through the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Congress created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to be a strong and independent agency with the mandate to protect consumers from unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts or practices in the financial marketplace. When the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was first stood up, it was a powerful ally to consumers in middle-class families across the country.

Under former Director Richard Cordray, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau returned nearly \$12 billion to over 30 million consumers who were harmed, handled over 1.2 million consumer complaints about financial institutions, and implemented new safeguards to better protect consumers who utilize a wide range of consumer financial products and services.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration has politicized the agency, weakened supervision and enforcement, and reduced transparency and accountability. The Bureau has dismantled protections for Active Duty servicemembers, weakened fair lending enforcement, blocked payday loan cases, and terminated the Consumers Advisory Board. These are just a few examples of how the agency is failing to meet its mission.

The Consumers First Act would block the Trump Administration's agenda and ensure the CFPB starts working for the people once again.

Among other things, the bill would direct the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau leadership to reverse all anti-consumer actions taken under this administration, including resuming Military Lending Act oversight. The bill restores the supervisory and enforcement powers of the Office of Fair Lending and Equal Opportunity. It also reestablishes a dedicated student loan office to help protect students as they find ways to finance their education. Importantly, the bill requires adequate agency staffing across the Bureau, including for supervision and enforcement.

I want to thank Chairwoman WATERS for her work on this legislation, which I cosponsored and is supported by 51 consumer civil rights, housing, and labor organizations.

This rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 1994, the SECURE Act. I am also a cosponsor of this bill to make it easier for American workers to save for their future. One of my number-one priorities is ensuring all Coloradans and all Americans have the opportunity to find a good job, can afford to send their kids to college, and have something left over for their retirement.

Unfortunately, nearly half of Americans in the private sector work for an employer who does not offer a retirement plan. A 2018 study by the National Institute on Retirement Security found over 100 million people of

working age have few, if any, retirement assets.

The SECURE Act is a bipartisan bill which was approved unanimously by the Ways and Means Committee, and I am eager for the House to pass this important legislation. The SECURE Act would make it easier for small businesses to offer retirement plans to their employees by eliminating outdated barriers to the use of multiple employer plans and improving the quality of these providers. This could result in hundreds of thousands of new retirement accounts to help people save.

Additionally, the bill would allow long-time part-time workers to participate in 401(k) plans and create a new tax credit to incentivize small employers to set up retirement plans for their employees. It would also add more flexibility for how long individuals could contribute to their retirement accounts, and when they must begin drawing down on those accounts.

This legislation is a big step forward in helping Americans save and prepare for retirement, and I am proud to support it. I urge all of my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bills, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to thank my friend from Colorado for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

It is a close-knit bunch of folks up there on the Rules Committee, Madam Speaker. If you have not been by recently, you ought to come by. There are only 13 of us there. It is easy to remember everybody's name, but you don't go to the Rules Committee when you have important bipartisan legislation to bring to the House floor. You go to the suspension calendar for that.

You go to the Rules Committee when you have contentious pieces of legislation to bring to the floor. I regret that we are here today on things that are absolutely contentious that could have been absolutely partnership bills.

I want to reference first H.R. 1500. That is the bill my friend from Colorado spoke about as it relates to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. He is absolutely right. The way this Congress set up the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau when Democrats were running this institution and President Obama was in the White House was to make it a completely administration-driven agency with no accountability to Congress whatsoever. That was a mistake.

But the folks who set it up liked the team that was running it at the time, and so our efforts in the minority to stop that from happening were rebuffed. Now we are here today, Madam Speaker, and you might think that we have a list of legislative fixes to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Not so.

I encourage you to pick up a copy of H.R. 1500 just to see what those fixes

might be. It is a 40-page bill. You have to get to page 21 before accusations and assertions against former Director Mick Mulvaney end, and the important work, like changing the way we reference the agency by name, begins.

I don't have any language today. No amendments were offered in the Rules Committee last night, Madam Speaker, to talk about all of the things that former Director Cordray did while he was there. The list of things that he did that I don't like are long. The list of things that he did that I thought violated the actual text of the law is pretty long.

But he is gone, and we have the ability to fix anything we want to fix that he did. So no amendments were offered to impugn the integrity of the former director. Well, not the former director, Mr. Cordray; but the former director, Mick Mulvaney, yes, acting director. There are 21 pages of a 40-page bill dedicated to personal attacks on the former director.

Madam Speaker, if we wanted to do something about the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that brought its authority out of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and right back here to where it belongs in Article I, we would make this agency subject to congressional appropriations. This is a bipartisan issue.

If you want to find something that we agree on as an institution, let's talk about making Article I the lawmaker in this country, rather than Article II. Let's talk about taking it out of the White House's hands and putting it back into the people's hands on Capitol Hill. You will not find that idea in these pages.

It is a disappointment because we could be doing something in partnership. Standing for consumers is a shared value, not a divisive one.

I go now to the bill coming out of the Ways and Means Committee, H.R. 1994. Madam Speaker, as my friend from Colorado referenced, this bill passed unanimously out of the Ways and Means Committee. Unanimously.

Take a look at the men and women on the Ways and Means Committee. I think there are 42 of them. These are not shrinking violets on the Ways and Means Committee. I see a couple of them out here. I won't call anybody out by name—Mr. PANETTA—but they are not shrinking violets on this committee. These are serious public policy advocates who represent very diverse parts of the country and who fight hard for the values that their constituents represent.

Unanimously, they came together as a committee, Madam Speaker, to change the rules for retirement, to make it easier for families to save; to change the rules around college savings plans so that families who ran into challenges in secondary years, families whose kids develop special needs and might not be going on to college, but who have very real needs today, to allow those dollars to be tapped by

those families to serve the educational needs of their children.

Unanimously it passed the committee. In fact, I will read from the committee report. This is not something that was done lightly in committee, Madam Speaker. We are talking about hundreds of pages of legislation, hundreds of pages of a committee report. This was a thoughtfully designed and crafted piece of legislation.

The committee said this:

The committee believes that expanding 529 plans will help families save for education expenses that meet each family's unique needs.

We run into that problem often, Madam Speaker. We try to do something that is good for America, and it turns out that 330 million Americans have different needs and priorities. So the Ways and Means avoided a one-size-fits-all solution, recognizing those unique needs. I will read on.

The committee says:

By allowing tax-free distributions for apprenticeship expenses, homeschooling expenses, student loan repayments, elementary and secondary expenses, in addition to tuition, families can customize the use of their education savings to make education more affordable.

We didn't read that on the headline of any major newspaper when the Ways and Means passed that unanimously. I am sure there was something in the headlines of that major newspaper about wars in foreign lands. I am sure there was something in the newspaper that day about partisan politics and how folks were poking each other with sharp rhetorical sticks.

There was not a word about how the men and women of the people's House on the Ways and Means Committee came together unanimously, not because it wasn't hard to craft solutions. It is hard to craft solutions, but they came together unanimously on consensus language to move out of committee.

It sounds like I am going to tell a story with a happy ending, Madam Speaker, and I should be. This should be a story about how we get things done, but what happened last night that you also won't see on the front page of the paper is, we took this consensus product that was passed unanimously by Republicans and Democrats, and we took it up there to the Rules Committee.

On a straight party-line vote, we ripped out all of the language protecting families who were trying to help their children at home; children who may not be getting everything they need through the public schools and so they get additional education at home; families that may have opted out of the public school system because they couldn't get what their children need, and they are homeschooling their children.

This language that was agreed upon unanimously in a bipartisan way, was ripped out in a party-line vote in the Rules Committee last night. We will

never vote on it in this Chamber, Madam Speaker.

The Ways and Means Committee in a long committee report, long committee language, they deliberated over this language and concluded that the right thing to do was to help all American families. But somewhere between that unanimous vote in committee and late last night in the Rules Committee, the decision came down from on high—and by on high I do mean your side of the aisle, Madam Speaker, because when you sit in the Speaker's chair, you have that kind of authority. The Rules Committee is, in fact, the Speaker's committee—that said we are going to rip this language out.

We offered an amendment last night. And I think it is only right that folks come to sit here to watch the people's business. They think that we are going to operate a transparent building here, and we work very hard to do that.

□ 1300

We offered an amendment last night in the Rules Committee to allow a simple vote of the people's House on this provision. If you don't like parents supplementing their students' education at home, so be it. I don't understand it, but so be it. But let's have a vote on it here just like they did in the Ways and Means Committee. On a party-line basis, the amendment to allow the people's House to have a vote on this provision was defeated.

You might not have noticed it when the Reading Clerk was reading, Madam Speaker. I don't want to tell you how long that took to read. We have a lot of things packaged in this bill. You will have to go all the way down to the 12th section of the rule, and the important words are: modified by the amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report, modified by part B of the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report.

I will translate that for you, Madam Speaker. That means with no vote of this institution whatsoever and with no consultation or input from the Ways and Means Committee that crafted this legislation, we are going to revoke all benefits that would have gone to families who cannot find the services they need outside the home and, thus, are paying for those services inside the home.

Representative MITCHELL came to the Rules Committee to testify on this amendment last night, Madam Speaker. He said that his family is blessed enough to have the financial resources to take care of their special needs family member. But he talked about all the American families who he has met in his district—the Speaker has them in her district; the gentleman from Colorado has them in his district; and I have them in my district—who don't have the financial means and who don't have that sense of security.

The Ways and Means Committee in its wisdom unanimously said let's provide that security to American families. The Rules Committee in an error

in judgment repealed it because six Members voted “yes” last night. That is all it took. All it took to silence an institution of 435, Madam Speaker, was six Members voting to include this one seemingly innocuous line that disadvantages families and children all across this Nation.

It is another missed opportunity, Madam Speaker. We could have been here today celebrating the things that we do here together. We could have been here celebrating shared values. We could have been here today making a difference that your constituents have asked of you and my constituents have asked of me.

From the start of this process, for the weeks in committee, and for the weeks since the committee has passed it, we were doing exactly that. In about 6 minutes of voting last night, we erased it all. It took weeks to build bipartisan consensus, Madam Speaker. It took moments to erase it all.

We have choices in this institution, Madam Speaker. We made the wrong one in the Rules Committee last night.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat this rule and give us a chance to make a right one. But we only get so many bites at this apple. The trust of the American people in us as an institution and in us as individuals is not infinite. If we betray that trust often enough, it will disappear forever.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I will start where my friend from Georgia just left off, complaining about a tiny section in the bill that was stricken in the Rules Committee. He is correct, because there are individuals within our Caucus who don't think it is appropriate. The bill, however, has dozens of provisions that benefit Americans of every stripe, millions of people.

I would say to my friend from Georgia, if he feels so strongly about it, then bring it up in a motion to recommend. It isn't the last statement here. If my friend wants to see how many people want to vote for this, then certainly bring it up there.

Otherwise, as my friend said, this was a major step forward on retirement security for so many Americans. The perfect shouldn't be the enemy of the good because the bill, the SECURE Act, advances that.

Secondly, I wish Representative MALONEY was still in the chair, Madam Speaker, because she would recognize, as it applies to the Consumers First Act, that the purpose of having a single agency focus on consumers first was so important because we saw that by having certain activities handled by the Housing and Urban Development Department, others handled by the Federal Reserve, and others handled by the Federal Trade Commission, consumers were not being protected. Much of that

failure to protect—shark practices in the credit card industry and bad practices in the mortgage industry—led to the recession that we faced back in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

The purpose of having an independent agency like the CFPB was to avoid that and put consumers first, just as H.R. 1500 is intended to do.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA).

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. WOODALL for his advocacy as well as his oratory skills.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I want to talk about the SECURE Act and obviously the work that we did in the Ways and Means Committee in regard to not only H.R. 1994 but, more particular, a certain part of that bipartisan legislation that helps home healthcare workers save for their retirement. That would include the over 375,000 home healthcare workers in my home State of California.

Madam Speaker, we know that home healthcare is usually less expensive. It is more convenient and, most times, just as effective as the care people receive in a hospital or in a skilled nursing facility.

Home healthcare workers not only provide critical services for seniors and those with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities, but they also ensure that our loved ones with special needs are able to live their lives in a dignified manner.

That dignity, that skill, and that care, I can tell you, is something that I experienced firsthand throughout my childhood when my grandmother suffered a debilitating stroke and had to live with us. We took her in realizing that the effects of her stroke were permanent. That is when my family decided to ensure that she had appropriate home healthcare, not just the family but with full-time home healthcare workers.

With both my parents working full-time, we were forced—but, yes, we were also fortunate—to hire home healthcare workers, people who actually came into our home, took care of my grandmother, and allowed her to live a life with dignity and with the care necessary to enjoy the latter years of her life.

However, and unfortunately, right now under the current Federal Internal Revenue Code, home healthcare providers like those who cared for my grandmother are not able to participate in a retirement plan or save in an IRA. If you are a home healthcare worker in California who works in and helps out families, then you would be ineligible to participate in the CalSavers retirement program due to the current Federal law.

That is why this bill is so important, because it would allow home healthcare workers to contribute to a defined contribution plan or IRA, giving home healthcare workers the ability to save and prepare for their own retirement.

These healthcare workers give our family members dignity. This is the least that we can do for home healthcare workers so that they can retire with dignity.

That is what this bill does. That is one of the reasons why, as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I did vote for this bill. It is also why I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation.

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

Madam Speaker, you heard the earnestness with which Mr. PANETTA just described the committee's work. You can go through every line of the committee's work, and you are going to find a story similar to the one that Mr. PANETTA has told about his family that applies to hundreds of thousands of families across the country.

That is what this work product was. That is what the committee spent weeks and weeks putting together. That is, candidly, what my constituents think we do up here every day: find problems, find partners, craft solutions, and bring them to the floor.

My friend from Colorado said that we shouldn't let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and I think he is exactly right. I haven't voted on the perfect bill since I have been here, Madam Speaker. You may have had that opportunity; I have not. I vote on bills that move the ball in the right direction. Even had I been king for a day, I couldn't have done it better.

But the flip side of “don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good” is that this bill passed out of the Ways and Means Committee unanimously. It was perfect if bipartisanship was your goal. It is now good legislation. But with this change, it is perfectly partisan.

I would advise my colleagues that we spent a lot of time when we were in control—and I had the pleasure of leading the rule, as my friend from Colorado does today—protecting our Members from tough votes. You may not know, Madam Speaker, but the way the Rules Committee works, we could have offered waivers. If you wanted to strike protections for homeschooling families, if you wanted to strike protections from families who need to buy more than what they can find in their public school system for their special needs child, you could have brought an amendment to the floor of this House and said: I don't like those protections for those families. I want to strike them.

But then you would have had to have stood up and said that whatever your ax was that you were grinding that day took priority over those families. No Member in this institution wants to do that, which is why it comes to the Rules Committee as a seemingly innocuous line in a committee report and why it only takes six members to vote “yes” on it up there to make it a part of the underlying bill. It pretends that the committee voted on it when, in fact, they did not.

If we want to vote on these issues, then let's vote on these issues. But I will just tell my friends here in their fifth month of leadership that they will begin to rue the day that they told their new Members they could come to Capitol Hill, be a United States Congressperson, and not have to take tough votes.

We began to rue that day when we started down that road, and you only get one chance to start again.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Responding to my good friend from Georgia, we are going to have a chance to vote on this in the rule, and we will see whether or not a majority is in favor of the changes that were made as part of this rule package.

I would say to my friend, as part of the changes, we are adding Gold Star families and other children to this entire SECURE Act package to benefit them because in the race to give a \$2 trillion tax cut to the richest Americans, the Republican Party forgot about a lot of families and a lot of children. That is being corrected in this bill and in this amendment.

I urge my friend to take another look at it because this rule does benefit Americans all across the board and all income levels.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN).

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my strong support for the rule and for the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act.

This is an important retirement savings measure that has the support of a wide range of stakeholders, from the United States Chamber of Commerce to the Girl Scouts. What a credit to the committee for taking up this important legislation for the people.

I want to highlight section 105, a provision that the committee included to offer a tax incentive to small businesses for setting up automatic enrollment for their employees' retirement plans.

Madam Speaker, while half of private-sector employees have access to a retirement plan through their employer, it is estimated that just 15 percent of small businesses offer a retirement plan. Yet small businesses employ approximately half of the Nation's private-sector workforce.

Ensuring that small business employees have retirement options just like those who work for larger companies will increase small businesses' competitiveness at a time when the job market is tightening, and it will position these employees for a secure retirement.

Establishing automatic enrollment in retirement plans is critical. Participation rates in defined contribution plans like a 401(k) are above 90 percent

among new hires when automatic enrollment is the default. Moreover, 80 percent of participants increase their contributions over time. Alternatively, when employers do not offer automatic enrollment, new hire participation is below 50 percent.

Section 105 is based upon a bill that Mr. KELLY and I introduced, the Small Employer Retirement Savings Auto-Enrollment Credit Act. It would provide small businesses—those with up to 100 employees—a \$500 tax credit to defray the start-up cost of offering automatic enrollment. The tax credit would also be available to small businesses that convert their existing employee retirement program from an opt-in to auto-enrollment.

I was pleased to work with the chairman and his staff as well as the gentleman from Pennsylvania on this issue. I urge adoption of the resolution and the SECURE Act.

□ 1215

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

Madam Speaker, I want to associate myself with everything my friend from Massachusetts just said. Every line of this bill, as crafted by the Ways and Means Committee, was designed to make a difference in a family's life, a difference that every single one of us can be proud of, and no one has a single bit of concern about that language.

The concern is that, instead of being down here celebrating this bipartisan product, in the dark of night it was converted.

My friend from Colorado is absolutely right. Not only was the home-schooling provision stripped out; a provision for Gold Star families was put in.

Now, I will just tell you, if you have any concerns, Madam Speaker, let me speak on behalf of the Republican Conference. If you want to stand up for Gold Star families, I have got Members who want to stand with you. I don't have some; I have them all.

To be fair, that has nothing to do with being a Republican. If I go to the Democratic side of the aisle and look for folks to stand with Gold Star families, I won't find one; I will find them all.

That is yet another thing that unites us, and kudos to RICHARD NEAL, as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, for taking an opportunity to make the bill better in that way.

I happen to have his manager's amendment here, Madam Speaker. This is the language that was taken up by the Rules Committee last night and, again, stuck in because only six people voted "yes." And page after page is dealing with those Gold Star families and trying to right that clerical error in drafting.

It is in the middle of page 3, with looks like seven words: "In section 302, strike subsections (b) and (d)." You might not know what section 302 is and

what sections (b) and (d) are, Madam Speaker. I will read some of that to you, again, from the Democratic chairman's committee report, from the unanimous legislation that was passed.

The provision allows tax-free treatment to apply to distributions made for certain additional qualifying expenses on behalf of designated beneficiaries attending elementary and secondary schools.

This is the offensive language that my friend referenced that some Members of his caucus had problems with that needed to be taken out. Here it comes. And I don't mean to offend you by reading these words, Madam Speaker, but I am just going to read them directly because I feel the burden to do it.

In addition to tuition, tax-free treatment would apply to a distribution made for expenses for fees, tutoring, special-needs services, books, supplies, and other equipment incurred in connection with the attendance of elementary school.

I am aghast. I am aghast that that is what the Ways and Means Committee decided to do. I am just going to tell you again, Madam Speaker.

The committee, in its wisdom, unanimously decided that we should speak up for families who have problems with expenses for fees, academic tutoring, special-needs services, books, supplies, and other equipment incurred in connection with their child's attendance in elementary school.

That is what this big to-do was about today. If you want to have a vote on the floor of the House that says, "I don't want children in elementary school to have any help," we can have that vote. I think it would lose, and so do my friends on the other side of the aisle.

That is why we are not going to have that vote. We are going to sneak it in, in the rule, and never be able to speak on it.

I appreciate my friend raising the Gold Star issue because that is yet another area of agreement, like the issue my friend from Massachusetts spoke about, like the issue my friend from California spoke about.

Madam Speaker, when you are in the majority in this Chamber, it is easy to get legislation passed. You control the Rules Committee. You control the votes on the board. You get to jam everything through.

I know. I spent 8 years in the majority, and that is the way every day is when you are in the majority.

But you don't have to jam everything through. Occasionally—just occasionally—there are bills, like this bill from the Ways and Means Committee, where every single line is dedicated to solving problems, problems that affect your district and problems that affect my district.

Occasionally—just occasionally—we find Members on both sides of the aisle sitting down, rolling up their sleeves, looking for solutions instead of talking

points. And, when that happens, you produce good legislation like the bill Chairman NEAL brought before us today.

We could have been down here celebrating that legislation, Madam Speaker. Instead, we are talking about the efforts to unwind it. And, for the life of me, I just don't understand why that is the path we have chosen.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, just in response to my friend, we have two bills that are encompassed in this rule: H.R. 1500, the Consumers First Act, and H.R. 1994, the SECURE Act.

The gentleman is focusing on one sentence out of dozens of provisions that benefit millions of Americans to complain about this rule and what was done.

Well, people get to vote on this rule. It isn't just 6 people or 10 people or 13 people. There will be 435 of us voting on whether we approve the rule or not. There are other opportunities to take care of the one sentence, if my friend is so aghast that it might be stricken in favor of dozens of other provisions, including the Gold Star family and children across America.

So, I appreciate the rhetorical abilities of my good friend from Georgia, but, quite frankly, he is missing the forest for the trees through all of this.

Secondly, H.R. 1500 is another key piece of legislation that is encompassed in this rule to really get consumers first again, as opposed to the financial services industry being first, which appears to be the effort of the Trump administration.

Madam Speaker, I would inquire of my friend from Georgia if he has any other speakers. If not, I suggest we close.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I don't have any speakers remaining. I have a powerful previous question vote that I would like to describe, and I am prepared to do that at this time.

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

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

We can't always get exercised about every single line in every single bill. We would never get anything done.

We have an amendment process so that, if you get exercised about a particular line in a particular bill, you can bring your amendment to the floor and we vote on it.

We are going to get into the appropriations process soon. When we spend money, it turns out to be one of those issues that people feel strongly about. We are going to entertain hundreds of amendments—Republican amendments, Democratic amendments.

Some Republican amendments are going to pass; some are going to fail. Some Democrat amendments are going to pass; some are going to fail.

But we are going to work the will of the body, and we are going to do the best we can to get to a final package that we move across the street to the Senate.

My frustration in this moment, Madam Speaker, isn't that we have the inability of moving things forward and discussing ideas. We do have the ability to do that, and we did that well in the Ways and Means Committee.

My frustration is that, when people don't like the way the committee unanimously, in a bipartisan way, did something because they have bipartisan concerns—and, to be clear, the concerns about this language are not Republican concerns. This language was not stricken because Republicans objected. This language was not stricken to satisfy any bipartisan concern of any kind.

This was purely a partisan exercise. And if you want to have a partisan exercise, I know 435 Members who are here all day, who will come down here to the House floor and vote on it, and we can do that.

So I want to offer that opportunity, Madam Speaker. For folks who think this is about public policy, as it was when the committee considered it in a bipartisan way, I want to offer an amendment to this bill.

If we defeat the previous question, Madam Speaker, I will offer an amendment that strikes this offending section. What that means in layman's terms is the bill would contain the Gold Star family language that is very important to every Member of this Chamber. It would contain the pension language that is very important to every Member of this Chamber.

It would contain every line designed in a bipartisan fashion by the Ways and Means Committee to make a difference in families' lives, but it would strike the majority's effort, with only six votes on the Rules Committee, to eliminate protections for home-schooling families altogether.

Vote against the previous question, defeat the previous question, and we can restore the bipartisan consensus language the Ways and Means Committee crafted, and we will add the Gold Star family language that my friend from Colorado and I agree on.

I don't serve in the Ways and Means Committee, Madam Speaker. They have got big ideas they have to work on over there. I don't serve on the Financial Services Committee. They have got big ideas they have to work on over there.

I serve in the Rules Committee. My job is to get bills to the House floor and to make sure that voices are heard on perfecting that language.

If we defeat the previous question, we can achieve exactly the partisan goal that the majority wants, but we can achieve it by actually having a vote of the House on that goal.

I think the American people are tired of things being done in secret. I think they are tired of things being done without the full story being told.

I talk to my friends on the other side of the aisle regularly, daily, hourly, Madam Speaker. I know the hunger from your side of the aisle to deliver on behalf of the American people. I know that hunger. I know the hunger on your side of the aisle to roll up sleeves and do the hard things. Because the easy things somebody else has already taken care of. All that is left for you and me are the hard things.

Going to the well of partisanship, pulling your sharp stick out of your quiver and poking the other team, those aren't the hard things. Those are the easy things. And, candidly, those aren't the surprising things. They have become all too commonplace.

I don't get to run this institution, but I do get a vote in it. I see opportunities for partnership, not because everybody wants it, but because it has to happen. Republican President, Republican Senate, Democratic House: The only way we succeed, Madam Speaker, is to succeed together. That is the only pathway forward.

If anybody in this Chamber ran for their seat because they wanted to stand up here and talk about it for 2 years, we have got a great pathway for you. But if you ran for this seat because you actually wanted to get it done, these bills today aren't doing it.

The Senate won't consider them. The President is not going to sign them. But there are ideas in these bills, Madam Speaker, as expressed unanimously by the Ways and Means Committee, that America is hungry for and you and I can deliver.

Let's exceed expectations today. Defeat the previous question, and let's restore this bill to the bipartisan compromise that the Ways and Means Committee created.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. PANETTA and Mrs. TRAHAN for joining us today to speak on this rule, the Consumers First Act, and the SECURE Act.

And, just briefly, with respect to the Consumers First Act, there are dozens and dozens of consumer, civil rights, and labor organizations supporting the Consumers First Act and how we are approaching it pursuant to this rule: Americans for Financial Reform, the Center for Responsible Lending, the Communication Workers of America, the Consumer Federation of America, and the NAACP, just to mention a few, with respect to the Consumers First Act.

With respect to the SECURE Act: AARP, SEIU, the Church Alliance, the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the National Association of Women Business Owners.

And today is the 100th anniversary of a woman's right to vote, so here we have got the National Association of Women Business Owners, as well as the

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, TIAA-CREF, and the Air Line Pilots Association.

So we have consumer groups, insurance groups, and business groups supporting the SECURE Act so that millions more Americans can feel secure in their retirement, something that so many people feel insecure about today.

The bill has dozens and dozens of provisions. The amendment that is in the nature of the manager's amendment by Mr. NEAL includes additional children, Gold Star families, a lot of people who were left out by the giant tax cut that the Republicans passed a year and a half ago to benefit the wealthiest Americans.

These two bills are important steps forward for the constituents that you represent, Madam Speaker, that the gentleman from Georgia represents, and the people I represent.

The Consumers First Act will realign the Consumer Bureau's focus as a truly independent voice protecting consumers first. We have seen what the bureau can accomplish in the millions of consumers who were helped under Director Cordray, and our constituents need the bureau to continue to focus on them.

□ 1330

The SECURE Act is an important bipartisan package which addresses retirement security and makes an important technical change to the GOP tax bill for Gold Star families, among others. This package was developed by both sides of the aisle and with many stakeholders.

While the other side of the aisle may be upset over one provision out of dozens and dozens of provisions, I hope they can recognize the effort that went into this package to bring both sides together and the millions of Americans who are benefited by this legislation.

These are both commonsense bills, and I look forward to their passage.

Madam Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote on the rule and the previous question.

Mr. WOODALL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the amendment be printed in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JUDY CHU of California). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I kind of wanted to object, but I didn't.

Madam Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote on the rule and the previous question.

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

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 389

In section 2, after "accompanying this resolution" insert "and the amendment specified in section 9 of this resolution".

At the end, add the following new section:

SEC. 9. The amendment referred to in section 2 of this resolution is as follows:

In the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, strike "In section 302, strike subsections (b) and (d).".

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

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

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

Mr. WOODALL. 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 question will be postponed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1427

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HAALAND) at 2 o'clock and 27 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:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 389; and

Adoption of House Resolution 389, if ordered.

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.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 389) providing for consider-

ation 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, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 227, nays 191, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 220]

YEAS—227

Adams	Frankel	McEachin
Aguilar	Fudge	McGovern
Allred	Gabbard	McNerney
Axne	Gallego	Meeks
Barragán	Garamendi	Meng
Bass	Garcia (IL)	Moore
Beatty	Garcia (TX)	Morelle
Bera	Golden	Moulton
Beyer	Gomez	Mucarsel-Powell
Bishop (GA)	Gonzalez (TX)	Murphy
Blumenauer	Gottheimer	Nadler
Blunt Rochester	Green (TX)	Napolitano
Bonamici	Grijalva	Neal
Brindisi	Haaland	Neguse
Brown (MD)	Harder (CA)	Norcross
Brownley (CA)	Hastings	O'Halleran
Bustos	Hayes	Ocasio-Cortez
Butterfield	Heck	Omar
Carbajal	Higgins (NY)	Pallone
Cárdenas	Hill (CA)	Panetta
Carson (IN)	Himes	Pappas
Cartwright	Horn, Kendra S.	Pascarella
Case	Horsford	Perlmutter
Casten (IL)	Houlihan	Peters
Castro (TX)	Hoyer	Peterson
Chu, Judy	Huffman	Phillips
Ciulline	Jackson Lee	Pingree
Cisneros	Jeffries	Pocan
Clark (MA)	Johnson (GA)	Porter
Clarke (NY)	Johnson (TX)	Pressley
Clay	Kaptur	Price (NC)
Cleaver	Keating	Quigley
Clyburn	Kelly (IL)	Raskin
Cohen	Kennedy	Rice (NY)
Connolly	Khanna	Richmond
Cooper	Kildee	Rose (NY)
Correa	Kilmer	Rouda
Costa	Kim	Roybal-Allard
Courtney	Kind	Ruiz
Cox (CA)	Kirkpatrick	Ruppersberger
Craig	Krishnamoorthi	Ryan
Crist	Kuster (NH)	Sánchez
Crow	Lamb	Sarbanes
Cuellar	Langevin	Scanlon
Cummings	Larsen (WA)	Schakowsky
Cunningham	Larson (CT)	Schiff
Davids (KS)	Lawrence	Schneider
Davis (CA)	Lawson (FL)	Schrader
Davis, Danny K.	Lee (CA)	Schrier
Dean	Lee (NV)	Scott (VA)
DeFazio	Levin (CA)	Scott, David
DeGette	Levin (MI)	Serrano
DeLauro	Lewis	Sewell (AL)
DelBene	Lieu, Ted	Sherrill
Delgado	Lipinski	Sires
Demings	Loebach	Slotkin
DeSaulnier	Lofgren	Smith (WA)
Deutch	Lowenthal	Soto
Dingell	Lowe	Spanberger
Doggett	Lujan	Speier
Doyle, Michael	Luria	Stanton
F.	Lynch	Stevens
Engel	Malinowski	Suozzi
Escobar	Maloney	Swalwell (CA)
Eshoo	Carolyn B.	Takano
Espallat	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (CA)
Evans	Matsui	Thompson (MS)
Finkenauer	McAdams	Titus
Fletcher	McBath	Tlaib
Foster	McCollum	Tonko

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

NAYS—191

Aderholt	Gooden	Olson
Allen	Gosar	Palazzo
Amash	Granger	Palmer
Amodei	Graves (GA)	Pence
Armstrong	Graves (LA)	Perry
Arrington	Graves (MO)	Posey
Babin	Green (TN)	Ratcliffe
Bacon	Griffith	Reed
Baird	Grothman	Reschenthaler
Balderson	Guest	Rice (SC)
Banks	Guthrie	Riggleman
Barr	Hagedorn	Roby
Bergman	Harris	Rodgers (WA)
Biggs	Hartzler	Roe, David P.
Bilirakis	Hern, Kevin	Rogers (AL)
Bishop (UT)	Hice (GA)	Rogers (KY)
Bost	Higgins (LA)	Rooney (FL)
Brady	Hill (AR)	Rose, John W.
Brooks (AL)	Holding	Rouzer
Brooks (IN)	Hollingsworth	Roy
Buchanan	Hudson	Rutherford
Buck	Hunter	Scalise
Bucshon	Hurd (TX)	Schweikert
Budd	Johnson (LA)	Scott, Austin
Burchett	Johnson (OH)	Sensenbrenner
Burgess	Johnson (SD)	Shimkus
Byrne	Jordan	Simpson
Calvert	Joyce (OH)	Smith (MO)
Carter (GA)	Joyce (PA)	Smith (NE)
Carter (TX)	Katko	Smith (NJ)
Chabot	Kelly (MS)	Smucker
Cheney	Kelly (PA)	Spano
Cline	King (IA)	Staubert
Cloud	King (NY)	Stefanik
Cole	Kinzing	Steil
Collins (GA)	Kustoff (TN)	Steube
Collins (NY)	LaHood	Stewart
Comer	LaMalfa	Stivers
Conaway	Lamborn	Taylor
Cook	Latta	Thompson (PA)
Crawford	Lesko	Thornberry
Crenshaw	Long	Timmons
Curtis	Loudermilk	Tipton
Davidson (OH)	Lucas	Turner
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Upton
DesJarlais	Marchant	Wagner
Diaz-Balart	Marshall	Walberg
Duffy	Massie	Walden
Duncan	Mast	Walker
Dunn	McCarthy	Walorski
Emmer	McCaul	Waltz
Estes	McClintock	Watkins
Ferguson	McHenry	Weber (TX)
Fitzpatrick	McKinley	Webster (FL)
Fleischmann	Meadows	Wenstrup
Flores	Meuser	Westerman
Fortenberry	Miller	Williams
Foxx (NC)	Mitchell	Wittman
Gaetz	Mooleenaar	Womack
Gallagher	Mooney (WV)	Woodall
Gianforte	Mullin	Wright
Gibbs	Newhouse	Yoho
Gohmert	Norman	Zeldin
Gonzalez (OH)	Nunes	

NOT VOTING—13

Abraham	Herrera Beutler	Shalala
Boyle, Brendan F.	Huizenga	Sherman
Castor (FL)	Jayapal	Wilson (SC)
Fulcher	Payne	Young
	Rush	

□ 1458

Mr. CALVERT changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 220.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 190, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 221]

YEAS—230

Adams	Gomez	O'Halleran
Aguilar	Gonzalez (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Allred	Gottheimer	Omar
Axne	Green (TX)	Pallone
Barragán	Grijalva	Panetta
Bass	Haaland	Pappas
Beatty	Harder (CA)	Pascarell
Bera	Hastings	Perlmutter
Beyer	Hayes	Peters
Bishop (GA)	Heck	Peterson
Blumenauer	Higgins (NY)	Phillips
Blunt Rochester	Hill (CA)	Pingree
Bonamici	Himes	Pocan
Brindisi	Horn, Kendra S.	Porter
Brown (MD)	Horsford	Pressley
Brownley (CA)	Houlahan	Price (NC)
Bustos	Hoyer	Quigley
Butterfield	Huffman	Raskin
Carbajal	Jackson Lee	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Jayapal	Richmond
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Rose (NY)
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Rouda
Case	Johnson (TX)	Roybal-Allard
Casten (IL)	Kaptur	Ruiz
Castro (TX)	Keating	Ruppersberger
Chu, Judy	Kelly (IL)	Ryan
Ciçilline	Kennedy	Sánchez
Cisneros	Khanna	Sarbanes
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Scanlon
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Clay	Kim	Schiff
Cleaver	Kind	Schneider
Clyburn	Kirkpatrick	Schrader
Connolly	Krishnamoorthi	Schrier
Cooper	Kuster (NH)	Scott (VA)
Correa	Lamb	Scott, David
Costa	Langevin	Serrano
Courtney	Larsen (WA)	Sewell (AL)
Cox (CA)	Shalala	Shalala
Craig	Lawrence	Sherman
Crist	Lawson (FL)	Sherrill
Crow	Lee (CA)	Sires
Cuellar	Lee (NV)	Slotkin
Cummings	Levin (CA)	Smith (WA)
Cunningham	Levin (MI)	Soto
Davids (KS)	Lewis	Spanberger
Davis (CA)	Lieu, Ted	Speier
Davis, Danny K.	Lipinski	Stanton
Dean	Loeb sack	Stevens
DeFazio	Lofgren	Suozi
DeGette	Lowenthal	Swalwell (CA)
DeLauro	Lowe	Takano
DeBene	Luján	Thompson (CA)
Delgado	Luria	Thompson (MS)
Demings	Lynch	Titus
DeSaulnier	Malinowski	Tlaib
Deutch	Maloney,	Tonko
Dingell	Carolyn B.	Torres (CA)
Doggett	Maloney, Sean	Torres Small (NM)
Doyle, Michael F.	Matsui	Trahan
Engel	McAdams	Trone
Escobar	McBath	Underwood
Eshoo	McCollum	Van Drew
Espallat	McGovern	Vargas
Evans	McNerney	Veasey
Finkenauer	Meeks	Vela
Fletcher	Meng	Velázquez
Foster	Moore	Visclosky
Frankel	Morelle	Wasserman
Fudge	Moulton	Schultz
Gabbard	Mucarsel-Powell	Waters
Gallego	Murphy	Watson Coleman
Garamendi	Nadler	Welch
García (IL)	Napolitano	Wexton
García (TX)	Neal	Wild
Golden	Neguse	Wilson (FL)
	Norcross	Yarmuth

NAYS—190

Aderholt	Amash	Armstrong
Allen	Amodei	Arrington

Babin	Graves (LA)	Palmer
Bacon	Graves (MO)	Pence
Baird	Green (TN)	Perry
Balderson	Griffith	Posey
Banks	Grothman	Ratcliffe
Barr	Guest	Reed
Bergman	Guthrie	Reschenthaler
Biggs	Hagedorn	Rice (SC)
Bilirakis	Harris	Riggleman
Bishop (UT)	Hartzler	Roby
Bost	Hern, Kevin	Rodgers (WA)
Brady	Hice (GA)	Roe, David P.
Brooks (AL)	Higgins (LA)	Rogers (AL)
Brooks (IN)	Hill (AR)	Rogers (KY)
Buchanan	Holding	Rooney (FL)
Buck	Hollingsworth	Rose, John W.
Bucshon	Hudson	Rouzer
Budd	Hunter	Roy
Burchett	Hurd (TX)	Rutherford
Burgess	Johnson (LA)	Scalise
Byrne	Johnson (OH)	Schweikert
Calvert	Johnson (SD)	Scott, Austin
Carter (GA)	Jordan	Sensenbrenner
Carter (TX)	Joyce (OH)	Shimkus
Chabot	Joyce (PA)	Simpson
Cheney	Katko	Smith (MO)
Cline	Kelly (MS)	Smith (NE)
Cloud	Kelly (PA)	Smith (NJ)
Cole	King (IA)	Smucker
Collins (GA)	King (NY)	Spano
Collins (NY)	Kinzing	Staubert
Comer	Kustoff (TN)	Stefanik
Conaway	LaHood	Steil
Cook	LaMalfa	Steube
Crawford	Lamborn	Stewart
Crenshaw	Latta	Stivers
Curtis	Lesko	Taylor
Davidson (OH)	Long	Thompson (PA)
Davis, Rodney	Loudermilk	Thornberry
DesJarlais	Lucas	Timmons
Diaz-Balart	Luetkemeyer	Tipton
Duffy	Marchant	Turner
Duncan	Marshall	Wagner
Dunn	Massie	Walberg
Emmer	Mast	Walden
Estes	McCarthy	Walker
Ferguson	McCaul	Walorski
Fitzpatrick	McClintock	Waltz
Fleischmann	McHenry	Watkins
Flores	McKinley	Weber (TX)
Fortenberry	Meadows	Webster (FL)
Foxx (NC)	Meuser	Wenstrup
Gaetz	Miller	Westerman
Gallagher	Mitchell	Williams
Gianforte	Mooleenaar	Wittman
Gibbs	Mooney (WV)	Womack
Gohmert	Mullin	Woodall
Gonzalez (OH)	Newhouse	Wright
	Norman	Yoho
	Nunes	Zeldin
	Olson	
	Palazzo	

NOT VOTING—11

Abraham	Fulcher	Rush
Boyle, Brendan F.	Herrera Beutler	Upton
Castor (FL)	Huizenga	Wilson (SC)
Fulcher	Payne	Young

□ 1513

So the resolution was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 221.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam 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 (Ms. ADAMS). 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. WILLIAMS. Madam 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 is not recognized for debate.

□ 1515

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.

WHOLE VETERAN ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2359) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the Department of Veterans Affairs advancing of whole health transformation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2359

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 "Whole Veteran Act".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVANCING OF WHOLE HEALTH TRANSFORMATION.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the Department of Veterans Affairs memorandum dated February 12, 2019, on the subject of Advancing Whole Health Transformation Across Veterans Health Administration.

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

(1) An analysis of the accessibility and availability of each of the following services at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (including community based outpatient clinics, vet centers, and community living centers):

- (A) Massage.
- (B) Chiropractic services.
- (C) Whole health clinician services.
- (D) Whole health coaching.
- (E) Acupuncture.
- (F) Healing touch.
- (G) Whole health group services.
- (H) Guided imagery.
- (I) Meditation.
- (J) Hypnosis.
- (K) Yoga.
- (L) Tai chi or Qi gong.
- (M) Equine assisted therapy.
- (N) Any other service the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) An assessment of the health outcomes derived from the services specified in paragraph (1).

(3) An assessment of the resources required to expand such services to the entire Veterans Health Administration.

(4) A plan to provide the services referred to in paragraph (1) to veterans who reside in a geographic area where no community-based outpatient clinic, medical center, Vet Center, or community living center is located.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 2359.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, before I begin my comments on H.R. 2359, let me acknowledge the centennial year of women's suffrage and the wonderful yellow roses we are wearing in acknowledgment of that centennial year. Happy 100th year to women's suffrage in America.

Madam Speaker, American healthcare systems are grappling with the need to redesign the delivery of care model to better meet the needs of veterans struggling with mental health conditions.

Two decades of increased social isolation, economic inequality, and prohibitive healthcare costs have seen an increased use of complementary and alternative medicine such as health coaching, chiropractic services, acupuncture, yoga, meditation, and equine therapy.

The Veterans Health Administration is one of the first healthcare systems to redesign care with a focus on maintaining patient well-being and early intervention, rather than a system designed to treat conditions and diseases only after they have occurred.

This redesign, VA's whole health transformation, will accommodate the veteran population and their unique needs while empowering veterans to control their health and well-being.

By improving well-being, veterans build resiliency that assists in the early intervention and identification of mental healthcare symptoms that, left untreated, can advance to the point of crisis. In 2017, VA launched the whole health transformation program at 18 flagship sites, with positive early outcomes.

According to a February 2019 memo on VA's whole health transformation, VA plans to expand the full program to an additional 18 sites by summer 2019,

and 140 medical centers have elements of this program.

The pace, efficacy, and reach of the whole health program are not known to Congress. H.R. 2359, as amended, offered by Congressman LAMB, requires the delivery of a report on VA's whole health transformation. It will contain an analysis of the accessibility of critical services so that Congress can better inform its efforts to ensure veterans are treated as whole people and not just episodes of care. This is particularly true for socially isolated veterans and veterans living far away from a VA facility.

A two-pronged strategy is needed to effectively address the veteran suicide public health crisis. The second prong is treating those veterans in crisis and making treatment more accessible. The first prong must address the complex set of social determinants that can lead to a crisis.

Early interventions in mental healthcare can prevent veterans from falling into crisis and having suicidal ideations. This legislation falls under the first prong of the strategy, which will support creating opportunities for early, pre-crisis intervention.

Congress must understand how VA has rolled out the initial expansion outcomes and the resources needed to continue the whole health program. This body must do everything in its power to reduce the number of veteran suicides in this country because this is a sustained, prolonged, and frustrating national public health crisis.

Sadly, over the weekend, yet another veteran died by suicide at a VA Hospital.

This bill is the first of five measures we will consider today to address mental healthcare and suicide prevention efforts at VA. Our work, however, does not end today. We will write more legislation. We will hold more bipartisan hearings.

In fact, a hearing right this very moment, this afternoon, with the Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel and our Health Subcommittee brought VA and DOD to the same table to help end this crisis. It is a joint hearing through this joint subcommittee between the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Armed Services Committee.

We will do whatever it takes to end these tragic incidents of suicide. I am fully committed to this effort. Losing 20 veterans a day is unacceptable.

I will be voting "yes" on this critical piece of legislation, and I call on every Member of this body to do the same and help reduce veteran suicide.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to associate my comments with the chairman's comments about women's suffrage 100th anniversary today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2359, as amended, the

Whole Veteran Act. This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit a report to Congress on the implementation of the whole health initiative and include information in the report about the availability of a number of complementary and alternative treatments like meditation, acupuncture, yoga, and equine therapy.

VA's whole health initiative is a component of Secretary Wilkie's plan to transform the Veterans Health Administration into a more innovative, holistic, and veteran-centric healthcare system that puts veteran patients in the driver's seat.

I support the Secretary in that effort wholeheartedly, and I look forward to seeing how it will yield improved outcomes and satisfaction among veterans across the country.

The dissemination of best practices and complementary and alternative approaches to pain management is particularly important, given the ongoing opioid crisis that continues to plague our Nation.

I thank Congressman CONOR LAMB from Pennsylvania for sponsoring this bill and Congressman BARR from Kentucky for improving it with his tireless advocacy for equine therapy. I encourage all Members to join me in supporting it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LAMB), my good friend, the vice chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the author of H.R. 2359.

Mr. LAMB. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Whole Veteran Act. I thank the chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Mr. TAKANO, and the ranking member, Dr. ROE, for their support for this act, along with all members of our committee.

This is a bipartisan bill with a bipartisan goal, which simply is to reform and continue to improve VA healthcare. Our bill will do that in two very important ways.

First, we aim to make the VA a leader in the future of healthcare. Many doctors have looked at how America's healthcare system is too expensive and too reliant on prescription drugs. It turns out that not all doctors think that the best way to deal with chronic pain, PTSD, or depression is to simply hand out more pills.

□ 1530

In fact, we believe that the future of healthcare is going to involve a mix of old and new methods of treatment.

In the future, patients who are suffering will get access to yoga, acupuncture, or meditation before they are ever exposed to these addictive drugs. This is safer and it is also cheaper, and we believe that, in the long-run, it is going to be better.

The NIH, which is the government's gold standard when it comes to re-

search, has looked at these treatments and found that yoga is effective for back pain, that acupuncture is highly effective for chronic conditions like osteoarthritis, and study after study has documented the benefits of meditation and healthy eating when it comes to anxiety, when it comes to stress, when it comes to chronic pain and all of the drivers of the suicide crisis that we are seeing today. In the right combination, these treatments will allow us all to spend less on healthcare and to feel better in the future.

But perhaps, Madam Speaker, the most important part of our bill is that it gives veterans more real choices and greater power to manage their own healthcare.

I visited a Whole Health Clinic here in Washington, D.C., and the veterans who were partaking in that clinic, they like it because they get to pick which treatments work well for them based on how it makes them feel. They pick the teachers they like and they go to the classes, where they meet other veterans who they get to know and spend time with, and it keeps them coming back.

One of the greatest challenges is how we keep people coming back to the VA for treatment once they have got it.

To stop veteran suicide once and for all, one of the most important things we have to do is go out and get all the veterans who are living in isolation and not using the VA for care.

Thirteen of the 20 veterans who are committing suicide every day are outside of the VA's reach. We have got to find them, and we have got to give them a reason to come back. This is what the whole health program does. It gives our veterans a reason to come back and stay in the VA that they didn't have before.

We don't know right now which parts of the whole health program work the best and which ones still need more work. Our bill will start to answer that question. But we do know one thing, which is that there is no time to lose.

Veterans serve this country because they want to prevent the suffering of others, and now too many of them are suffering themselves. We owe it to them to try anything that will work.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time. I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), my good friend and cosponsor of H.R. 2359.

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the chair for yielding. I thank Congressman LAMB for his leadership on this bill. I thank Congressman ROE for his leadership on this. I want to also thank Chairwoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ on our appropriations bill. We continue to invest into the whole veteran.

I think it has been articulated here that we want the VA system to be the most innovative system that we have,

and I believe that the Whole Veteran Act is a step in that direction.

I have been researching and writing about some of these integrative health techniques around meditation, around yoga, around nutrition, around having health coaches, and to watch these vets transform after years and years and years of suffering is the most touching, the most inspirational thing we can do.

I have been in yoga classes where the teacher is a vet who, just years before, was kicking down doors in Iraq. Double amputee, and he is teaching yoga to veterans, and they are healing from post-traumatic stress.

This, to me, is what the government is all about. How do we get these government programs, these government facilities on the cutting edge, not just in healthcare, but all across the board? That is what this act is doing. It is going to save us money.

The default position for vets should not be how many prescription drugs can we get them on.

This is going to save us money. This is getting these vets their lives back. This is reconnecting them to their families, to their kids, to their spouses, to their communities. This is the most inspirational thing happening in government today.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Tracy Gaudet, who is leading patient-centered care in the VA. She has been plugging away at this for years. This is a step in the right direction.

Madam Speaker, I can't thank the chairman enough. I hope we continue to go down this road.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I know the Secretary of the VA. We have disagreements with him, but he, himself, has testified before our committee talking about these programs and about the importance of these programs.

If you want to be inspired, go sit in a meditation class with a Vietnam vet who has been traumatized for years and listen to them tell you about how these practices have healed them and have fixed their problems and reconnected them back to their families.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank everybody for their leadership on this, and we will continue to try to support it from the appropriations side.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I, too, want to encourage all Members to support this.

We, in 2003, spent about \$2 billion on mental health and PTSD treatment at the VA; in this year's budget, it is \$8.5 billion. And we have not moved the needle at all on the number of veterans committing suicide.

So I think this is a great idea to see if we can use an alternative treatment to help lower this way-too-high rate and help.

When you think about 20 people a day dying of suicide, by their own hands, it is heartbreaking. So I encourage all Members to vote for this.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I also would like to take this moment to ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2359, as amended.

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 California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2359, 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.

VET CENTER ELIGIBILITY EXPANSION ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1812) to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to certain individuals, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1812

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 "Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act".

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF VET CENTER SERVICES.

Section 1712A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "clauses (i) through (iv)" both places it appears and inserting "clauses (i) through (vi)";

(2) by striking "in clause (v)" both places it appears and inserting "in clause (vii)";

(3) in subsection (a)(1)(C)—

(A) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (vi) and (vii), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clauses:

"(iv) Any individual who is a veteran or member of the Armed Forces, including a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, who served—

"(I) on active service in response to a national emergency or major disaster declared by the President; or

"(II) in the National Guard of a State under orders of the chief executive of that State in response to a disaster or civil disorder in such State.

"(v) Any individual who participated in a drug interdiction operation as a member of the Coast Guard, regardless of the location of that operation."; and

(4) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(4) The term 'active service' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10.

"(5) The term 'civil disorder' has the meaning given that term in section 232 of title 18."

SEC. 3. PLAN TO PROVIDE VET CENTER SERVICES TO VETERANS LIVING IN AREAS WHERE NO VET CENTER IS LOCATED.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the

Senate and House of Representatives a plan to provide Vet Center services to veterans living in geographic areas where no Vet Center is located, including in the United States insular areas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1812.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the VA is authorized to provide counseling through Vet Centers to a broad group of veterans and servicemembers. These veterans and servicemembers include National Guard and Reserve members, those who have served on Active Duty in any combat theater or area of hostility, veterans and servicemembers who experienced military sexual trauma, those who provided direct emergent medical care or mortuary services to casualties of war, or servicemembers and veterans who deployed to combat zones or areas of hostility in a direct support role.

However, members of the National Guard, Reserve, or Coast Guard who participated in a drug interdiction or who served in a response to a national emergency, major disaster, or civil disorder are currently not eligible to receive Vet Center care. This is all despite the effects such experiences can have on mental health.

H.R. 1812, as amended, the Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act, introduced by Ranking Member ROE, would correct this oversight by extending eligibility for Vet Center care to these individuals.

It would also require the VA to submit a plan to Congress for providing Vet Center services to geographical areas in which no Vet Centers are located. These areas include territories of the United States, rural, and insular areas.

By assessing the steps necessary to provide access to Vet Centers for veterans living in these underserved areas, the Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act is ensuring veterans, servicemembers, reservists, and members of the Coast Guard and National Guard are allowed access to the lifesaving services Vet Centers provide.

This legislation increases access to services that provide early intervention for mental healthcare issues, which can reduce the risks associated with suicide.

The sad statistics show that, of the 20 veterans and military servicemembers

who die by suicide, 14 of those 20 have not received VA healthcare. This bill is one step towards changing this tragic number.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Dr. ROE, for his work on this important measure, and I call upon all of our colleagues to join us in voting "yes" on this life-changing piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1812, as amended, the Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act.

Every day, 20 of those who have worn our Nation's uniform die by suicide. Of those 20 deaths, each one is a tragedy.

There are approximately four deaths among Active-Duty servicemembers and nonactivated members of the National Guard and Reserve.

The number of suicides among never federally activated members of the National Guard and Reserve, in particular, has increased from 2005 to 2016, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs' most recent suicide data.

Many of these men and women have stepped up to serve their communities and our country honorably in dangerous and unpredictable situations. That service can have an understandable impact on mental health, but because they may not meet the legal definition of a veteran due to the nature of their service, these individuals may not be eligible for care from the VA.

This bill would address that issue by expanding eligibility for counseling and care at VA Vet Centers to those in the Reserve, National Guard, or Coast Guard who served in response to emergency situations in the wake of a disaster or civil disorder or support of drug interdiction operations who never deployed.

VA's 300 Vet Centers are community-based facilities that provide readjustment counseling services to Active-Duty servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Vet Center employees, many of whom are veterans themselves, are on the forefront of the fight to prevent suicide among servicemembers and veterans, to assure their successful transition following the military, and to assist them in recovering from whatever trauma or challenges they may be facing.

I am proud to sponsor this bill and grateful to Congressman MIKE LEVIN from California for joining me as an original cosponsor.

I am also grateful to the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America for their support of this legislation.

It is my sincere hope that this bill will allow all of those who served in the National Guard, the Coast Guard, or the Reserve component to get the

help they need and lower the number of suicides among this population of heroes.

Madam Speaker, before reserving, I do want to note my surprise that the bill received a discretionary score of \$55 million over 5 years from the Congressional Budget Office.

It appears that CBO estimated that VA would need to create costly new capacity within the Vet Centers to care for those individuals newly eligible in this bill.

Madam Speaker, I have been to many Vet Centers, and the brick and mortar is already there. You don't have to do anything. The personnel are there. So there would be, if any, minimal costs.

However, I understand from VA that excess capacity exists within the Vet Centers that this bill would help fill, at little additional cost to the Department. I hope that could be taken into account for this bill, moving forward.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this bill today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), my good friend and fellow Californian, the chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, and also a cosponsor of H.R. 1812.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1812, the Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation with my friend from Tennessee and ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Dr. ROE.

We must do more to address the epidemic of suicide among veterans in this country. We can start with ensuring all servicemembers have the mental health support they need.

Currently, most National Guard, Coast Guard, and Reserve servicemembers are precluded from receiving readjustment counseling services at vet centers. Guardsmen and Reservists often face emotionally challenging deployments to natural disasters, drug interdiction missions, national emergencies, or civil disorders that can have serious mental health consequences.

This bipartisan legislation is an important step in closing the mental healthcare gap for those servicemembers who compose four of the 20 veteran suicides we see each day in this country. As we continue to see veterans turn to suicide, often on the grounds of VA facilities, we must have an all-hands-on-deck approach, and this bill can play a critical role in this effort.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this. I think it is a great step forward for our Guard and Reservists.

I will just pass along a quick story of one of the reasons why I have pushed this so hard. In my Tennessee Guard at home, my previous commander said that in the first 45 days he commanded the Tennessee Guard, he had four suicides. He knew he had to do something, so he instituted a program there to help lower veteran suicides.

We have lowered our suicide rate among our Tennessee guardsmen by 70 percent. We would like to make sure that all Guard and Reservists have access to the benefits they need, the therapy they need, and the help they need for their families by allowing them to get this help at the vet center.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in the House to support H.R. 1812, as amended, so we can finally pass it into law and get justice for these veterans.

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 California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1812, 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.

NAVY SEAL CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM "BILL" MULDER (RET.) TRANSITION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2326

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 "Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. TAP DEFINED.

In this Act, the term "TAP" means the Transition Assistance Program under sections 1142 and 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 3. ACCESS FOR THE SECRETARIES OF LABOR AND VETERANS AFFAIRS TO THE FEDERAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES.

Section 453A(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653a(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) VETERAN EMPLOYMENT.—The Secretaries of Labor and of Veterans Affairs shall have access to information reported by employers pursuant to subsection (b) of this section for purposes of tracking employment of veterans."

SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM FOR OFF-BASE TRANSITION TRAINING FOR VETERANS AND SPOUSES.

(a) EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Subsection (a) of section 301 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 10 U.S.C. 1144 note) is amended—

(1) by striking "During the two-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act" and inserting "During the five-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019"; and

(2) by striking "to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing such program to eligible individuals at locations other than military installations".

(b) LOCATIONS.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "not less than three and not more than five States" and inserting "not fewer than 50 locations in States (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code)"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "at least two" and inserting "at least 20".

(c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Subsection (f) of such section is repealed.

SEC. 5. GRANTS FOR PROVISION OF TRANSITION ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AFTER SEPARATION, RETIREMENT, OR DISCHARGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make grants to eligible organizations for the provision of transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces who are separated, retired, or discharged from the Armed Forces, and spouses of such members.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The recipient of a grant under this section shall use the grant to provide to members of the Armed Forces and spouses described in subsection (a) resume assistance, interview training, job recruitment training, and related services leading directly to successful transition, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, an organization shall submit to the Secretary an application containing such information and assurances as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, may require.

(d) PRIORITY FOR HUBS OF SERVICES.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to an organization that provides multiple forms of services described in subsection (b).

(e) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—A grant under this section shall be in an amount that does not exceed 50 percent of the amount required by the organization to provide the services described in subsection (b).

(f) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall carry out this section not later than six months after the effective date of this Act.

(g) TERMINATION.—The authority to provide a grant under this section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date on which the Secretary implements the grant program under this section.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry out this section.

SEC. 6. ONE-YEAR INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TAP.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the covered officials, shall enter into an agreement with an appropriate entity with experience in adult education to carry out a one-year independent assessment of TAP, including—

(1) the effectiveness of TAP for members of each military department during the entire military life cycle;

(2) the appropriateness of the TAP career readiness standards;

(3) a review of information that is provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs under TAP, including mental health data;

(4) whether TAP effectively addresses the challenges veterans face entering the civilian workforce and in translating experience and skills from military service to the job market;

(5) whether TAP effectively addresses the challenges faced by the families of veterans making the transition to civilian life;

(6) appropriate metrics regarding TAP outcomes for members of the Armed Forces one year after separation, retirement, or discharge from the Armed Forces;

(7) what the Secretary, in consultation with the covered officials and veterans service organizations determine to be successful outcomes for TAP;

(8) whether members of the Armed Forces achieve successful outcomes for TAP, as determined under paragraph (7);

(9) how the Secretary and the covered officials provide feedback to each other regarding such outcomes;

(10) recommendations for the Secretaries of the military departments regarding how to improve outcomes for members of the Armed Forces after separation, retirement, and discharge; and

(11) other topics the Secretary and the covered officials determine would aid members of the Armed Forces as they transition to civilian life.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the independent assessment under subsection (a), the Secretary and the covered officials, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives—

(1) the findings and recommendations (including recommended legislation) of the independent assessment prepared by the entity described in subsection (a); and

(2) responses of the Secretary and the covered officials to the findings and recommendations described in paragraph (1).

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “covered officials” is comprised of—

(A) the Secretary of Defense;

(B) the Secretary of Labor;

(C) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration; and

(D) the Secretaries of the military departments.

(2) The term “military department” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 7. LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON CHANGES TO TAP.

(a) **STUDY.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense and Labor and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall conduct a five-year longitudinal study regarding TAP on three separate cohorts of members of the Armed Forces who have separated from the Armed Forces, including—

(1) a cohort that has attended TAP counseling as implemented on the date of the enactment of this Act;

(2) a cohort that attends TAP counseling after the Secretaries of Defense and Labor implement changes recommended in the report under section 6(b) of this Act; and

(3) a cohort that has not attended TAP counseling.

(b) **PROGRESS REPORTS.**—Not later than 90 days after the day that is one year after the date of the initiation of the study under subsection (a) and annually thereafter for the three subsequent years, the Secretaries of Veterans

Affairs, Defense, and Labor, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a progress report of activities under the study during the immediately preceding year.

(c) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the study under subsection (a), the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Labor, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report of final findings and recommendations based on the study.

(d) **ELEMENTS.**—The final report under subsection (c) shall include information regarding the following:

(1) The percentage of each cohort that received unemployment benefits during the study.

(2) The numbers of months members of each cohort were employed during the study.

(3) Annual starting and ending salaries of members of each cohort who were employed during the study.

(4) How many members of each cohort enrolled in an institution of higher learning, as that term is defined in section 3452(f) of title 38, United States Code.

(5) The academic credit hours, degrees, and certificates obtained by members of each cohort during the study.

(6) The annual income of members of each cohort.

(7) The total household income of members of each cohort.

(8) How many members of each cohort own their principal residences.

(9) How many dependents that members of each cohort have.

(10) The percentage of each cohort that achieves a successful outcome for TAP, as determined under section 6(a)(7) of this Act.

(11) Other criteria the Secretaries and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration determine appropriate.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. 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 H.R. 2326.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2326, as amended, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William “Bill” Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019.

I would like to recognize the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee chairman and ranking member, Mr. LEVIN and Mr. BILIRAKIS, for their bipartisan focus on this issue, and the bipartisan way in which they have crafted this piece of legislation and have moved it forward.

Almost 30 years ago, the National Defense Authorization Act created the

first transition policy to assist servicemembers entering civilian life. This law provides that those who are being separated from Active Duty are provided services for counseling, training opportunities, finding employment, and other related information and services.

These services, more commonly known as the Transition Assistance Program, or TAP, were amended recently by the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. This legislation called for mandatory participation of all servicemembers and improved transition resources by lengthening the process and lowering the class sizes.

While our veterans have found the TAP program to be highly beneficial, they find the sheer amount of information too overwhelming to absorb. Today, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2326, as amended, which aims to solve this problem.

This legislation would do several things to make TAP more effective.

First, this act would create a pilot program offering transition training off military bases, making the transition process easier to access for veterans and spouses. A review by the Government Accountability Office concluded that a program held off base would be beneficial, and the committee believes that such a program is worth examining in further detail.

In my own visits to TAP classes, I heard from servicemembers who felt they needed to attend TAP multiple times before they transition to civilian life because the resources aren't available off base. The legislation would create a grant program for organizations to provide multiple transition assistance services such as resume assistance, interview training, and job recruitment training from one program, location, and source.

Next, this act would give the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service and VA access to the Social Security Administration's resources to track in real time when a participant receives a new job. This is going to help improve programs and provide a better accountability of services provided by the VA.

Lastly, this bill would require a 1-year independent assessment of the effectiveness of TAP, as well as a 5-year longitudinal study of TAP which compares the effectiveness of using the program.

The 1-year independent assessment of the Transition Assistance Program's effectiveness shall be conducted not later than 90 days after the enactment of this act. The legislation requires the VA enter into an agreement with an entity with experience in adult education to carry out an independent assessment of TAP.

It also requires the Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Small Business Administration to conduct a 5-year longitudinal study of TAP to determine the need for TAP off base and determine if this program

would ease the process of participation for servicemembers, veterans, and spouses who may have had difficulty attending classes on bases.

Upon completion of the respective 1-year and 5-year studies, the Secretary of the VA shall submit the findings to Congress, where we can, again, assess the quality of transition resources provided to veterans and servicemembers.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2326, as amended, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019.

One of the most important things our government can do to help our Nation's servicemembers is to ensure that their transition from military to civilian life is as seamless as possible. We all know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and I believe that so many of the problems that veterans encounter later in life could have been mitigated if they had a more supportive and successful transition. I know that the goal of this bill is to help servicemembers have as smooth a transition as possible to civilian life.

I will allow Congressman JODEY ARRINGTON from Texas, who is an original cosponsor of the bill, to go into the specifics in a moment. Before I do that, I want to thank him, as the former chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, for taking the time last Congress to sit down with stakeholders and really examine the transition process from the very beginning and look at the need for improvements.

While this bill was a culmination of a bipartisan review and work, it is only one step in the process to ensure a successful transition for all servicemembers. I know that we all remain dedicated to making improvements to this process to reach this goal. We were unable to persuade the Senate to act on this bill last Congress, and I want to thank Mr. ARRINGTON, Chairman TAKANO, and subcommittee Chairman LEVIN for picking up where we left off in pushing this bill through yet again. I am confident, with their continued support, we can ensure it is on President Trump's desk very soon.

Madam Speaker, I want to just say from a point of privilege, when I separated from the military, the U.S. Army in 1974, a long time ago, my transition: Was how quick can I get to the front gate? We have made huge improvements since the end of the Vietnam war. There really was no program for veterans then. It was a mistake then. I appreciate the efforts of my colleague to rectify this mistake.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 2326, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

California (Mr. LEVIN), my good friend, the chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, and also the author of H.R. 2326.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2326, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation with my friend from Texas, Mr. JODEY ARRINGTON. Mr. ARRINGTON was a friend of Mr. Mulder and represents his hometown of Plainview, Texas.

William Mulder, or Bill as his friends knew him, passed away nearly 2 years ago on June 9, 2017. He was a decorated Navy SEAL of 20 years whose awards included three Bronze Stars with Valor. He was also a father, husband, brother, and friend.

This legislation honors him by better equipping servicemembers for the challenges and opportunities they will face as they transition from Active Duty military service to civilian life. Far too often, the men and women of our Armed Forces lack the support and coordinated resources they need to return to civilian life and we cannot leave them behind. We owe it to those who have served and their families to ensure that they have everything they need to connect with community organizations, to pursue educational opportunities, to launch new careers, or to start their own businesses. That is why we must improve the Transition Assistance Program.

This bill would extend a pilot program for off-base transition training, allowing veterans and their spouses more time and convenience to digest and access resources.

It would also create a grant program for organizations to provide multiple transition assistance services such as resume assistance, interview training, and job recruitment training from a central source.

We can also improve the program by expanding access to better employment data at the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs, which this bill does.

And, finally, it is important that we are constantly evaluating the effectiveness of the Transition Assistance Program, which is why this bill would require a 1-year independent assessment and a 5-year study of the program.

□ 1600

We have a solemn duty to ensure that our Nation's heroes are able to readily access the best possible services when it comes time to transition back to civilian life.

I do not believe that we are living up to that duty right now, but this bipartisan bill will help change that. I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote in support today.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), my friend, and our original cosponsors: Mr. CISNEROS; ranking

member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, Mr. BILIRAKIS; Mr. CUNNINGHAM; and Mrs. LEE.

Together, we can do more than pay lip service to our veterans. We can give them the support and the resources they have earned and deserve.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my good friend.

This is my sixth term in Congress, and I have served each one with GUS. I can assure you, there is nobody in this body, of the 435 of us, who is more supportive of our Nation's veterans than GUS BILIRAKIS of Florida 12.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2326, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019.

As ranking member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, I am proud of the work we have done in the subcommittee so far this year on a bipartisan basis and through regular order.

Last Congress, we worked together to make reforms to the Transition Assistance Program at the Department of Defense, enacting a portion of this bill in the National Defense Authorization Act. We created a more individualized process for servicemembers to undergo counseling and training for civilian life well before their discharge. I think that is the key.

The bill was formed as a result of multiple roundtables and hearings, which included stakeholders from my district who discussed the importance of community involvement in their transition process and stakeholders from all over the country, Madam Speaker. And yet, despite all the progress we have made, there is still more work to be done. I am grateful that we are revisiting this issue today.

H.R. 2326 will provide access to veteran employment tracking information to the VA and to the Department of Labor. It will also reestablish a pilot program for an off-base TAP program for veterans and their spouses, made available at locations such as local high schools and community centers. Madam Speaker, I think it is so important to include the spouses.

H.R. 2326 would also create a 5-year grant program at the VA for qualified community organizations that provide innovative transition assistance services to veterans.

I know we have many of these organizations in my district in Florida and all over the country. One example of this is Veterans Alternative in Holiday, Florida. I am grateful for the great work that they do.

Finally, this bill would require the VA, DOD, DOL, and SBA to coordinate their efforts to conduct a 2-year independent assessment and curriculum review of TAP and the transition process, as well as a 5-year longitudinal study on the effectiveness of these TAP changes.

I am glad to see the bill being taken up today by my friend and the subcommittee chairman, MIKE LEVIN,

whom I have gotten the pleasure to know this year.

I think I don't have much more time, but I want to give him so much credit for doing a great job as chairman of the Economic Opportunity Committee, as well as Chairman TAKANO and my good friend, Republican Ranking Member ROE. I also commend Representative ARRINGTON for doing a great job. We are helping our veterans.

Let's pass this good bill and get it to the Senate and to the President so it can become law.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), my good friend and member of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee and cosponsor of H.R. 2326.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 2326, the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William "Bill" Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act.

First, I thank my colleagues, Congressmen LEVIN and BILIRAKIS, for all their hard work on this bipartisan bill and for their leadership on the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

I am honored to have helped introduce this important legislation, which will improve the military's Transition Assistance Program and help to ensure that our men and women in uniform can successfully transition to life in the civilian world at the end of their service.

H.R. 2326 will streamline the transition process and allow the VA to partner with third-party organizations that teach veterans critical job-seeking skills. By creating a pilot program for transition training off-base, this bill will also make that stressful transition process more convenient and accessible for servicemembers and their families.

Finally, this legislation will allow policymakers to more effectively adjust the program to the needs of our veterans by directing an independent assessment of its effectiveness and by expanding the VA's access to Federal employment data.

The bottom line is, we have a responsibility to our servicemembers to make sure that they are equipped with the tools to succeed both on the battlefield and when they return.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this legislation and ensuring every veteran has access to the support that they have earned.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), my good friend who was a previous chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and have him tell you about this bill because this was his friend.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, what a joy and a pleasure and an honor to serve under the ranking member's leadership in the 115th Congress, my first term. I thank him for letting me

lead the subcommittee and initiate the legislation that will have an impact—I believe a tremendous impact—on the lives of folks like my friend Bill, so I thank him.

Madam Speaker, I enjoyed working with Chairman TAKANO, and I congratulate him on his chairmanship. I thank him for being a great colleague and for being a friend to the veterans, most importantly.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman LEVIN for being such a gracious gentleman and statesman, to come up to me on the floor of the House and tell me he was going to pick up this ball and he was going to run it all the way down the field and into the end zone so that we can score points, not politically for Democrats or Republicans, but for the American people who expect that we take care of our veterans and, most of all, for our military men and women who are transitioning and have unique challenges in that regard, as Bill had. It meant so much to me.

If I don't say anything else here, I want to say thank you. I say that on behalf of Bill's family because I know it means a lot to them.

He is worthy. Bill Mulder is worthy to be on this legislation. Don't ask me, ask his teammates, his fellow Navy SEALs.

I mean, just look at him. He is Captain America. I am so jealous. I was always jealous. He was tough. He was strong. He was courageous.

Madam Speaker, I promise you this, that when he stood between you and me and the enemy, we were safe, and the enemy was scared, as they should be.

Thank God for Bill Mulder, and thank God for our men and women who wear the uniform.

Our country makes a tremendous investment in preparing our citizen soldiers to be freedom fighters, to be part of the greatest fighting force in all the world, but then we invest a fraction of that in their transition back to civilian life.

This is an investment in prevention, as has been said. If we can do a better job on the front end, then we can prevent folks from struggling with addiction, unemployment, homelessness, suicide, and a number of challenges that disproportionately affect our veterans.

Next Monday, we will celebrate Memorial Day and take time to pay tribute to those who not only served but made the ultimate sacrifice, those American heroes who never made it home.

However, even when our soldiers do return home from war, it doesn't always mean that the conflict is over for them. There is often a battle that continues to rage on. It is a big reason that we see so many soldiers take their own lives.

One of those veterans, sadly enough, was my friend Bill, my fellow Plainview Bulldog for whom this bill was named. I am so proud that this legisla-

tion bears his name, and I am so grateful that you guys kept it that way.

Bill was a warrior's warrior. He served this country with honor and distinction.

Like many veterans, Bill's greatest fight wasn't on the battlefield. It was the struggle that often ensues from the mental, emotional, and physical wear and tear of military service.

After 20 years as a combat Navy SEAL, Bill bore scars you couldn't see, and he struggled to make that transition from Active Duty to civilian life.

For a lot of these folks, it is not the skills gap that is important. It is not always the education gap. It is not even redefining your mission and purpose after such a sacred calling as to wear the United States uniform. Sometimes, it is a mental health issue.

I am grateful that we have included that in that comprehensive assessment and in this legislation because that was the case for Mr. Mulder.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I am sorry for going on a little long.

Let me just say, we owe this to the likes of Bill Mulder.

I really believe, Ranking Member, Chairman TAKANO, and Chairman LEVIN, of all the things I worked on, on the Veterans' Affairs Committee—and it was a tremendous honor; I didn't serve our country in the military, so this was my way of serving those who served—I don't believe anything is going to have a greater impact. And it may just save lives. I believe it will. I really do.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a small part of it. God bless our veterans. God bless those guardian angels that keep guard over us every day. God bless the United States of America.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, let me say that I extend my commendations to the work of my colleague from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON). I thank him also for naming the bill after such a distinguished warrior and someone who exemplifies the need for this legislation. We certainly wish Chief Petty Officer Navy SEAL Bill Mulder all the success in the world.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I think it is appropriate, as we approach this Memorial Day, as many families go on picnics, to remember what it means. We not only memorialize those whom we lost in combat, but I think we also memorialize those who are lost because of the invisible wounds of combat.

I can't think of a more fitting time to pass this bill for Navy SEAL Chief

Petty Officer Bill Mulder. It is a small consolation for his family, but I think they know his memory can live on by helping other veterans. I encourage all Members to support this legislation.

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

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

Madam Speaker, before I begin my closing comments, I want to correct my remarks. I misunderstood. Chief Petty Officer Bill Mulder is deceased, and so I mean no disrespect to his family. We certainly are honored to have this piece of legislation carry his name in the hopes that it is going to serve many more veterans.

In his memory, I am most honored and privileged to make sure that this legislation passes.

□ 1615

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. LEVIN and Mr. BILIRAKIS for these necessary improvements to the Transition Assistance Program. A testament to their work is the broad support they received from committee members on this bill, and I look forward to their future work on this as they continue to focus on and redefine the program.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2326, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BEATTY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2326, 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.

SUPPORT FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATORS ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2333) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2333

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 “Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act”.

SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES, WORKLOAD, AND VACANCY RATES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATORS.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, training, and vacancy rates

of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators. Such assessment shall include a determination of—

(1) the extent to which the use and staffing of suicide prevention coordinators varies between Department facilities; and

(2) the extent to which the Secretary provides oversight of suicide prevention coordinators.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing the findings of the assessment required by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. 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. 2333.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, according to the National Suicide Data Report for 2005–2016, approximately 20 veterans, Active Duty servicemembers, and members of the National Guard and Reserves die by suicide each day.

This rate is disproportionately higher than that of the civilian population. Of those 20 a day, 14 are not enrolled in the VA healthcare system. Part of the VA’s effort to combat veteran suicide is by strengthening the role of the suicide prevention coordinator. The VA is the only healthcare system that has full-time employees dedicated to suicide prevention.

Suicide prevention coordinators identify high-risk veterans and ensure they receive appropriate care, conduct outreach, and promote awareness and best practices within the VA system. As of April 2019, the VA had approximately 444 suicide prevention coordinators stationed at medical centers across the country.

These coordinators manage care for almost 30,000 veterans who are high risk for suicide, in addition to managing their other duties as assigned.

In fiscal year 2018, these coordinators conducted more than 20,000 outreach events, reaching almost 2 million people. During the oversight trips to VA facilities, VA committee staff heard from coordinators who are overworked and struggled to keep up with their casework.

Last week, I visited the Atlanta VA Medical Center and one of three Veterans Crisis Line call centers. Last year, the Atlanta VA crisis line received 3,600 referrals. The Atlanta suicide prevention team is staffed with

only eight social workers and one employee for administrative support to respond to all crisis line referrals and approximately 200 veterans identified as high risk for suicide.

Let me repeat that. They have eight social workers to manage 3,600 referrals and 200 high-risk patients a year. This team does all it can to keep up with the staggering number of referrals, but they simply do not have the capacity to conduct outreach to veterans in the community who may need help.

Suicide prevention team staffing shortages in Atlanta and at VA medical facilities across the country is why H.R. 2333, introduced by Congressman BRINDISI, is so important.

It would direct the Government Accountability Office to access the workload and vacancy rates of VA suicide prevention coordinators. This report is essential to better informing Congress of the current state of suicide prevention coordinators, the resources at the facilities where they work, and the challenges they face in addressing the needs of our most vulnerable veterans.

The role of these coordinators is vital to combating veteran suicide, and this report will illustrate where the gaps in care delivery exists, especially for the clinicians, social workers, and suicide prevention coordinators working on the front lines.

I fully support this bill and I really want to thank Mr. BRINDISI for championing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 2333.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2333, the Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act. This bill would require a Government Accountability Office report on the responsibilities, management, workload, training, and vacancy rates of Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators. The VA employs at least one suicide prevention coordinator in every VA medical center to coordinate, care for, and conduct outreach to servicemembers and veterans at risk of suicide.

These men and women are on the front lines of the fight against the tragic loss of 20 of our Nation’s servicemembers and veterans every day to self-harm. We must ensure that they are appropriately staffed, supported, and overseen as they go about their difficult and incredibly important work. Passage of the Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act today will help us do just that.

This is a bipartisan bill sponsored by several members of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, including Congressman JIM BANKS from Indiana, ranking member of the Subcommittee on Technology Modernization; Congressman MIKE BOST of Illinois, the ranking

member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs; Congressman STEUBE from Florida, a member of both the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, and Health Subcommittee.

I am grateful to each of them, as well as the bill's lead sponsor, Congressman ANDY BRINDISI from New York, for their efforts.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 2333, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI), my good friend and the author of H.R. 2333.

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2333 and taking action to address the crisis of veteran suicide.

As we know too well, data from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicates that 20 veterans die from suicide every day. I want to thank Chairman MARK TAKANO, and Ranking Member PHIL ROE for their bipartisanship and their commitment to addressing this crisis and bringing these bills to the floor today for a vote.

One area we have to get right is the work of VA's suicide prevention coordinators. Suicide prevention coordinators are the face of the VA's efforts to combat veteran suicide. They identify high-risk veterans and ensure they receive appropriate care. They conduct outreach and promote awareness and suicide prevention best practices within the VA.

However, many suicide prevention coordinators report being overworked and unable to keep up with their many responsibilities. In an effort to improve suicide prevention and mental health resources at the VA, I introduced H.R. 2333, the Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act with my friends on the other side of the aisle, Congressman BANKS, and Congressman BOST.

Clear Path for Veterans, which is a veteran service organization in my district doing incredible work to engage with and support veterans after they return home from service described this bill very well.

They said:

In the last decade, a large number of bills and initiatives have come out of Washington, D.C. aiming to combat veteran suicide. While all great in concept, we have not seen a huge change in suicide rates.

H.R. 2333 is a great way to measure what is effective, what is not, and how the VA should pivot on what they are currently doing to better meet the mental health needs of the veterans they serve.

The Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act would help ensure prevention coordinators have the resources they need to effectively provide veterans with critical mental health resources to prevent future veteran suicides.

Specifically, this bill would require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy

rates of the Department of Veterans Affairs suicide prevention coordinators and submit a report to Congress within 1 year.

It is critically important that we provide our suicide prevention coordinators with the resources they need to successfully address the veteran suicide epidemic, and I believe this bill is a good step toward making sure that happens.

Again, I thank the committee for their bipartisan work. Taking care of our veterans is the responsibility that belongs to each of us, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and all of the veterans bills on the floor today.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), my good friend, the previous chairman and now ranking member on the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, and a Marine veteran. I have seen this Marine drink from the Devil Dog fountain in Belleau Wood.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member ROE and Chairman TAKANO for allowing this piece of legislation to move forward.

As a veteran, first off, let me say this: I couldn't be prouder than to serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee with the men and women we serve with because we get the opportunity to actually, hopefully, make a difference in those veterans' lives.

Twenty veterans commit suicide every day, and as was mentioned a while ago, that number hasn't changed much. So clearly, the current situation is not good enough.

We need to think differently about veteran suicide. President Trump recently took action on this issue. Now Congress is too, and it is vitally important that we do. We are acting in a bipartisan manner.

I am honored to stand with the gentleman from New York in supporting this legislation to improve the VA's suicide prevention coordinators.

Veteran suicide isn't a Republican or Democrat issue, and I am proud of the work we have been doing to try to help our veterans. They deserve our help, and, hopefully, with this bill, they are going to get it.

We have to turn the tide on our veterans that are committing suicide around this Nation at the level that they are. We have to do everything we can.

This bill, I believe, was a step in the right direction. I believe that we should pass it to the Senate as quickly as possible, and the Senate should then move forward, and then it should be implemented.

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

As I said in my remarks related to Mr. BRINDISI's legislation, I visited the Atlanta VA Medical Center and it receives 3,600 referrals per year from the

Veterans Crisis Line, which is the highest number of crisis line referrals any individual veteran medical center receives nationwide.

I know that at the medical center itself that there is a 22 percent vacancy rate among mental health professionals. They have lost eight psychiatrists across their hospital and outpatient clinics since the beginning of the year. Staff who resigned have cited salaries and workload stress as their main reasons for leaving the VA.

Mr. BRINDISI's legislation goes to, however, the position of suicide prevention coordinators, and currently, the coordinators at this particular medical center are staffed up, but we are trying to figure out where these staff coordinator positions across the country may be vacant or insufficient because we know these crisis lines are being used. We have to make sure that we have the coordinators to respond to them.

But in addition to that, we need coordinators to do the outreach events to reach those veterans who are not connected with the VA. So the VA medical center in Atlanta is just one example of the staffing shortages in VA hospitals and clinics throughout the country. We know that beyond the stress and strain of our psychiatrists and of our suicide prevention coordinators, which Mr. BRINDISI's bill addresses, there are nearly 50,000 vacancies at VA.

If we want to fully address the veteran suicide crisis in this country, we need to make sure that suicide prevention teams are sufficiently staffed and do more to address mental health clinician understaffing.

Mr. BRINDISI's legislation is a significant step in making sure all of this happens.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this piece of legislation.

I, too, have visited Canandaigua, which is in New York, which is a call center, and I think this committee is doing everything it can in a bipartisan way to help lower this unbelievable rate of 20 suicides per day.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I certainly appreciate the partnership and the spirit of the ranking member of the committee in addressing this national crisis of veteran suicide, and H.R. 2333 is an essential and significant step that we are taking to address this crisis.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2333, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a long-time advocate for veterans' well-being

and resources, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2333, the "Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act."

I support H.R. 2333 because this legislation will provide much needed assistance to the VA to reduce the incidence of suicide among our veterans. The "SPCA" provides DVA suicide prevention coordinators with the resources needed to effectively do their job of providing veterans with critical mental health resources to veterans in need.

Madam Speaker, veteran suicide is a pervasive and critical issue, threatening, and in to many heartbreaking cases, taking the lives of many of our heroes.

Although, the Department of Veterans Administration has screening protocols designed to aid veterans and to stage suicide interventions, about 6,000 veterans fall through the cracks of this system annually, finding themselves without the necessary aid and resources that were promised to them.

Many suicide prevention coordinators and offices specializing in veterans affairs report being overworked and unable to keep up with the demand for their services.

On average, about 20 veterans die every day by suicide and since 2017, 25 veterans have taken their lives on the grounds of Veterans Affairs hospitals, including seven this year and at least four last month. These veterans were actively seeking help from an unprepared and under resourced agency before they took their lives.

It is long past time for Congress to provide the help needed to address the troubling increase in veteran suicides and help improve suicide prevention and mental health resources at the at DVA.

It is imperative that the DVA has the tools it needs to serve every veteran that walks through the door.

The "Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act" would require the Comptroller General to assess the responsibilities, workload, and vacancy rates of the Department of Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention Coordinators and report it to Congress within one year, on the ability of the DVA to detect and protect veterans from self-harm.

It is critically important that we provide suicide prevention coordinators with the resources needed to successfully combat the troubling trend of veteran suicide, and I believe this bill is a necessary step in the right direction.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that a veteran will commit suicide every hour.

The fact that veterans make up just 20 percent of the male population, yet veterans make up close to 32 percent of all male suicides is shocking and must spur our action.

It does not have to be this way, Madam Speaker, and we can do something about it, starting with the passage of H.R. 2333, the "Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2333.

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.

FOSTERING INTERGOVERNMENTAL HEALTH TRANSPARENCY IN VETERAN SUICIDES ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2340

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 "Fostering Intergovernmental Health Transparency in Veteran Suicides Act" or "FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act".

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE OF SUICIDES AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDES OF VETERANS IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES.

Section 1720F of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(1) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—(1) In the case of the suicide or attempted suicide of any veteran that occurs in, or on the grounds of, a Department facility, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the Senators and member of Congress representing the district in which the facility is located and the Senators and member of Congress representing the district in which the veteran resides the following notices:

"(A) Not later than seven days after the date on which the suicide or attempted suicide occurs, notice of—

"(i) the suicide or attempted suicide; and

"(ii) the name of the facility and location where the suicide or attempted suicide occurred.

"(B) Subject to subparagraph (C), not later than 60 days after such date, notice of the following information (if available) regarding the veteran who committed or attempted to commit suicide:

"(i) The enrollment status of the veteran with respect to the patient enrollment system of the Department under section 1705 of this title.

"(ii) The most recent encounter between the veteran and any employee or facility of the Veterans Health Administration before the suicide or attempted suicide occurred.

"(iii) Whether the veteran had other medical insurance or coverage (including TRICARE, Medicare, and Medicaid).

"(iv) The Armed Force in which the veteran served.

"(v) The time period when the veteran served in the Armed Forces.

"(vi) The age of the veteran.

"(vii) The marital status of the veteran.

"(viii) The employment status of the veteran.

"(ix) The housing status of the veteran.

"(x) The gender identity of the veteran.

"(xi) The sexual orientation of the veteran.

"(xii) The race of the veteran.

"(xiii) Confirmation that the Secretary has provided notice to the immediate family members of the veteran regarding any Department support or assistance for which such family members may be eligible.

"(C) In collecting and reporting information under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall take all steps the Secretary determines necessary to respect the privacy and dignity of the veteran and the family of the veteran.

"(2) Each notice submitted under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) shall include a copy of guidance developed by the Secretary

for purposes of dissemination that is designed to—

"(A) deter the sensationalism of suicide;

"(B) provide information regarding warning signs that are often exhibited by veterans at risk of suicide; and

"(C) provide notice of the resources the Department offers to veterans who may be at risk of suicide, including the Veterans Crisis Line and readjustment counseling provided through Vet Centers."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. 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 H.R. 2340, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, since the beginning of this year, seven—seven—veterans have died by suicide in or on the grounds of VA facilities. Sadly, another suicide occurred at a VA hospital in Washington just this weekend.

Currently, VA staff notify both the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the events as a matter of courtesy; however, should the Department's leadership change, there is no assurance this courtesy would continue.

I have made veteran suicide prevention the top priority for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs because 20 suicides a day is far too many. One suicide is far too many. But to address this alarming trend, Congress must be informed when a suicide occurs on a VA campus and must be provided all relevant data.

This information will allow the committee to conduct appropriate oversight, write legislation that will improve outcomes, and, when necessary, hold individuals accountable when there are clear failures that impact the timely and adequate care for veterans.

As such, H.R. 2340, as amended, the FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act, would require the VA Secretary to notify Congress following an attempted or a completed suicide by a veteran in or on the grounds of a VA facility.

This measure also requires VA to provide Congress with communications guidance to deter the sensationalism of suicide, provide information on identifying the warning signs often exhibited by veterans at risk of suicide, and identify resources offered by the Department for at-risk veterans, including the Veterans Crisis Line and Vet Center readjustment counseling.

It is essential that this information be shared, regardless of leadership at

VA, what party controls Congress, or who occupies the White House.

I thank Congressman ROSE, a combat veteran, for leading the fight against this tragic national public health crisis, and I want to commend him for his leadership and for writing this important legislation that will ensure Congress has all the data it needs to truly understand and reduce veteran suicide.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting “yes” on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2340, as amended, the FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act.

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to report to the local congressional delegation, as well as to the committee, whenever a veteran attempts or dies by suicide in or on the grounds of a VA facility.

We have all heard the heartbreaking stories of veterans who have died by suicide on VA campuses, including five veteran suicide deaths in the last several weeks alone. There is no indication that these events represent an increase in the rate of suicide among servicemembers and veterans, but they are particularly poignant because they occur so close to help and appear to be an indictment on the healthcare system that was created to support them.

To be clear, suicide is a national public health crisis that is not unique to VA, the military, or veterans. However, we must pay careful attention to the incidents of suicide among those who have served and sacrificed on our behalf and do everything we can to point those in crisis to the resources they need to recover from the traumas and live long, full, healthy lives.

I am grateful to Congressman MAX ROSE from New York for sponsoring this bill, which will allow us to learn all we can about the suicides that occur on VA campuses so that we can take action that may save other lives in the future.

I encourage all Members to support this much-needed piece of legislation.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I, too, ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2340, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2340, 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.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1200) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1200

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 “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2019, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2019, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2019, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2020.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. 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. 1200.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1200, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019 would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the rates of disability compensation for service-connected veterans and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of veterans, effective December 1, 2019.

Now, this bill would also increase these rates by the same percentage as the percentage by which Social Security benefits are increased effective December 1, 2019, and require that VA publish the increased rates in the Federal Register.

To me, the actual cost-of-living adjustment to veterans’ benefits, otherwise known as COLA, is much more than a rate adjustment tied to inflation. In reality, it is a quality-of-life guarantee in retirement years, especially for veterans suffering with service-connected disabilities and ailments.

It also comes with the assurance for veterans that their survivors will not see a steady decline in benefits if the economy changes and costs rise after they are gone. This guarantee is a great source of comfort for veterans as they age. I know this because they tell me this everywhere I go.

The yearly COLA increase is a recognition and appreciation of a grateful nation of the service and sacrifice of those who volunteer to wear the uniform of our country.

Participating in this gesture of appreciation is one of the most rewarding responsibilities of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. As chairman, I am honored to be leading this effort to say thank you.

I want to recognize the work of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee chair, ELAINE LURIA, and ranking member, MIKE BOST, for sponsoring H.R. 1200 and for bringing this bill to the floor today.

I am pleased that we are considering this bill early this year so veterans will not be concerned about its passage by the December 1 deadline.

I wholeheartedly support H.R. 1200 and urge all my colleagues to do so as well.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1200, the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019.

In keeping with the traditions of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, this bill was introduced by Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee Chair ELAINE LURIA and Ranking Member MIKE BOST. I appreciate their commitment to ensuring that veterans and their families can afford living expenses when prices go up.

H.R. 1200 authorizes a cost-of-living increase for veterans and their families next year if Social Security recipients receive an increase.

To put this in perspective, in 1975, a veteran who was rated totally disabled would receive at least \$655 in monthly disability compensation. Because of the COLAs that Congress has passed for decades, totally disabled veterans now receive \$2,907 in tax-free monthly disability compensation, an increase of 443 percent over the years. As you can see, H.R. 1200 is necessary to prevent inflation from eroding the value of veteran and survivor benefits.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1200, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. LURIA), who is my good friend and the chairwoman of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and also a cosponsor of H.R. 1200.

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 1200, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2019.

In Congress, I have vowed to keep our Nation's veterans at the top of my mind, and I plan to deliver on that promise through this critical piece of legislation.

I represent a coastal Virginia district with eight major military installations, including Naval Station Norfolk, the largest naval station in the United States, so veterans are clearly a critical part of my constituency, just as they are honored members of every congressional district across America.

Our veterans put their lives on the line and are deployed far from home to keep America safe. As a 20-year Navy veteran myself, I am proud to bring a bill to the floor that would eliminate the erosions of benefits they earned in service to our country.

The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act would recognize that the benefits we provide our veterans need to be modernized and increased the same way that Social Security has raised benefits to meet cost-of-living increases.

□ 1645

My bill enhances benefits for wartime disability compensation, compensation for dependents, clothing allowance, dependency and indemnity compensation to surviving spouses, and dependency and indemnity compensation to children.

We have seen costs for disability care, clothing, and childcare increase over the years, and it is vital that we

continue to provide benefits that actually meet the demands that our veterans see on the ground.

A cost-of-living increase would aid veterans, their families, and their survivors to help maintain the value of their benefits against inflation. Without consistent increases, veterans and their families may not be able to have a consistent quality of life into their later years.

Providing quality benefits to our veterans and their dependents can change lives, and Congress must honor the commitment to those American heroes who served in harm's way so that we can live in peace at home.

I thank my colleagues on the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and my ranking member, MIKE BOST, for being a cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge swift House passage so that we can do our part to push this into law and help our Nation's veterans.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and a marine veteran.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, this is a must-pass bill.

I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for moving this piece of legislation forward as well.

Many disabled veterans and their families depend on their veterans benefits to pay for things like food and medicine. For many of these veterans, these payments are a lifeline. In some cases, the benefits may even be the only income that the veteran has.

It is only fair that we ensure that the benefits paid to veterans who were injured during military service do not lose value because of inflation. If we don't, it could become hard for people who were injured while serving our Nation in uniform to keep their heads above water.

I want to thank Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee Chair LURIA for her introduction of the bill.

Madam Speaker, this bill has always enjoyed bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1200.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I encourage everyone to support this commonsense bill.

I think my last duty assignment was probably in Mrs. LURIA's district, Fort Eustis, Virginia. That is where my last 9 months in the Army was.

I was raised in a military town: Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and Clarksville, Tennessee. I grew up around the military, and I just cannot thank them enough.

This is the very least we can do for our disabled veterans, to give them a COLA which will, hopefully, make their lives a little bit better and thank them for their service.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this legislation,

and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I, too, join my ranking member in asking all of our colleagues to pass H.R. 1200.

I thank Chairwoman LURIA and Ranking Member BOST of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs for their hard work.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1200, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1200.

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.

VETERANS' CARE QUALITY TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2372) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement between Under Secretary of Health and non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2372

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 "Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act".

SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING AND MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNDER SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ENTITIES RELATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement entered into by the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health and a non-Department of Veterans Affairs entity relating to—

(1) suicide prevention activities and outreach; and

(2) the provision or coordination of mental health services during the five-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall include an assessment of—

(1) the size of the catchment area of each such entity;

(2) the staffing structures of such entities;

(3) any accreditation or licensure any such entity has obtained in relation to the services the entity provides;

(4) any variances in the subpopulations of veterans served by such entities;

(5) any limitations any such entity may face in carrying out its obligations under the memorandum of understanding or memorandum of agreement;

(6) the extent to which the Under Secretary provides oversight and tracks outcomes of such entities;

(7) any variations in the structure or requirements of the memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement;

(8) a breakdown of the percentage of such entities that serve—

(A) women veterans;

(B) minority veterans;

(C) veterans who are over the age of 55;

(D) veterans between the ages of 18 and 34;

(E) veterans who reside in United States insular areas; and

(F) veterans' families; and

(9) any measures taken to ensure the secure exchange of data and information between such entities and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(c) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—Not later than 270 days after the completion of the assessment under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the results of the assessment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. 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 H.R. 2372, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, to meet the needs of veterans, VA has long relied on community partners to provide outreach and services, particularly to address mental health needs and suicide prevention.

The number of mental health- and suicide prevention-related agreements between VA and these organizations has increased exponentially since 2014. It is anticipated that these relationships will continue to grow in the months following the signing of Executive Order No. 13861 on March 5, 2019.

Now, this executive order seeks to establish grants to local communities to better collaborate and integrate service delivery and resources for veterans. As reliance on outside groups grows, Congress must better understand the effectiveness of the programs and mental health services these private organizations offer. VA must also ensure such partnered organizations are able to provide quality, culturally competent, evidence-based services to veterans.

Congresswoman UNDERWOOD's legislation, H.R. 2372, as amended, would require the Government Accountability Office to study the effectiveness of these partnerships between VA and organizations providing services related to suicide prevention and mental healthcare.

When complete, GAO would report their findings to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. As part of the assessment, GAO is required to look at several factors, such as the staffing structure of the organization, its accreditations or licensures, the level of oversight and tracking of outcomes by VA, and the secure exchange of data and information.

The GAO would also be required to study the ability of these organizations to serve unique subsets of the veteran population, including, women, minorities, older and younger veteran cohorts, families, and veterans who reside in U.S. insular areas.

I thank Ms. UNDERWOOD for introducing this legislation because it will ensure VA is responsibly leveraging its community partnerships to reduce veteran suicide and support VA in its transformation to a public health approach to suicide prevention. This public health approach focuses on prevention and intervention before veterans are in crisis.

As I previously mentioned, a two-pronged strategy is necessary to address the national crisis of veteran suicide. These Federal, State, and local partnerships are integral to the first prong of the strategy of prevention and early intervention.

It is critical that we develop these partnerships as part of an infrastructure to support veterans. This legislation will ensure we are using taxpayer funds effectively to partner with those organizations providing quality, evidence-based programs.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation, and I encourage all my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2372, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2372, as amended, the Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act.

This bill is sponsored by Congresswoman LAUREN UNDERWOOD of Illinois, and I thank her for her efforts to bring it to the House floor today.

This bill would require the Government Accountability Office to conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement entered into by the Department of Veterans Affairs and other governmental or private-sector entities regarding suicide prevention activities and outreach, as well as the coordination of mental health services, during the 5-year period preceding the date of enactment.

For the last two decades, approximately 20 of our Nation's servicemembers and veterans have died by suicide on a daily basis.

Suicide is, unquestionably, a tragedy that impacts all Americans and is a crisis that VA cannot combat alone. In light of that, VA has become increasingly mindful of the need to collabo-

rate with partners in both the public and private sectors to connect with servicemembers, veterans, and their families wherever they reside and with whatever they may be struggling.

This bill would ensure that Congress has insight into those collaborations and whether or not they are working as intended to reduce incidents of suicide among those who have served our country.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to support this bill today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD), my good friend, member of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee, and author of H.R. 2372.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Veterans' Care Quality Transparency Act.

With Memorial Day just around the corner, I am humbled to see these bipartisan efforts to bring forward legislation that will help all veterans receive the care that they have earned through their service to our Nation.

I am so pleased to see the chairman's focus on ensuring access to healthcare for veterans, particularly women veterans, who face unique challenges navigating a VA system originally designed to serve men.

I am committed to working to make needed improvements to the VA by working with my colleagues on the Servicewomen and Women Veterans Congressional Caucus and on the Women Veterans Task Force.

I am also pleased to see this bipartisan, wide-ranging focus on veterans' mental health and suicide prevention.

Our work, however, has just begun. We have an urgent responsibility to continue to fight for the highest standards of care on behalf of veterans.

Despite much good work by the VA and significant Federal investment, the veteran suicide rate hasn't gone down. We must empower the VA to find innovative, effective ways to end this crisis. That is why I have introduced this bill, which will address a vital but overlooked part of veteran suicide prevention.

The bill directs the GAO to evaluate the effectiveness of agreements that the Department of Veterans Affairs has with outside providers for mental healthcare and suicide prevention services.

Expanding access to care for veterans struggling with mental health or with thoughts of suicide is an essential part of reducing veteran suicide rates, and partnering with providers outside the VA is just one way to do that. But there just isn't enough data on the ability of these outside providers to meet the high standards of care we expect from the VA.

All veterans deserve access to convenient and high-quality healthcare, and it is unacceptable that outside providers are not currently held to the same high standards as the VA.

The mission of the VA is undermined each time a veteran receives substandard care. My bill would help ensure outside providers are held to the standard of providing high-quality mental healthcare and suicide prevention services.

Our efforts to stop veteran suicide need to focus on wider, better informed, and data-driven paths to tangible results so that we can save lives. This bill is about increasing transparency so that we can ensure that those who have served our Nation are not left behind when they return home.

I am grateful to my colleagues on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs who have reaffirmed their commitment to this issue and who have acted so quickly to respond to the veteran suicide crisis with the focus and resources it deserves.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman UNDERWOOD for submitting this legislation today. I think it is much needed. I have thought it all along. Let's find out what works and what doesn't work. I appreciate her doing this, and I feel like it will be supported by the entire body.

I encourage all Members of the body to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1700

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

I want to thank Congresswoman UNDERWOOD for introducing H.R. 2372, and the tremendous, tremendous professional background she brings to her role in Congress, and for introducing legislation that will ensure that we hold private organizations to the same standard of care that we impose internally on the VA.

So I do urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2372, as amended.

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 California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2372, 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.

ESTABLISHING VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2045) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans

Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2045

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

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part V of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

“CHAPTER 80—VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION

“Sec.

“8001. Organization of Administration.

“8002. Functions of Administration.

“8003. Annual report to Congress.

“§8001. Organization of Administration

“(a) VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.—There is in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration. The primary function of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is the administration of the programs of the Department that provide assistance related to economic opportunity to veterans and their dependents and survivors.

“(b) UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.—The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is under the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of the Administration.

“§8002. Functions of Administration

“The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is responsible for the administration of the following programs of the Department:

“(1) Vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.

“(2) Educational assistance programs.

“(3) Veterans' housing loan and related programs.

“(4) The verification of small businesses owned and controlled by veterans pursuant to subsection (f) of section 8127 of this title, including the administration of the database of veteran-owned businesses described in such subsection.

“(5) The Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10.

“(6) Any other program of the Department that the Secretary determines appropriate.

“§8003. Annual report to Congress

“The Secretary shall include in the annual report to the Congress required by section 529 of this title a report on the programs administered by the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. Each such report shall include the following with respect to each such program during the fiscal year covered by that report:

“(1) The number of claims received.

“(2) The number of claims decided.

“(3) The average processing time for a claim.

“(4) The number of successful outcomes (as determined by the Secretary).

“(5) The number of full-time equivalent employees.

“(6) The amounts expended for information technology.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of chapters at the beginning of title 38, United

States Code, and of part V of title 38, United States Code, are each amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 79 the following new item:

“80. Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration 8001”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on October 1, 2020.

(c) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2020 for the General Operating Expenses account of the Veterans Benefits Administration \$3,025,000,000.

(d) LABOR RIGHTS.—Any labor rights, inclusion in the bargaining unit, and collective bargaining agreement that affects an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs who is transferred to the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply in the same manner to such employee after such transfer.

SEC. 2. UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.

(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 306 the following new section:

“§306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition

“(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—There is in the Department an Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or activity and solely on the basis of demonstrated ability in—

“(1) information technology; and

“(2) the administration of programs within the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration or programs of similar content and scope.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition is the head of, and is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of, the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(c) VACANCIES.—(1) Whenever a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition occurs or is anticipated, the Secretary shall establish a commission to recommend individuals to the President for appointment to the position.

“(2) A commission established under this subsection shall be composed of the following members appointed by the Secretary:

“(A) Three persons representing education and training, vocational rehabilitation, employment, real estate, mortgage finance and related industries, and survivor benefits activities affected by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(B) Two persons representing veterans served by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(C) Two persons who have experience in the management of private sector benefits programs of similar content and scope to the economic opportunity and transition programs of the Department.

“(D) The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(E) The chairman of the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education formed under section 3692 of this title.

“(F) One person who has held the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, if the Secretary determines that it is desirable for such person to be a member of the commission.

“(3) A commission established under this subsection shall recommend at least three individuals for appointment to the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. The commission shall submit all recommendations to the Secretary. The Secretary shall forward the recommendations to the President and the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives with any comments the Secretary considers appropriate. Thereafter, the President may request the commission to recommend additional individuals for appointment.

“(4) The Assistant Secretary or Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs who performs personnel management and labor relations functions shall serve as the executive secretary of a commission established under this subsection.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 306 the following new item:

“306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) in section 306(c)(2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (F), as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively;

(2) in section 317(d)(2), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition,”;

(3) in section 318(d)(2), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition,”;

(4) in section 516(e)(2)(C), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(5) in section 541(a)(2)(B), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(6) in section 542(a)(2)(B)(iii), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(7) in section 544(a)(2)(B)(vi), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(8) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition,”;

(9) in section 7701(a), by inserting after “assistance” the following: “, other than assistance related to Economic Opportunity and Transition,”; and

(10) in section 7703, by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 306A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on October 1, 2020.

SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF SERVICES.

(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the progress toward establishing the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under section 8001 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 4, and the transition of the provision of services to veterans by such Administration.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not transfer the function of

providing any services to veterans to the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under section 8001 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 4 until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives certification that—

(1) the transition of the provision of services to such Administration will not negatively affect the provision of such services to veterans;

(2) such services are ready to be transferred.

(c) DEADLINE FOR CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives the certification required by subsection (b)—

(1) no earlier than April 1, 2020; and

(2) no later than September 1, 2020.

(d) FAILURE TO CERTIFY.—If the Secretary fails to submit the certification required by subsection (b) by the date specified in subsection (c)(2), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) the reason why the certification was not made by such date; and

(2) the estimated date when the certification will be made.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. 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 H.R. 2045, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, when our service-members conclude their military service, they are taxed with returning to civilian life after putting their lives on hold for years. This is the sacrifice they make for our security.

In exchange, we owe them more than a thank you and well wishes. We owe them a commitment that their transition to civilian life will go smoothly, and a VA that responds to their needs.

That is why we passed the first GI Bill nearly 75 years ago, and why we continue today to make improvements to provide veterans with the benefits they have earned.

Unfortunately, VA has struggled to track the effectiveness of education and employment programs and, consequently, Congress has struggled to determine the Department's resource needs. We have identified a contributing factor through hearings and discussions with our Veterans Service Organizations that the Veterans Benefits Administration is simply asked to do too much.

With the focus on managing countless compensation claims, the responsibility of managing transition education, and housing benefits often takes a back seat.

To put it in perspective, the Veterans Benefit Administration's structure has not significantly changed since the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1930.

During the last 89 years, the services needed by veterans have drastically changed, and that is why our committee has an Economic Opportunity Subcommittee. It is time for the VA to understand this as well.

The VET OPP Act, as amended, would create a new administration within the department to manage educational assistance, vocational rehabilitation and employment, education and career counseling programs, and broadly defined transition assistance programs that are shared across agencies.

Now, that means veterans' education, housing, and economic programs will have a dedicated Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition. The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration will solely focus on fulfilling these promises to veterans, so that they get the education that they want, the housing they need, and the careers they deserve.

During our April 9 Economic Opportunity legislative hearing, this proposal received support from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Enterprise Institute, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

Now these organizations know firsthand how hard it is to navigate the process of using benefits, so I want to thank the hard work of our Economic Opportunity Subcommittee for holding hearings on H.R. 2045, as amended, where this legislation received universal acclaim from our VSO community.

I also want to thank our VSO community, and the American Federation of Government Employees, who worked with us to make this legislation work for all veterans and all employees currently employed at the VA.

This is a bipartisan bill because we are not trying to make a political point or attack the VA. Instead, we simply want to make the VA run more effectively for the veterans it serves.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2045, as amended, the Veterans' Education Transition and Opportunity Prioritization Plan Act, or the VET OPP Act.

Madam Speaker, investing in education and employment opportunities for our Nation's veterans is one of the Department of Veterans Affairs' most important but least recognized missions.

Today, programs concerning education and employment are embedded within the Veterans Benefit Administration which, understandably, devotes

most of its time, attention, and resources to disability compensation-related issues and backlogs that rise and fall with time.

The focus on compensation programs creates programs when other VBA programs need attention. An example of this was the implementation last fall of the Forever GI Bill which was, to say the least, rocky, the start was.

While I know that the VA has many dedicated employees who tried their best to prevent the delays that occurred, I do believe that if the implementation of this law had received more attention from senior leaders at VA, things could have been better.

The VET OPP Act is a means to mitigate these problems in the future. The bill would create a new, fourth administration at VA which would be called the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and led by a new Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.

The new Under Secretary would oversee education benefits like the GI Bill, the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program, VA's home loan program, the Transition Assistance Program, or TAP program, and the small business programs. Creating a new administration within VA to house education and employment programs will ensure that those programs receive the focused leadership time and attention that they deserve.

I appreciate my friend and colleague, Congressman WENSTRUP from Ohio, for championing this legislation. It has my full support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), my good friend, chairman of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, and also a cosponsor of H.R. 2045.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2045, the Veterans' Education Transition and Opportunity Prioritization Plan, or VET OPP Act of 2019.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce this bipartisan legislation with my friend from Ohio, Mr. WENSTRUP. We have a responsibility to provide America's servicemembers with the best possible resources and opportunities as they transition back to civilian life, and we must do more to meet that responsibility.

Education, employment, housing, and transition assistance programs are critical to veterans' economic success. But many veterans aren't receiving these opportunities because of bureaucratic red tape at the VA. These programs are currently lumped with compensation programs under the Veterans Benefits Administration.

As chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, one of my top priorities is ensuring that veterans are receiving their benefits as efficiently as possible, and it is clear that the current structure at the VA isn't meeting this need.

This bipartisan bill will allow us to deliver economic resources more effectively by creating a new Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration at the VA and bringing more oversight and accountability to economic programs for veterans.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my good friend, and a Member I have served with on the Veterans' Affairs Committee the entire time I have been in Congress. As I have said previously, there is no one in this body, in this House that I have seen that cares for veterans more than Congressman BILIRAKIS does, and he is the ranking member on the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly support H.R. 2045, the Veterans' Education, Transition, and Opportunity Prioritization Plan, or the VET OPP Act of 2019, which would create a significant structural change at the Department of Veterans Affairs to better align and specialize economic opportunity for our veterans, our true heroes.

As ranking member of the VA Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, I know this committee understands the importance of prioritizing veterans' education, workforce training, transition, and vocational rehabilitation programs.

However, the way the VA is structured, under the current system, it puts all benefit programs under one roof at the Veterans Benefits Administration. While I certainly understand that the VBA focuses a significant amount of time on processing disability claims and working to decrease its backlog of appeals, as the doctor stated, my colleagues and I on the committee have concerns that this has led to an imbalanced amount of attention away from other benefit programs, like the GI Bill education benefit and the employment programs, such as the vocational rehabilitation and employment, which is so very important as well.

I fear that this lack of attention was fully realized last year, again, as the doctor stated, as VBA failed to properly implement sections 107 and 501 of the Forever GI Bill.

This failure by the VA to update their IT systems caused massive delays in processing GI Bill claims for thousands of student veterans last fall, many of whom rely on their payments as the only source of income. And sadly, it was not the first time that the VA has failed to provide GI Bill payments on time. Hopefully, it's going to be the last time.

To help solve this inequity, H.R. 2045, the VET OPP Act, would create a fourth administration at VA called the Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, led by the new VA Under Secretary appointed by the

President of the United States. This new Under Secretary would be tasked with managing all education, home loans, small business certification, transition assistance, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits within the VA.

This bill is a smart, commonsense policy that will allow VA to improve outcomes for our Nation's veterans seeking better economic opportunities.

Finally, the bill will allow Congress to provide significantly better oversight and accountability of those running these programs.

I want to thank the sponsor of H.R. 2045, Dr. BRAD WENSTRUP, for introducing this legislation this Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. AXNE). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Florida an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I also want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee, my good friend, MIKE LEVIN, who is doing an outstanding job for co-leading the bill with us.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 2045, as amended.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my good friend.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this legislation for really tapping into something that every single Member must face with their veterans, and certainly those who have been out of the military for a period of time, and then all of our new veterans who are coming in from some of the more recent conflicts that we have had, and wars that we have had.

Just about a week or so ago, I was meeting with veterans from a certain battalion that had flown into Houston to share with us their concerns about the state of mind and the increasing amount of suicides among veterans, but, in addition to those conversations and ones that I have had, the idea of a Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration and the Under Secretary of Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition of the Department of Veterans Affairs to oversee vocational rehabilitation employment, educational assistance, veterans housing loans, and the verification of small businesses.

□ 1715

I think this is important because veterans want to know that they can fully integrate into society when they return home.

One of the initiatives that I had was to ensure that their service-related professions, whatever their assignments were in the military, would equate in civilian life and that they would be respected for their hierarchy of rank and also responsibility.

Having an office like this one helps those veterans with creative minds who want to start small businesses.

When we had the impact of Hurricane Harvey, one of the hardest hit groups were small businesses. We carved out dollars to help small businesses by grants and not loans because that is the economic engine of this Nation.

With respect to veterans, they are very creative. They see solutions where there are problems. To have an office that would focus on their vocational rehabilitation, employment, and giving them educational assistance, that is also very important.

I have gone to my college campuses and met many, many, many veterans who are using some of the dollars that this House provided for them back during the first time Speaker PELOSI was Speaker, when we voted on major reformation of the process of giving dollars to veterans for their educational assistance, a great bill dealing with Iraq and Afghanistan veterans that has helped them a lot.

I see the impact that getting a home has on veterans as well, and I have been involved in projects where organizations are in the business of donating homes to disabled vets. What a difference it makes in their lives.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the author of this legislation and the Veterans' Affairs Committee as well because you are now looking holistically at these veterans and giving them a hand up, as they want, and not a hand out.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his courtesies.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support this bill, H.R. 2045, because, as I have said, whether it is a homeless vet, whether it is a vet who has been a veteran for a long period of time or those in the recent conflicts or those coming home today, this is a package that they need.

This is what Members of Congress try to help them with, in their offices. If we knew that we had an office in the Veterans Affairs Department that deals with education, vocational rehabilitation, and small business, and it is a one-stop shop, I think that our veterans will appreciate that very much.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2045.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), my good friend, a Congressman, doctor, colonel, Iraq war veteran, and in the previous Congress, chair of the Health Subcommittee on the Veterans Affairs Committee, and currently a member of the House Committee on Armed Services and the House Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. ROE for yielding. I appreciate

his leadership on the Veterans Affairs' Committee for the many years that he has been here and has always been a leader.

As an Iraq war vet and an Army reservist, I know how important it is to help our warfighters succeed in their transition from Active Duty to civilian life. We should prepare our warfighters for success outside the military from the day they take their oath of enlistment to the day they begin their civilian careers. I think we have ignored this for too long.

Leaving the military with a plan and a purpose is key to the long-term well-being of all of our servicemembers.

I know when I came back from Iraq as a reservist, they said, "You have 90 days before you have to go back to work." I said, "I am going next week. What am I going to do, sit around my house and just look at the walls?"

You go from having a job in the military, where you have a purpose and a meaning, and it is important that when you get out that you have the same. That makes the transition and your life that much better.

Economic opportunity and transition programs are critical support for veterans when they complete their service. The current structure of the VA allows economic opportunity and transition programs for our veterans to fall by the wayside. These programs should be treated with the same importance as health, compensation, and other benefits.

The Veterans' Education, Transition, and Opportunity Prioritization Plan Act, known as the VET OPP Act, aligns transition, education, and employment programs in a fourth administration within the VA. This ensures that these opportunity-focused programs get the high priority they deserve and the oversight they need to better serve our veterans.

The VET OPP Act would streamline services and help the VA empower veterans and set them on a path to a successful civilian life.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this bill. When I first got here to Congress in 2009, the Veterans Benefit Administration had 1 million backlogged disability claims. It is hard to focus on something else when you have that much on your plate.

I think we have recognized that over the last several years, and I commend Dr. Wenstrup and others for bringing this up.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage all Members to support this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, if anyone thinks that business as usual is working at

the VA, I would only ask you to look at the implementation of the Forever GI Bill. My good friend the ranking member knows that there were definite issues with the implementation. It did not go well. We are still months away from implementation, which should have happened last year.

When the IG and others evaluated what went wrong, one thing was very clear: There was no accountable leader.

That is what happens when programs are buried in layers of bureaucracy, and that is why I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2045, as amended, the VET OPP Act, which will establish an accountable leader at VA for all of those programs that we have under the purview of our Economic Opportunity Subcommittee.

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 California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2045, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXEMPTING CERTAIN TRANSFERS OF FUNDS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ECONOMY ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1947

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

SECTION 1. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS.

Section 7364(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Any amounts so transferred after September 30, 2016, shall be available without regard to fiscal year limitations, notwithstanding section 1535(d) of title 31."

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN FLIGHT TRAINING AND OTHER PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION.

(a) USE OF ENTITLEMENT FOR PRIVATE PILOT'S LICENSES.—Section 3034(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking the semicolon and inserting the following: "and is required for the course of education being pursued (including with respect to a dual major,

concentration, or other element of a degree); and”;

(2) by striking paragraph (2); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(b) **ACCELERATED PAYMENTS FOR FLIGHT TRAINING.**—Section 3313 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) **ACCELERATED PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN FLIGHT TRAINING.**—

“(1) **PAYMENTS.**—An individual enrolled in a program of education pursued at a vocational school or institution of higher learning in which flight training is required to earn the degree being pursued (including with respect to a dual major, concentration, or other element of such a degree) may elect to receive accelerated payments of amounts for tuition and fees determined under subsection (c). The amount of each accelerated payment shall be an amount equal to twice the amount for tuition and fee so determined under such subsection, but the total amount of such payments may not exceed the total amount of tuition and fees for the program of education. The amount of monthly stipends shall be determined in accordance with such subsection (c) and may not be accelerated under this paragraph.

“(2) **EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING.**—An individual may make an election under paragraph (1) only if the individual receives educational counseling under section 3697A(a) of this title.

“(3) **CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.**—The number of months of entitlement charged an individual for accelerated payments made pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be determined at the rate of two months for each month in which such an accelerated payment is made.”.

(c) **FLIGHT TRAINING AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.**—Subsection (c)(1)(A) of such section 3313 is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively;

(B) by striking “In the case of a program of education pursued at a public institution of higher learning” and inserting “(I) Subject to subclause (II), in the case of a program of education pursued at a public institution of higher learning not described in clause (ii)(II)(bb)”;

(C) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(II) In determining the actual net cost for in-State tuition and fees pursuant to subclause (I), the Secretary may not pay for tuition and fees relating to flight training.”; and

(2) in clause (ii)—

(A) in subclause (I), by redesignating items (aa) and (bb) as subitems (AA) and (BB), respectively;

(B) in subclause (II), by redesignating items (aa) and (bb) as subitems (AA) and (BB), respectively;

(C) by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as items (aa) and (bb), respectively;

(D) by striking “In the case of a program of education pursued at a non-public or foreign institution of higher learning” and inserting “(I) In the case of a program of education described in subclause (II)”;

(E) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(II) A program of education described in this subclause is any of the following:

“(aa) A program of education pursued at a non-public or foreign institution of higher learning.

“(bb) A program of education pursued at a public institution of higher learning in which flight training is required to earn the degree being pursued (including with respect

to a dual major, concentration, or other element of such a degree).”.

(d) **CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION CARRIED OUT UNDER CONTRACT.**—Section 3313(c)(1)(A)(ii)(II) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (c)(2)(E), is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“(cc) A program of education pursued at a public institution of higher learning in which the public institution of higher learning enters into a contract or agreement with an entity (other than another public institution of higher learning) to provide such program of education or a portion of such program of education.”.

(e) **APPLICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided by paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **SPECIAL RULE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS.**—In the case of an individual who, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, is using educational assistance under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, to pursue a course of education that includes a program of education described in item (bb) or (cc) of section 3313(c)(1)(A)(ii)(II) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsections (c) and (d), respectively, the amendment made by such subsection shall apply with respect to a quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, commencing on or after the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. PROVISION OF INSCRIPTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN ON CERTAIN HEADSTONES AND MARKERS FURNISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j)(1) In addition to any other authority under this section, in the case of an individual whose grave is not in a covered cemetery (as that term is defined in subsection (f)(2)) and for whom the Secretary has furnished a headstone or marker under subsection (a) or (d), the Secretary, if feasible and upon request, may replace the headstone or marker to add an inscription for the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child of such individual following the death of the surviving spouse or eligible dependent child.

“(2) If the spouse or eligible dependent child of an individual referred to in paragraph (1) predeceases the individual, the Secretary may, if feasible and upon request, include an inscription for the spouse or dependent child on the headstone or marker furnished for the individual under subsection (a) or (d).”.

(b) **APPLICATION.**—Subsection (j) of section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to an individual who dies on or after October 1, 2019.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. 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 H.R. 1947, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 1947

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill, H.R. 1947, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, this comprehensive legislation addresses funding for VA research and gives the VA authority to work with grieving families to memorialize their loved ones. It also closes a loophole that has allowed contracted flight schools to charge public schools unlimited tuition and fees to train veterans using the GI Bill.

The first section of the measure addresses VA research. VA's Office of Research and Development improves the lives of veterans, contributes to the national public health, and develops lifesaving biomedical breakthroughs that change the world.

In its 90-year history, the VA's medical and prosthetic research has produced some of the world's greatest advances. The VA developed the pacemaker in 1960 and the shingles vaccine in 2005. It created an effective smoking cessation program and increased life expectancy for people with spinal cord injuries.

VA researchers were responsible for beginning the first international antiretroviral drug therapy trial to find the optimal treatment for patients with AIDS, for whom all therapy had failed.

These research efforts usually aren't performed alone. They are often in collaboration with nonprofits, universities, other Federal agencies, and international bodies.

When research is funded from non-VA grants, it is managed by a for-profit corporation, otherwise known as an NPC, established at a VA Medical Center, which allows flexible research funding.

Last year, the VA's Office of General Counsel uncovered an appropriations law limitation that prevents funding transfers to these nonprofit research corporations for longer than 1 fiscal year. This has negatively affected several ongoing multiyear projects across the country.

Dr. ROE's legislation, H.R. 1947, as amended, would provide explicit authority for NPCs to administer research funding without regard to fiscal year limitations.

To ensure this legislation does not raise spending, section 2 addresses a loophole in GI Bill flight school benefits.

This loophole had been exploited by flight schools that had contracted with public institutions of higher learning to offer flight-related degrees. In some cases, bad actors were exploiting GI benefits that resulted in the VA paying out over \$500,000 in tuition and flight payments to one student.

H.R. 1947 fixes this loophole by marrying the cap on tuition at private institutions with a cap on flight school tuition at public institutions.

In addition, to ensure that the fewest possible students are impacted, the legislation also includes a provision to allow flight school students to accelerate their GI Bill benefits. This will allow them to be better used for flight school, which is regularly more expensive but takes fewer months to complete.

Finally, section 3 of H.R. 1947, as amended, authorizes VA to replace a veteran's headstone or marker in a private cemetery so that an inscription may be added to remember a deceased spouse or a child following their deaths.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative LAMALFA for introducing the original legislation and Ranking Member ROE for offering the legislation as an amendment during markup.

This bill is another example of our committee working on a bipartisan basis to get it right for all veterans.

This legislation allows veterans to memorialize their loved ones in the way they want and where they want. Every veteran deserves to know that their wish to be remembered in perpetuity alongside spouses and their children will be granted. The same is true for surviving spouses and children who want reassurance that they, too, will be memorialized with their veteran spouse or parent.

Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. ROE for his tireless efforts to care for veterans, and I commend him on this bill. I look forward to joining him in voting "yes" on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1947, as amended.

This bill would address a limitation in current law that prevents funding from being transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs nonprofit research and education corporations, or NPCs, for longer than 1 fiscal year.

□ 1730

NPCs were established by Congress in the late 1980s to provide a flexible fund-

ing mechanism to support research. Collectively, they have contributed more than \$2 billion to VA research projects over the last decade.

However, last year, VA's Office of the General Counsel uncovered a legal limitation that prevents funding from being transferred to the NPCs for longer than 1 fiscal year. This upturned years of practice by the NPCs and threatened a number of ongoing research projects across the country that could benefit veterans and all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I have been involved in a number of research projects over the years, and they just don't go for 365 days. Many of them go for years and years. This bill would correct that limitation and preserve the ability of the NPCs to support important multiyear research projects.

Additionally, H.R. 1947, as amended, includes a provision from Representative LAMALFA's bill, H.R. 1126, the Honoring Veterans' Families Act.

Currently, VA is authorized to add a memorial inscription for a veteran's deceased spouse or eligible dependent child to a VA-furnished marker, but only if they are buried in a national cemetery or a State or Tribal veterans cemetery. Unfortunately, VA cannot provide this benefit to veterans and their families if they are buried elsewhere, such as a private or local cemetery. H.R. 1947, as amended, would address this problem by allowing VA to memorialize a veteran's deceased spouse or certain children on the veteran's marker, regardless of where they choose to be laid to rest.

The cost of this bill will be paid for by closing a loophole in GI Bill rules related to flight schools by capping the total tuition and fees that can be used at a public school for flight training at the current private school cap of \$23,671 per year. The bill would authorize a 2-year grandfather clause so that no current students are impacted by this change.

It also includes provisions that would make it easier for students to attend flight training by removing the prohibition against GI Bill funds paying for a private pilot's license and giving students the option to accelerate their GI Bill benefits to pay for the increased cost associated with flight training.

These changes to flight training for the GI Bill have had wide bipartisan and veteran service organization support in the past, and I am pleased that they are included in this bill.

I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1947, as amended.

I thank the chairman for his kind comments and support of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to

the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my good friend and an author of one part of this bill.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member ROE and Chairman TAKANO for including my legislation, H.R. 1126, within H.R. 1947. It is greatly appreciated. This is an oversight that was pointed out by northern California veterans to me a while back, the choice of being able to have a family member, a spouse, inscribed on a grave marker, simply the difference being that it is in a Federal cemetery or one that is private. That is really the bottom line on this.

This bill changes that oversight so that the choice can be at any recognized cemetery. That is simply what we are after: to have our veterans who have served us honorably know that, when they are at their final resting place, that this oversight cannot happen for their family member that they held so dear to share that gravestone with them.

So, whether it is a private cemetery or a VA, or whatever other type you might have as your choice, veterans need to have this choice as well.

Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member ROE and Chairman TAKANO for including this so we can take care of this oversight quickly and have our veterans have the choices that they feel they deserve and, indeed, do deserve. I appreciate it.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), my good friend and Western Caucus chair.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise not against this bill, but I have concerns about a provision capping the veterans' training benefits. This severely undermines the important goal of helping our Nation's veterans enter a field where they are desperately needed.

H.R. 1947 does have needed improvements for structural veteran flight training benefits. This includes an accelerated payment provision to provide greater flexibility and a more efficient funding mechanism to help veterans complete their flight training.

The bill also provides coverage for obtaining a private pilot's license when it is incorporated into the requirements of a professional flight training program.

Additionally, this action provides flexibility to public schools, allowing them to contract for flight training, which, in turn, makes aviation training more available to interested veterans.

There is improved fiscal responsibility by the government, and there is strong support for tightening the existing regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs to curb abuses by a minority of flight schools affiliated with collegian degree programs. However, the bill caps payments for flight

training programs, which unfairly impacts the ability of veterans to pursue well-paying jobs in the civilian aviation sector.

Capping funds available for flight training degree programs virtually guarantees that veterans seeking to use their GI Bill benefits to enter the aviation industry will have insufficient funds to achieve their goals. They will either abandon their pursuit or be burdened with significant personal debt through either expenditure of personal funds or taking on severe student loans. This will harm veterans and limit their employment opportunities in the aviation industry.

It is unfair and discriminatory to single out these funding caps for veterans seeking employment in aviation. These caps deprive them of the ability to pursue collegian flight training, a common path to a career as a commercial pilot.

I hope this provision can be addressed prior to finding its way to the President. These jobs in aviation are in high demand, and our veterans are some of the most deserving and most needed.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I yield back, I do want to express my disappointment that H.R. 2196 is not on the floor for consideration this afternoon. This bill, introduced by my friend and outstanding new member of our committee, Congressman BARR from Kentucky, would clarify the eligibility of the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program. This scholarship, which was enacted as part of the Forever GI Bill, authorizes extra GI Bill funding to help student veterans complete their undergraduate degrees in the science, technology, engineering, and math, STEM, fields.

Madam Speaker, we all know that there is a need to fill vacancies for high-paying jobs in the STEM fields. The Smithsonian Science Education Center found STEM-related jobs grew at three times the rate of non-STEM jobs between 2000 and 2010. By 2018, they projected that 2.4 million STEM jobs would go unfilled.

The Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program is critical to ensure that veterans are the ones who fill these vacancies. However, the way the original law was drafted, it would unintentionally prevent most students from using this scholarship in all but a few STEM programs.

With the scholarship going live on August 1, 2019, I am grateful to Mr. BARR for quickly stepping up to the plate to offer this bill to ensure students are eligible for it.

We all know that the Senate generally takes longer to review legislation than the House. Let me repeat that. We all know that the Senate generally takes a lot longer to review legis-

lation than the House does. That is why, with the August 1 deadline approaching quickly, I was hopeful we could consider this legislation today. The bill has gone through full regular order, is supported by VA and veterans service organizations, and has no cost.

I would ask the chairman if he would please work with the majority leader to schedule this bill for consideration immediately after the Memorial Day district work period.

Before I yield back, next Monday is Memorial Day. For me, personally, I want to thank all of the members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the chairman and others, as you have seen today, for the work they have done in a bipartisan way to help our Nation's heroes.

As I said, for me, personally, as a veteran, this is a very difficult day because it is a day that we mourn the loss of veterans who served on Active Duty and paid the ultimate price. I want to just mention a few names of people.

First, Sergeant Thomas E. Thayer, a tremendous man whom I knew as a young boy growing up. He was my Scout master. He was in the 101st Airborne and was killed in Vietnam, receiving the Silver Star in 1965.

Johnny Parham, who was also an Eagle Scout, as I am. Johnny and I ran on the 2-mile relay team together in high school. I have to say, we were pretty good. Johnny died in 1969 in Vietnam and was unable to have the wonderful life that I have had, to be able to raise a family, have children and grandchildren, because of service to our Nation.

Bob Perry, a young man whom I went to elementary school with all the way through high school. I found out at my high school reunion many years later that Bob also died in Vietnam.

We just heard today, Chief Petty Officer Bill Mulder, a highly decorated Navy SEAL who protected this Nation, giving up his life because of, really, the invisible wounds of war.

I just want to thank all of those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1947.

Before I close, let me say that I appreciate the kind words of the ranking member, Dr. ROE of Tennessee, and I associate myself with his eloquent tributes to his classmates and the people who did not get to live the full lives that he, himself, has been able to live.

I, myself, have also known people who have served our country and who have also paid the ultimate price. I certainly do share his sentiments as we enter this Memorial Day weekend, as all Americans reflect on the ultimate sacrifice of all the people buried in our

national cemeteries and cemeteries that aren't national cemeteries that are marked by VA grave markers.

It is always a poignant moment to walk through my national cemetery and to watch the Girl Scouts and the Cub Scouts planting American flags on each and every grave and to see it all happen within 20 minutes because there are so many Americans who want to come to my cemetery to make sure that every grave is honored.

To my colleague from Tennessee, I wish him a pleasant Memorial Day weekend, but, also, to all Americans, let us reflect on what Memorial Day weekend does mean to our Nation.

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 California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1947, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "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, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1745

HARRISON TOWNSHIP

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, Harrison Township, New Jersey, recently celebrated its 175th anniversary. This town has been a staple of south Jersey for many years.

Harrison Township was built on farming, as its local economy and its access to Philadelphia and New York continued its prosperity.

After the railroad opened in 1889, the station became a major shipping point. Postwar Harrison Township saw an era of change and growth with new regional highway construction that made the area much more accessible to all.

Harrison Township in the 21st century continues to grow with staples like wineries, antique stores, continued agriculture, and farming.

But what is most noticeable about Harrison Township is their residents, their people, those who are new, and those who have been here for generations, like Vince Gangemi, Sr., who for so many years has given back to their wonderful town. They love their town.

South Jersey is proud to consider this historical place a part of our community.

100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, this country was built by great leaders on the bedrock of even greater ideals. The idea that all are created equal and endowed with those certain inalienable rights.

The idea that democracy was instituted not to bestow rights given to us by God, but to safeguard them from tyranny. The conviction that a government's power to protect our rights comes solely by consent of the governed. But as we are a country of imperfect leaders, we often fall far short of these perfect ideals.

And 100 years ago today, great women brought this country into a new age; an age where women are endowed with that inalienable right to vote; an age where women can safeguard their rights at the ballot box; an age where the power of our democracy comes from the consent of all the governed.

And at a time when a woman serves as Speaker of the House and there are more Congresswomen with us today than at any other point in our history.

We are in this age because of great women. And I am honored to share this House with so many of you.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF UCLA

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

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA's excellence is clear. With 13 Nobel laureates, 13 MacArthur Fellows, 9 National Medal of Science winners, 3 Pulitzer Prize winners, a Fields Medal, an A.M. Turing Award, UCLA's academic credentials are rivaled by few.

And the UCLA Bruins have enjoyed 117 NCAA team championships and 261 Olympic medals over their 100-year history.

Alumni have gone on to make incredible strides in fields like rocket science, film, and politics. It has been an incredible century for UCLA.

In honor of UCLA's centennial, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Chancellor Block, UC President Janet Napolitano, and UCLA students, faculty, and alumni.

I also want to recognize all the people in UCLA's history that ensured the university could light the way for the next 100 years to come. Go Bruins.

CELEBRATING 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with enthusiasm and gratitude that exactly 100 years to the day this very body passed the 19th Amendment which guaranteed women the right to vote.

This decision was a critical step forward, a major development in a representative government to empower millions of Americans and allow them access to the fundamental freedoms enshrined in our Constitution.

The passage of the 19th Amendment was an important turning point, and the culmination of decades of fervent activism by members of the women's suffrage movement and their allies. Their vision and their tenacity paved the way for generations of leaders who would follow.

And in their honor, I am proud to be the co-lead of H.R. 1980, the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act, along with my friend and colleague, CAROLYN MALONEY from New York, to give these pioneers proper recognition by constructing a National Women's History Museum on the National Mall.

Madam Speaker, I am privileged today to be a Member of this House at such a monumental time where there are more women serving in the House of Representatives than ever before. I am proud to serve with them and to honor this centennial anniversary by their side.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today we come together to celebrate 100 years since the United States House passed the 19th Amendment prohibiting the government from denying the right to vote on the basis of sex.

It was a milestone in the evolution of women's suffrage, but the hard work of making sure that all women could vote continued long after its passage.

Women still had to fight to build a system where Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans and all women of color could not only register to vote but could actually cast their ballot.

In 1924, when Native Americans were granted U.S. citizenship, we took a big step toward Native American women's suffrage. And in 1964 when the Voting Rights Act was passed, we took another step in breaking down obstacles that prevented Black women and other women of color from voting.

The history of women's suffrage, like the history of our Nation, is complex, but it is a history that we must acknowledge and that we absolutely need to reckon with, because we know that people all over this country today still face voter suppression.

So let's take this opportunity to celebrate this historic day but let us also recognize the full movement for women's suffrage has continued long after, and let's recommit to making sure that every citizen in this country can exercise their constitutional right to vote and participate in our democracy.

CENTENNIAL OF THE PASSAGE OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment in the House of Representatives.

Women's right to vote was won by the brave work of suffragettes, many of whom were from North Carolina.

In 1917, the National American Women Suffrage Association held a 4-day suffrage school in Raleigh to advance the movement in our State. Instructor Halsey Wilson said, "We have a government of men, by men, and for the people, instead of a realization of the hopes of Abraham Lincoln of a government of the people, by the people, for the people."

Today, I am grateful to be serving among the largest group of women ever elected in this body. When the 19th Amendment was ratified, 10 million women joined the electorate, but the suffragettes' work also laid the foundation for women in public offices and the House of Representatives we have today.

SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today marks 100 years exactly since the U.S. House of Representatives approved the 19th Amendment and moved our Nation one step closer to full voting rights for women.

I am so proud that the great State of Michigan was among the first to ratify the 19th Amendment, and I was proud to join my colleagues today to pass a bipartisan resolution to commemorate and celebrate the amendment.

I rise now to honor all the suffragettes whose names we know and all those we don't, who put themselves in danger to help make a more perfect union. But I also rise to honor those who follow in their footsteps, like my incredible classmates in the 116th Congress.

Just like the suffragettes helped usher our Nation forward, they, too, have opened doors that young women like my own daughter, Molly, may walk through some day.

It is an honor to fight alongside them today and every day.

CONGRATULATING DR. DEBBIE LUPEIKA

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a great woman and a doctor who is from my district in northern California, who earned an incredible honor over the weekend.

Dr. Debbie Lupeika has been named as the 2019 National Clinician of the year by the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved.

She teaches residents at Mercy Medical Center in Redding, California, and Shasta Community Health Center, which serves mostly underserved or uninsured patients.

Dr. Lupeika has helped treat many families that were displaced from their homes in Shasta County by the Carr fire last year—everyone from children to adults.

In rural communities like ours, it is even more important to have great doctors who truly care about their patients and their craft when also faced with these rural issues that are so difficult for retaining doctors in rural areas. Dr. Debbie Lupeika fully embodies that in every way.

Madam Speaker, I thank her for her commitment to improving healthcare in our rural communities, and I congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award.

THE CENTENNIAL OF 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment passing in the House giving women the right to vote.

Today, along with my yellow rose, I stand here wearing a purple and a black ribbon honoring the history of African American women who are unsung heroes, like Sojourner Truth, and Ida B. Wells, and Mary Church Terrell.

These women fought tirelessly so all women would have the right to vote. Although, even after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, many Black women and Native American women were still denied their voting rights.

Madam Speaker, let us not forget the sacrifices and the achievements of Black women and all women of color who continue to fight for women's right to vote, many of whose names we may never know, but without whom many of us would not be here today.

As we celebrate this important milestone with this historic number of women and women of color in Congress, let us remember the words of suffragette Mary Church Terrell. She said: "And so, lifting as we climb, onward and upward we go."

[From ACLU, May 18, 2019]

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, BUT DON'T WHITEWASH THE MOVEMENT'S RACISM

My 94-year-old great-aunt, Paralee Wilmer—we call her Aunt Lee—voted for the first time after moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1944. Born to no-nonsense, small farmers in Millers Ferry, Alabama, and the youngest daughter of 12 children, Aunt Lee was one among many African Americans who moved from the South to the North in search of better job opportunities and greater freedoms during the The Great Migration. These freedoms included the right to vote without intimidation or any other hindrance.

Aunt Lee's memory is a bit cloudy regarding whether the first time she cast her ballot was in an election for local politicians or a presidential race, but one thing she knows for sure is her pastor at the time inspired her to exercise her constitutional rights and fulfill her civic duties. He said, "When it's time to vote, make sure you vote. When it's time to do grand jury, make sure you go."

At age 20, Aunt Lee understood the magnitude of her pastor's advice, given the disenfranchisement of Black folks that she witnessed growing up in Millers Ferry—including poll taxes, literacy tests, and outright violence and intimidation that prevented Black people from voting. To be a Black citizen in America but denied full citizenship rights epitomizes the hypocrisy of American democracy. This is a sad truth that I repeat like a blues refrain to my students.

This summer—as the nation celebrates the 170th anniversary of the first major convention for women's rights at Seneca Falls and the 98th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which granted women the right to vote—how do we reconcile widespread narratives of a triumphant, steady march towards women's enfranchisement with the more complicated and painful reality of my great-aunt's lived experience as a young, Black woman in Jim Crow America? One word: intersectionality.

Legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw argues that racism and sexism intersect in a manner that compounds Black women's oppression. Although the above historical events occurred long before Crenshaw articulated intersectionality, this insightful theory should be applied to all historical narratives that do not fully engage with the lived experiences of African-American women.

What do we notice when we take an intersectional view of the events that transpired at Seneca Falls? How does our understanding of the history of all women's political empowerment in the United States change?

When suffragists gathered in Seneca Falls, New York, in July 1848, they advocated for the right of white women to vote. The participants were middle and upper-class white women, a cadre of white men supporters and one African-American male—Frederick Douglass. The esteemed abolitionist had forged a strong working relationship with fellow abolitionists and white women suffragists, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. No Black women attended the convention. None were invited.

Although women of color were profoundly absent at Seneca Falls, a greater degree of cultural inclusion was on the horizon. In May 1851, African-American abolitionist Sojourner Truth spoke at a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio. During her famous speech on the abolition of slavery and the promotion of women's rights, Truth allegedly bared her breast and proclaimed, "Ain't I a woman?"

It was a melodramatic act and statement, but as historian Nell Painter argues, it never happened. Instead, it was a quaint fiction

crafted by convention organizer Frances Dana Gage and other white feminists who depicted Truth to white audiences as a genuine albeit primitive ally in the fight for women's rights. Thus, the 1851 convention marked a modicum of progress, but this progress is tainted by white suffragists' attempts to control Truth's voice.

By the turn of the 20th century, Black suffragists such as Mary Church Terrell represented intersectional feminism at its best. Born to former slaves in Memphis, Tennessee, Terrell earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Oberlin College and served as president of the National Association of Colored Women. In February 1898, Terrell spoke at the National American Woman Suffrage Association convention in Washington, D.C.

Her speech forced powerful white women attendees to reflect on the compounding oppressions and systemic violence that Black women endured during slavery. She ended on a more optimistic note—praising the sheer grit and intellect of freed women. Terrell's rhetorical style echoed the American ethos of self-made men and women, but she oversimplified the historical reality that the paths to racial and gender equality are long, jagged, and still unwinding.

The history of women's suffrage in America is not nice or neat, because the impact of white supremacy is broad and human nature is messy. Furthermore, a nation built on stolen land from Native Americans and stolen labor from African slaves is flawed from the start. We must constantly acknowledge this truth and engage in an intersectional celebration of women's rights activists and landmark events.

In addition to celebrating the passage of the 19th Amendment, let's celebrate the upcoming birthday of African-American suffragist Mary Church Terrell, who would be 155 on September 23. Let's celebrate the lives and legacies of the true Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and suffragist Harriet Tubman, and Shirley Chisholm—the first Black woman elected to Congress and to seriously run for president.

Let us celebrate and support current-day Black Lives Matter founders and organizers Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi, three queer Black women committed to "placing those at the margins closer to the center" of political leadership. Last but not least, let's celebrate the lives of everyday people like my Aunt Lee—a Black woman born and raised in Jim Crow Alabama who sought out a better life in Ohio and has religiously exercised her right to vote for the past 74 years. Let us celebrate these Black women while recognizing that the struggle to vote without obstacles continues.

NEW LOCK AT THE SOO LOCKS

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

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, the Appropriations Committee has now passed legislation with \$75.3 million in funding for the construction of a new lock at the Soo Locks.

This is the first time in decades the construction of a new lock at the Soo Locks is being funded in legislation.

I have been pushing for this funding with my work on the Appropriations Committee, and I am grateful for the support of our colleagues.

Right now, the lock is 50 years old, and it has survived harsh winters through extraordinary maintenance.

However, if it were to fail for an extended period, it would create a cascading problem for the economy and national security, because iron ore that goes through the locks would have no way to get from Lake Superior to factories across the country.

Also, this is an issue that Democrats, Republicans, and President Trump all agree on.

When President Trump came to Michigan last year, I was joined by Congressman BERGMAN and Congressman MITCHELL. We told the President about the Soo Locks, and he pledged his support. That was backed up in March when the Army Corps of Engineers requested \$75.3 million in its budget for next year.

I appreciate and want to thank President Trump for his leadership on this. That request is funded in legislation now, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to keep this construction moving forward in the years to come.

□ 1800

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY OF 19TH AMENDMENT

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment 100 years ago today.

It is remarkable to imagine that the fundamental right to vote was only granted to women this recently. If only the suffragettes who sacrificed so much for so long could see the results of their movement, that I would be serving in Congress shoulder to shoulder with 131 women, the most in our Nation's history.

We know that better decisions are made when more women are at the table, from the boardroom to the floor of this historic Chamber.

Women have been blazing the path of social progress in the United States for centuries, marching for civil rights, striking for workers' rights, organizing against gun violence, and speaking out on sexual harassment. Today, we continue to reshape our country, writing new history in the Halls of Congress.

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, women like Susan B. Anthony, Shirley Chisholm, Edith Nourse Rogers, and many more, and make sure we do our part to pave the new path for women to follow after us.

Madam Speaker, I am proud and honored to take part in celebrating the anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

CELEBRATING PATRIOTISM OF AMERICAN WOMEN EARNING RIGHT TO VOTE

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

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, almost from the day that I have been elected to Congress, I have looked forward to the opportunity to honor my wife's great-grandmother.

She was able to vote in the 1920 election. Prior to that election, in Boston, they distributed sample ballots. This document that I have with me today has been in my wife's family for almost 100 years. On the back of the document, Miss Abby Mayhew Cushing wrote this note: "November 2, 1920. Cast my first vote for President of these United States."

You can feel the pride and the patriotism in those words that she experienced for the first time. Abby Mayhew Cushing was 67 years old.

With all due respect to my Democrat colleagues, she wrote: "Voted straight Republican ticket. Smashing victory for Harding and Coolidge." Then she added this: "President Harding died very suddenly August 2, 1923, in California. Burial in Marion, Ohio, Friday, August 10."

This is, for the Cushing family, a historic document that celebrates the patriotism of American women earning the right to vote.

NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, and I do so with the love of my country within my heart, and I do so this evening because I believe that no one is above the law. No one.

We find this to be the case in our great country: If you are a person who exceeds the speed limit, you are breaking the law. If you are caught exceeding the speed limit, there is a price to pay. No one is above the law.

If you are a person who happens to, in the State of Texas, decide that you are going to go through the supermarket and pick and choose certain things that you would like to sample, at some point, if you partake of more than is reasonable, you will be charged with grazing. It is a crime in the State of Texas to graze, to take more than what is reasonable in having a sample of a grape. No one is above the law. People are prosecuted in the State of Texas for grazing.

In the State of Texas, a good many persons have been prosecuted for not causing their children to go to school. Thwarting public attendance in school was a law in the State of Texas. People paid fines for not having their children in school.

The list of laws is too long to ever mention in a statement such as this, but the point is, no one is above the law. There are laws that deal with persons who commit felonies and persons who commit misdemeanors. When you break these laws, you are prosecuted.

You are not allowed to break the law with impunity, and you are not allowed to do it with immunity. No one is above the law.

I believe that this is a part of the very hallmark of our criminal justice system in this great country. We believe that no one is above the law and that no one is beneath the law, meaning that the law should apply equally to all. Every person ought to be treated the same when it comes to the very bedrock principle of whether or not someone is above the law. No one is in this country.

However, we find ourselves with a unique circumstance now. We have the highest office holder in the executive branch, the chief executive officer, if you will, who has refused to cooperate with lawful investigations of the Congress.

He refused to cooperate in this sense. He has said to witnesses they should not appear and give testimony in a lawful investigation. He indicated that subpoenas will not be answered. They were issued pursuant to lawful investigations.

No one is above the law. If you are not above the law, then if you are called upon to testify, you must testify. If you have some document within your possession and there has been a request for it by way of a subpoena, then you have to produce it. No one is above the law.

Well, we currently have a circumstance where the chief executive officer is at odds with the legislative branch. This places the legislative and the executive at odds with each other. They are in a stalemate, if you will.

When this occurs, you have one branch of government refusing to cooperate with lawful requests of another branch, the executive refusing the request of the legislative, then you have a standoff, as I indicated. No one is above the law.

This, in my opinion, creates a constitutional crisis. Now, there are people who would differ with me. But remember this: What they are expressing is what I am expressing, an opinion. This is my opinion. They have their opinion. There is no hard and fast definition for a constitutional crisis.

There are some who would contend that to have a constitutional crisis in this area, the subpoenas that have been issued would have to go to court. They would have to be litigated. At some point, a court might say to the executive branch of the government that it must obey the subpoena issued by Congress, the lawful subpoena.

If the executive officer declines to obey the subpoena, it would be concluded that you have a constitutional crisis because the chief executive officer is not only disobeying Congress, he is disobeying a third branch of the government, the judicial branch, the judiciary. So you would then have a constitutional crisis.

I differ. It is my opinion that you have a constitutional crisis when the

chief executive officer declines and refuses to obey a lawful request from the legislative branch. I think that when you get to the point that the President of the United States, or the chief executive officer, refuses an order from the court, you have a constitutional crisis, but you also have a collapse.

That is when you have gone beyond a constitutional crisis. It is a collapse. The crisis leads up to that point. Once this happens and the President refuses to obey the judiciary as well as the legislative, you have a collapse.

Right now, we are in a constitutional crisis. In this constitutional crisis, we have a circumstance that has developed that we cannot tolerate. You see, it is the legislative branch that has the duty to provide the check on the executive branch such that we maintain the balance of power. When the legislative branch seeks to check the executive branch and it absolutely refuses to cooperate, when this occurs, the system of checks and balances is being ignored.

The system of checks and balances was put in place by the Framers of the Constitution to prevent the concentration of power in any one branch of government. To prevent the executive branch from having a concentration of power, the legislative branch was given this ability to check it.

When the legislative branch cannot get cooperation, the ultimate check that it has is impeachment. The legislative branch prevents the concentration of power by saying to the chief executive officer: Mr. Chief Executive Officer, you are out of balance. You are assuming more authority than the Constitution accords you. Because you cannot do this, we, the Members of the legislative branch, can bring you before the bar of justice. We can call on you to answer for your failure to honor lawful investigative requests of the legislative branch. So we bring you before the bar of justice, and that is called impeachment.

But it is important to remember that the Framers of the Constitution put the system of checks and balances in place to prevent a concentration of power. Why would we want to prevent a concentration of power? Because if the chief executive officer, the President, is allowed to have power concentrated beyond what the Constitution accords, meaning there are no guardrails, the President can do whatever he chooses.

The President then becomes an officer who is and can be above the law. He is above the law in this country. No person is above the law. The checks and balances are in place to prevent the President from being above the law.

If we don't enforce this system of checks and balances, we then allow the concentration of power, and we no longer have the form of government that the Framers intended and that we have enjoyed for these many years.

We would have a monarchy. We would have a monarchy. A monarch has

the power to do whatever he chooses. The monarch is the law.

We never intended in this country for the chief executive officer, the President, to be the law. We intended for the President to enforce the law by and through the various agencies that are under his domain, if you will, but not to be the law itself, not to decide what the law is on any given day, not to decide that he will obey the law when he chooses. No one is above the law.

The Mueller report is a good indication of how the law is viewed. The Mueller report indicates that there are many instances where, but for a rule that the Justice Department adheres to, the President would be indicted—but for this rule.

You won't find the words stated exactly as I have stated them, but that is the essence of what is stated in the Mueller report as it relates to obstruction of justice. Mr. Mueller was assigned the responsibility of looking into certain aspects of the campaign that the President participated in before being elected and to ascertain whether or not there was some collusion, obstruction of justice, if you will.

□ 1815

The Mueller conclusion is that the President is not exonerated when it comes to obstruction of justice and that the President but for these rules that they have, this rule that says you don't indict a sitting President, the President would likely be indicted. I say, likely be, because Mr. Mueller didn't say he would be, but he did say that the President wasn't exonerated when it comes to obstruction of justice.

So the President is not above the law, and if the Justice Department is not going to prosecute, then where is the bar of justice?

It is here. It is right here in this room; this very august body that we call the Congress of the United States of America. We then have the responsibility. If the Justice Department is not going to pursue the President, then it is left to the Congress. This is the last alternative for ensuring that the checks and balances are maintained and that the President is not above the law.

Who agrees with the Mueller Report as I have expressed it?

Some 800 former prosecutors have indicated that if this were any other person who violated the law as they see it in the Mueller Report, that this person would be prosecuted. They go on to say that it is critical that obstruction of justice be prosecuted because if you do not, then what you are sending is a message to people that they can interfere with lawful investigations. They don't say it in those exact words, but that is the import of the message that they do share with us, some 800 prosecutors, Federal prosecutors, persons who understand this law.

Many of them have said that there is more than enough evidence here to

prosecute anyone other than the President. But they have been respectful, and they understand that there is a rule in the Justice Department—the Office of Legal Counsel has promulgated it—that indicates that a sitting President won't be prosecuted.

If the sitting President is not going to be prosecuted, then these 800 lawyers are saying to us that the bar of justice has to be the place where the President will be brought, and that bar of justice is here in the House of Representatives. No one is above the law.

We now recognize that we are some 34 days since the Mueller Report was made public. This is the number of days that the Trump administration has been above the law, some 34 days.

Why?

Because we have one official in the administration who has refused to honor a lawful request by the Ways and Means Committee to produce certain records, certain records belonging to the President, tax records—refused to produce those records in contravention of the law. Another official, the person who heads the Justice Department, is declining to respond to requests of the Judiciary Committee.

No one is above the law. So we now have not only the President refusing, but the persons who are part of the administration are refusing. Some 34 days now I would say the administration itself has been above the law.

These are the days since the Mueller Report has been released to the public, the number of days the Trump administration has been above the law.

I love my country. I never came to Congress to give the speech I am giving tonight. I didn't come to Congress to take on the most powerful person on the planet Earth. I find myself standing here because I believe that you cannot see that this moral imperative exists to make sure that the law is followed and treated the same as it relates to all people and then ignore it. I just don't see how you can do it. I cannot. I refuse to ignore the fact that the President has obstructed justice.

The President is not above the law. No one is. I will not allow political expediency, this notion that rather than deal with this now, let's just wait and let the next election determine the fate of a person who has breached the law in the highest office of the land, I might add. I refuse to accept it. I just cannot.

The President is not above the law. I didn't come to the Congress to say this, but I love my country, and I see what this is doing to the country, when we have the chief executive officer saying to law enforcement officers—and he did say what I am about to tell you—that you don't have to be nice when you arrest people.

What message are you sending to them in terms of what their behavior should be when they take people into their care, custody, and control?

You are saying to them you can break the law.

What kind of message do you send when you are at a campaign rally and

you say to people: Don't worry about how you treat them; if they arrest you, I will take care of it?

That wasn't the exact language, but that was the message. This is the chief executive officer. This is the person who is the standard-bearer for the United States of America—the standard-bearer, the person who carries the torch of freedom for the United States of America.

What are you saying when you say that you are a person who would support the breaking of the law and then you would support defending the person who breaks the law?

You are saying you are above the law and you believe it, and you are saying you are willing to take care of those who would break the law as well.

We have seen circumstances in this country that I never thought we would see: a President sending messages and signals indicating that if you side with me, I have the magic wand. If you side with me, I have the power to erase your offenses, your crimes. It is not really erasing, but I am communicating that it is a pardon. The President has this power, and he sends signals: break the law, but worry not, I have your back.

Is this what we expect from the highest office in the land in the greatest country in the world?

Are we going to allow ourselves to be brought into this complicity that we see so many people succumbing to?

I don't think so. I will not. We cannot allow ourselves to become complicit. We cannot allow ourselves to become a party to what is going on here. The mere fact that we stand silent on it, as Dr. King put it: at some point, silence in and of itself becomes betrayal.

The silence is betraying our country, it is betraying the Constitution, and it is betraying the Republic. The silence—no one is above the law.

When will we cease to be silent on the greatest issue confronting us at this time?

The Republic is at stake. It is not about Republicans, it is about the Republic and whether we will maintain it. It is not about Democrats, it is about our democracy. This is bigger than all of us. It is bigger. It is bigger than the President. It is about the country we love and whether we are going to allow one person to destroy the concept of no one being above the law.

It is bigger than we are, and the truth is it has now become an issue that is about Congress. This issue is now about Congress. It is about whether the Congress of the United States of America is going to fulfill its responsibility. It is about whether the Congress of the United States of America will see and say—see that the President is obstructing and say that the President is obstructing.

I marvel at the number of Members of Congress who have said that the President is obstructing justice, who have said that the President has com-

mitted impeachable offenses, impeachable acts, but notwithstanding having said it will not say that the President ought to be impeached. There are some who say that he should be impeached as a matter of fact and still won't move to impeach him.

The President is not above the law. We are the law, the Members of Congress, 435 of us. We have been given an awesome responsibility. It is awesome. I don't take it lightly. It is not something that I think everybody should have the responsibility accorded to them because there are a good many people who don't believe that you should prosecute a President. They think that if the President commits a crime, well, that is the President. I am not one of them.

They think that you have to commit a crime, by the way, before you can be impeached, a good many people. I am not one of them. The President doesn't have to commit a crime to be impeached. It is the harm that he causes society that the Framers of the Constitution addressed in Federalist 65, the words of Madison, Jay, and Hamilton.

The President is not above the law. We in this body are now the issue. The issue is: Will Congress do what the Constitution has given us as the means by which we can deal with a chief executive officer who is breaking the law, who sees himself, apparently by virtue of his behavior, as being above the law?

This is what Congress has to look into. This is what Congress has to bring before the bar of justice, this whole notion that the President is not above the law.

So let's just take a moment now and talk about the process of impeachment because a good many people don't understand. Impeachment does not mean that a President is removed from office. Impeachment is sort of like an indictment. It is not the same but very much similar to an indictment. The Members of the House of Representatives serve as a body very similar to a grand jury. It is not the same, but it is similar to a grand jury. The Members of the House of Representatives determine whether or not a President should be impeached. They do so with a vote, a majority of the House voting to impeach, and the President is impeached.

The President doesn't have to commit a crime to be impeached. Andrew Johnson was impeached in 1868. Article 10 of the articles of impeachment against him for a high misdemeanor that was not a crime—a misdemeanor is a misdeed, aside from being a minor criminal offense it is also a misdeed. He was impeached for this misdeed, and we here in this body can impeach any President for misdeeds.

So if the body impeaches, it doesn't mean that the President is removed from office. It simply means that the President must now go to trial in the Senate. There is no requirement in the Constitution for the House to have to investigate the Mueller Report. The

Mueller Report has been shared with us. There is enough evidence in that report to impeach the President. The Mueller Report has evidence shared by virtue of talking to witnesses who gave their testimony under the penalty of perjury. We can use that as the reason—that report—to send this to the Senate where a trial will take place.

Remember, impeachment is sort of like an indictment—not the same but similar. It goes to the Senate. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court would preside over that trial—the Chief Justice.

In so doing, the House will have persons called managers. These managers would act as prosecutors. They would bring evidence before the Senate for the Senate to act upon. The Senate acts upon the evidence. The Chief Justice is there to make sure certain rules are followed. For example, if the House prosecutors, the managers, if they would like to call a witness, the Chief Justice will then be there to assist the process to get that witness before the Senate.

There is a trial. Witnesses are called. Subpoenas can be issued, and you don't have to meander through some lower courts, inferior courts, because all courts, when it comes to the impeachment of the President, are inferior to the Senate when it sits in trial of the President.

□ 1830

They are all inferior, all of the courts.

So you have the Chief Justice there to make his ruling. All of this is done before the public. There will be a trial. All of these subpoenas that are not being honored, all of the witnesses that are refusing to testify, take them before the Senate. Call them; have them sworn; have them give their testimony; and let the world hear and see.

There is a desire to have a trial before the trial in the House, to have a trial in the sense that witnesses come and appear and are a part of an investigation. That is not, in fact, the kind of trial that you think of when you think of the word "trial," but in a sense, we are having the witnesses come in and give their testimony. There is a desire to do this.

To be very honest with you, I am not antithetical to the idea, but I do understand that, if the witnesses are not coming, if the subpoenas are not being honored, then the option left to us is to impeach and have that trial in the Senate, where they will have to come. Subpoenas will have to be honored. That is the means by which we maintain the system of checks and balances when the President refuses to perform as expected under the Constitution—as a matter of fact, as required under the Constitution.

So, given that the President is not following the norms and not following the law and eventually we could take this through the inferior courts—they are inferior to the Senate when it sits

in trial of the President, because that is the ultimate court related to issues related to the President.

These things can meander through the inferior courts. They are not inferior in the sense that they are less than efficient and effective at what they do; they are just inferior to this impeachment trial when the President has been impeached, the trial to determine whether or not he should be removed from office. Impeachment doesn't remove the President from office.

But these subpoenas and all of these issues can go through these courts. No one knows how long it will take, but everybody prognosticates, people who know and who are supposed to know, that it can take months. It can take months, which means that we will, at some point, engage in paralysis analysis.

Dr. King called it the paralysis of analysis, but analysis paralysis, meaning this: We will have done all that we can in these courts to try to bring the President to justice, get the witnesses necessary to bring the President to justice because he has committed these impeachable acts, and at some point, you will get so close to an election that someone will say: Well, let's not do this. Let's just wait until the next election.

We will have been paralyzed going through the courts such that we won't get to the issues in time, and, as a matter of fact, it could be after the next election before some of the courts will rule. We just don't know. But those who prognosticate say that it will be months.

One would think that maybe there can be an expedited process, but the courts will determine whether this will be the case.

So, when you have all of this and you are confronting all of these things, you have to ask yourself: Will the House of Representatives do its job?

And for those who are saying, well, you have to have bipartisan support, I would love to see bipartisan support, but there is no requirement for it in the Constitution.

As a matter of fact, Jay, Hamilton, Madison, they prognosticated that you would not have unanimity. You won't have the bipartisanship that you are looking for. They said it would be a time of strife. They indicated that people would separate along party lines.

Read Federalist 65, not a long read. Read it. You will see. They prognosticated that there would be divisions. So to say you have got to have the Republican Party on board before the Democratic Party can do its job is incorrect—not required.

And, by the way, history is not going to be kind. It is not going to be kind. History is not going to be kind to us. History is going to cause a lot of reputations to be soiled. Those who look through the vista of time are not going to side with us the way we have friendships and relationships siding with us now.

History is not going to be kind to Democrats or Republicans. History is going to present us as people who saw an injustice in the highest office of the land and refused to do our jobs.

It won't be kind to us. Reputations are going to be tarnished. People who will be saluted and proclaimed heroes today who were just waiting to do the right thing at the right time, history is not going to be kind to them. There are too many things on record that they have already said. And there are too many people who will go back through these records, videos of what they have said.

They can walk it back now, and they can have friendships now that will be of assistance to them, but history is not going to be kind to them.

But there is a means by which we can bring ourselves back in proper alignment with the Constitution. It is called impeachment. This is what we can do, and it is never too late to get on the right side of history.

There are many people in this House who are on the wrong side of history, wrong side of history. The right side of politics, as they see it. I would rather be on the right side of history and the wrong side of politics.

So these persons who are now on the wrong side of history, my hope is that they will do as I see many of my colleagues doing now, and they are coming forward and they are acknowledging that enough is enough. Impeachment is a solution that has to be pursued.

The question no longer is who is going to be the first to engage in this notion that we have to bring the President before the bar of justice in the House of Representatives. This is not the question.

The question now is who will be the last person to say we must do it, because there seems to be a momentum building. There seems to be a momentum building that is going to cause some people who would have made history to be made by history.

History can make people, and people can make history. There are some people who are going to be proclaimed by our contemporaries now as having made history, but the truth is that history will make them. History will make them do what they should do and should have done.

They are going to have to face history. Maybe not right away, but, I assure you, time always tells. The truth is known, and history always judges.

We are going to be judged, my friends. We all are. We are going to be judged. So why don't we just get on the right side of history now and salvage some of the reputation that we have?

They don't have to lose their entire reputation. They don't have to become adamant about this. They have made their point. Let it go. Get on the right side of history. We know where this is going. It is just a matter of time.

There will be additional votes on impeachment right here on this floor of

the House of Representatives. Be on the right side of history for our children, for our grandchildren, for our great-grandchildren, for unborn generations. Get on the right side of history.

Yes, history will have made them, but they will have made the right decision.

History makes people; people make history. Either way, be on the right side of history. Don't find yourself on the wrong side of history when you hold yourself out to be a person who adheres to moral authority, the moral imperative to do the right thing. Be on the right side of history.

I have heard people say that the soul of the country is at risk. I concur. But I also say this: Before the soul of the country goes, the soul of the House of Representatives will have gone, the soul of the House of Representatives, the very soul that we have in our hands, that has the moral authority, the moral imperative, to go forward and not allow political expediency to jeopardize our duty to do that which the Constitution affords us the opportunity to do if we have but only the will to do it.

This House is now on trial. The House of Representatives is on trial in the court of public opinion. Some would say: Well, the court is not unanimously opposed. Some 40-plus percent of persons say that impeachment is appropriate.

The public is here today and there tomorrow. The public has no duty to stay in one place all the time. We are looking at a snapshot in time, and the public opinion will change. It does.

When Nixon was first brought before the attention of the Senate, as they were investigating, public opinion was not such that it would call for his impeachment then. Public opinion changes.

I have a great example—unrelated to impeachment, but a great example.

I remember when we had to vote on what has been called the "bailout." I remember the calls to my office. People knew that we were about to, as they saw it, bail out the banks, and the calls were very strong.

People called in in large numbers, saying: Don't you vote to bail out those banks. Don't you do it. If you do it—there was at least one caller, probably more, who said—we will run you out of town.

Well, I remember standing in the back of the Chamber, and as I stood there, after having cast my vote against the bailout, I saw the votes go up and the stock market go down.

And having done what I thought was the appropriate thing pursuant to the requests of my constituents, I could not wait to hear what the response would be the next day.

The response the next day was: What is wrong with you? Don't you see what you have done to my 401(k)? What is wrong with you? We are going to run you out of town.

I learned a lesson about public opinion. Public opinion can be in one place today and in an entirely different place tomorrow.

We should do what we believe is the right thing based upon what our conscience dictates. That is what I do.

I assure you, this is a question of conscience for me, and I am going to follow my conscience, and I will have done the right thing.

Dr. King said there are times when you have to do that which is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular. You do it because it is right.

I am going to do the right thing because conscience dictates that this is the right thing to do.

Madam Speaker, 34 days the President, the administration, is above the law—34 days.

But there is one other thing. There are some things that are indelible, some things that you can't get out of your mind, some things that you just can't reconcile within yourself.

This baby—and we have all seen this picture, or a good many of us have—crying, being separated from a parent—babies—at the border. I don't know the people. I know that they are part of the same race that I am a part of, the human race. I know that I have a kinship and a relationship with them.

For our executive office to promulgate a policy, produce a policy that separates babies from their parents and not have a means by which they can be reunited is sinful.

Babies separated from their parents and no means of reuniting them in place at the time you make this separation?

□ 1845

This is indelible in my mind. There are many other things to think about, but this I think about a lot, how we have treated people who are coming to this country who mean us no harm but who are trying to escape harm's way. I cannot divorce myself from it.

I don't know them. I just know that they are human beings.

I know that there is a crisis at the border. I think we have to deal with it. I want to deal with the border crisis. But I don't think separating children from their parents, as we have done it, is a part of the solution.

I think that persons who would do this are victims. Those Border Patrol officers are victims themselves for what they have to do. Many of them, they don't want to do some of the things that they are being forced to do. They, too, are victims.

But it started at the top. It started at the top with a belief that somehow this would deter people from coming, people who are fleeing harm's way.

I only say to people as it relates to me. I say to myself, but for the grace of God, I could be one of these people. I was just fortunate enough to be born in this country, in a country where there are great opportunities. But for the grace of God, it could be me.

Why would I treat someone with this level of indignity? But for the grace of God, it could be me.

I refuse to let this go. I believe that this, too, is a part of the overall rationale for impeachment.

Madam Speaker, this is our watch. This is the watch that has been afforded us. To every woman and man, a watch is given, and this is our watch.

We can do as best we can to reconcile in our minds that this is okay, that it is all right. But in our hearts, we can't reconcile it. The mind can reconcile it, but the heart cannot.

My heart won't let this be reconciled. In my mind, it is indelible.

I say that, on my watch, I want the RECORD to show that I took a stand. Even when I had to stand alone, I took a stand. It is better to stand alone than not stand at all.

But there are others who are standing, and I believe there will be many more, one of whom happens to be on the opposite side of the aisle. I thank him for having courage.

I know what is going to happen. He is going to be ridiculed, but don't let that become the final word. When the pages of history are properly written, he will be vindicated. He will be vindicated. I assure him, my dear brother, he will be vindicated.

I don't know him. I have never encouraged him to do anything. Nobody can say that he and I have any kind of friendship, really, other than I believe that all of us have collegiality and that we ought to be friendly with each other.

But he is going to be vindicated. Stay strong. People are going to say ugly things. He may even get threats. But stay strong, because he is on the right side of history.

More importantly, he is on the right side of righteousness. The right side of righteousness, what a great place to be.

Don't let the head convince you that the heart is wrong. The heart speaks to the soul, to your very being. The head speaks to those who would listen to you. Let your heart speak to you.

Madam Speaker, I pray that we, in this House, will do that which the Constitution and the Framers of the Constitution have given us the opportunity to do in a time such as this with a President such as Trump.

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

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

ADDRESSING THE IMMIGRATION CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address what I think is

the most pressing issue in America right now. But prior to addressing it, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

CONGRATULATING SAMARITAN'S PURSE ON NEW MINISTRY CENTER IN NORTH WILKESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization headquartered in Boone, North Carolina, on its expansion in North Wilkesboro.

This inspiring organization has been providing spiritual and physical aid to impoverished victims of war, disease, famine, and natural disaster since 1970.

The new North Wilkesboro Ministry Center will serve as a lifeline to remote missions in developing countries. It will house inventory from World Medical Mission, including lifesaving medical supplies and an emergency field hospital.

This expansion and the wide-reaching vision of Samaritan's Purse would not be possible without the hardworking and dedicated staff behind it. These great humanitarians are an honor to represent, and I know that they are wonderful ambassadors of North Carolina's Fifth District around the world.

CONGRATULATING NORTH WILKES AND WEST WILKES MIDDLE SCHOOLS ON LIGHTHOUSE CERTIFICATION

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize North Wilkes Middle School and West Wilkes Middle School in North Carolina's Fifth District on their recent achievement of Lighthouse certification for implementing the Leader in Me program. Lighthouse certification is the highest recognition awarded by the FranklinCovey institute, and these are the first schools to receive this distinction in our State.

I commend the schools' administration, staff, and students for embracing new paradigms of leadership and undertaking the comprehensive school improvement model put forth by the Leadership in Me program. The program aims to provide a holistic education that encompasses leadership, a culture of student empowerment, and academic achievement.

Congratulations to North Wilkes Middle School and West Wilkes Middle School for their demonstrated success. The high-achieving students are evidence of how effectively local leaders in Wilkes County foster positive results with innovation in education.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, prior to addressing the immigration crisis, which is the biggest problem, I think, facing America today, after hearing a rather lengthy speech before mine, I was analyzing the well here and noticing the flag of the United States of America behind me. As I am looking at that flag, I couldn't help but think about the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance begins: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands."

I pondered why that Pledge of Allegiance refers to this country as a republic instead of a democracy of which it stands. I think it would be a good thing for the other Congressmen up here to think about that as well.

There have been several versions of the Pledge of Allegiance. In each one of the versions, while there are changes made, it refers to our country as a republic instead of a democracy. We should wonder why that is, and I think every Congressman should read up on the difference.

Now, the reason I am here today is to discuss what I think is the biggest problem in the United States of America, the one thing we have to deal with in the immediate future and something that I believe does not grab the attention of Congress the way it should, and that is the immigration crisis.

One more time, another month will go by, and another 100,000 people will enter this country not at the designated points of entry. We believe another 10,000 people will enter at the points of entry and claim asylum, whether they actually need asylum or not.

No country can afford to have over 100,000 people pour into that country month after month after month without being appropriately vetted, stepping in line ahead of the people who are doing what is appropriate to become a citizen of the United States or appropriate to get a work visa in the United States.

Ultimately, this will destroy our country, and it is something that this Congress should be dealing with immediately.

I think it is a little embarrassing, hearing all the other speeches up here and no speeches about the immigration crisis.

I want to point out, neither I nor President Trump wants to reduce the 700,000 people who are sworn in as citizens in this country every year, neither do we want to deal with the 4 million work permits that people in this country already have. Neither are they overly concerned that we, right now, have the highest number of foreign-born people in this country as a percentage of our total population since World War I.

Now, what are we going to do about this crisis? Because, obviously, be it culturally, be it fiscally, we cannot allow this to go on any further.

The first thing I think President Trump should do is end birthright citizenship. To say that if you come here, and particularly given that we allow entire families to stay once somebody is a citizen, to continue to allow the situation to happen in which, if you come here, whether you come in not at a designated point of entry, whether you come here flying in on a jet plane, in the United States of America, a newly born child becomes a citizen.

We and Canada are the only two countries of the 40 wealthiest countries in the world per capita that allow this birthright citizenship to continue.

I know President Trump understands this problem very well. He understands very well, as some Members of Congress do not, that the amendment to the Constitution that talks about people being born in this country becoming citizens was meant to deal with slavery, not meant to deal with anybody who comes here.

I strongly urge President Trump to step up and do something that he talked about doing during his campaign, and that is ending birthright citizenship.

In addition to the fact that it is wrong on its face, as long as you have birthright citizenship, it encourages people to come here, even illegally, knowing that if they have a child here, it will create a situation in which there is a good chance the rest of the family will follow.

The next thing I think we can do is put immigration judges on the border. Right now, people are showing up, and they are asking for asylum. They are given a court date 5 years down the line.

Well, who knows whether they will be around in 5 years. They probably will not show up for the court date at that time.

I strongly encourage President Trump to put judges on the border so we can immediately judge whether these people are entitled to asylum or not.

The next thing, along the same lines, I strongly encourage the Border Patrol to be trained to judge credible fear. Again, we believe that there are people coming from other countries who claim they have a credible fear who do not meet that standard as far as coming to the United States. We know that people are being coached as to what to say to come into this country. By training our Border Patrol to deal with these issues, we will not have so many people coming into the country illegally.

The next thing I strongly think that President Trump should do is he should have ICE round up the million people who already have orders to be deported. This should be a relatively simple matter. By deporting some people, it sends the message to people in other countries that the United States will take our immigration laws seriously.

Today, to a certain extent, because far too many politicians are encouraging things like sanctuary cities, getting rid of ICE, talking about giving public benefits to people who are here illegally, it is not surprising that people in other countries are getting the message that the United States does not treat its immigration laws seriously.

The next thing I think we ought to do is I hope President Trump expedites the rule in the Department of Homeland Security dealing with allowing for removal of people who are taking advantage of public assistance.

□ 1900

Obviously, the United States cannot become the welfare magnet for the en-

tire Western Hemisphere. Everybody knows that, while it is frequently illegal, many people who are here illegally are taking advantage of public assistance, and we should expedite the legal ability to remove these people.

I would like to take a pause here to congratulate Secretary Ben Carson for removing illegals from public housing.

I will point out something a lot of people don't know. Frequently, under Section 8 or, even more, under section 42, the housing assistance they get from the government gives people housing that is superior to what many of the working people get. It is even more ridiculous when people who are here illegally get housing superior to what many of the native-born people in this country who rent are receiving.

So I would like to thank Secretary Carson for having the ability to step up and begin to take a stand on the idea that, if you come here illegally, you should get free or reduced housing.

The next thing I would like to see this House take up is sanctuary cities. I have introduced H.R. 516, which takes away grants from State and local units of government that become sanctuary cities.

There are a variety of problems with sanctuary cities. First of all, it encourages people to go to those cities to get some sort of welfare benefit.

Secondly, whenever a mayor or a Governor wants to declare their city or State a sanctuary city, it sends the message that the United States is not going to enforce its immigration laws. As long as that message is out here, people will continue to flow into our country, and it will eventually be the end of the United States.

The next thing I want this body to do is pass H.R. 848, another bill of mine. The purpose of that bill is to increase the verification for compliance on any welfare benefits which people who are not in this country could be receiving. We are also saying that anybody who is not a citizen of this country should not receive any public assistance, which should be common sense.

If you are coming here for an opportunity and you are not able to find a job, even if you are coming here legally, the answer is not to have the American taxpayer who is already \$23 trillion in debt pick up the tab. The answer is, if you cannot find opportunity in this country, return to your country of origin.

I hope this body, which is spending so much time dealing with less important issues, takes up this bill in the near future.

Finally, I ask President Trump to continue to work towards the wall. I ask this Congress, as we move appropriation bills out, to make sure that wall is funded.

I have been down on the border. I did not find any Border Patrol agents who were embarrassed to do their job or didn't want to do their job. The Border Patrol agents that I talked to on the Arizona-Mexico border felt we desperately needed a wall. They realize

that walls work in other countries, and they realize that in the long- or even in the short-term, walls would save us a lot of money.

Right now, different estimates vary between \$50 billion, \$100 billion a year is lost because of illegal immigration. Given the cost of a wall would be under \$10 billion, it would be a big cost savings. And for a country that is \$23 trillion in debt, we need big cost savings.

In any event, those are suggestions of some of the things we can do to deal with this crisis.

Think about it: 100,000 people coming here every month, people unvetted, people who may wind up on welfare, people who may wind up having a criminal record, and all coming here skipping ahead in line of those people who have sometimes waited 5 or 10 years to come here legally, which is incredibly unfair to them.

In any event, I hope Congress begins to act on these measures. I encourage President Trump to make border enforcement his number one priority over the next couple months, because we can see it. It is very difficult to remove any of these people once they come to this country.

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

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the historic vote taken exactly 100 years ago when this body passed the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote.

The most powerful tool we have is to share our voice, cast our ballot, and exercise our right to vote. This momentous vote finally allowed women to use that tool and forever have a voice in the future of our beloved Nation.

Adolphine Fletcher Terry, a civic-minded woman from a prominent Little Rock family in the late 1800s and early 20th century, served her State and her country tirelessly to promote the education of women and women's rights. Terry marched for voting rights for women during the ratification process in 1920, saying: "To me, the vote represents more than just saying how a person feels about an issue or a candidate. It represents human dignity and the fact that a citizen can express his or her opinion on any subject without fear of reprisal. That, I think, is what real human dignity consists of."

In advance of the final State's ratification vote in Tennessee, both suffragists and antisuffragists began wearing roses to identify their respective sides. Those favoring women's voting rights wore yellow roses; those against wore red roses. I proudly, today, have worn a yellow rose on my lapel throughout to-

day's activities to show my support of women's right to vote.

What a thrill it is and a proud thing to say, thank you, Madam Speaker, for your service.

FENTANYL SANCTIONS

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, across Arkansas, heartbroken families have told me of their stories about the opioid crisis and how it has claimed the lives of their loved ones. We can't allow more families to be destroyed by this truly national nightmare that is killing more than 130 Americans every day.

Furthermore, the Centers for Disease Control reported that fentanyl is now considered the number one U.S. opioid killer in 2018. Targeting the source of the world's largest producers and distributors of fentanyl will begin to stop the flow of these drugs coming across our borders and onto our streets.

Madam Speaker, in just one Sweet N Low packet, about a gram, an equal amount of this as fentanyl has the power to kill 500 of our citizens. That is why I am pleased to support the bipartisan legislation that I recently helped introduce, H.R. 2483, the Fentanyl Sanctions Act. This takes the necessary steps to target the bad actors responsible for illegally trafficking fentanyl into the United States.

I applaud my colleagues MAX ROSE of New York, ANTHONY BRINDISI of New York, and BRIAN FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania for their support in introducing H.R. 2483.

This legislation is the first ever fentanyl sanctions effort by the House of Representatives. It will apply pressure on the Chinese Government to honor their commitment to make all fentanyl illegal in China. This bill will also provide the United States with more tools and resources to go after illicit traffickers in China, Mexico, and other countries.

H.R. 2483 has support from both parties and both Chambers, and we need to act now in order to get this done. We cannot wait any longer.

ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY BANKS OF AMERICA 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the 60th anniversary of the Association of Military Banks of America.

Just as they did back in 1959, military banks today consider themselves privileged to provide financial services, support, and education to the military and veteran communities across this country.

I am particularly proud that First Arkansas Bank and Trust, which serves our airmen and -women at Little Rock Air Force Base, is one of these military banks.

On base, financial institutions have proven to be the single best sources of financial education and support available to our troops. They ease financial burdens and stress faced by our troops and their families so that they can focus on their mission of protecting our great Nation.

Congratulations on 60 years of serving the financial needs of our Nation's heroes.

COURT SECURITY OFFICER OF THE YEAR, JIMMY HOWINGTON

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a security officer who continues to have an indelible impact on my State of Arkansas, Mr. Jimmy Howington, who this year was the Court Security Officer of the Year.

Jimmy is one of 33 court security officers in Arkansas and serves under the jurisdiction of the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

He was chosen for the award from roughly 600 court security officers working in 30 courthouses in the seven States within the Eighth Circuit's jurisdiction.

Jimmy was recommended for this honor for noticing and investigating two suspicious situations on courthouse property during a period of several bomb threats at Little Rock's Richard Sheppard Arnold U.S. Courthouse, where he has worked since 2016.

A former state trooper and sergeant major in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, Jimmy's life of service makes him well deserving of this award.

I would like to extend a hand of gratitude and congratulations to him for his selfless service to Arkansas and our Nation.

BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL ROWLETT

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and to congratulate Brigadier General Paul Rowlett, who recently was promoted to brigadier general of the Arkansas Air National Guard.

Rowlett is a native of Salem, Arkansas, and as a brigadier general will serve as the chief of staff for the Arkansas Air National Guard.

He joined the military in 1988 and is currently an intelligence officer with the National Guard and works with remote-piloted aircraft. His duties include strategic planning on current and future missions.

Rowlett has been assigned to Active-Duty positions throughout his career, including locations such as Guantanamo Bay, and recently he has been assigned to Little Rock Air Force Base for the majority of the time since 2001. He has become one of only three general officers in Arkansas.

My congratulations and best wishes for Brigadier General Rowlett and his bright future defending our beloved Nation.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eric Johnson of the Central Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge Complex for being named the National Wildlife Refuge System Employee of the Year by the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

Eric is an administrative forester that is in charge of restoring and managing some 90,000 acres of forested habitat for waterfowl and migratory birds in the lower Mississippi Valley.

While protecting this extensive acreage, he developed the Nation's first Spatial Habitat Management Plan. This plan will serve as a new national standard for refuge systems and protect all of Arkansas' five refuges, including Bald Knob's Wildlife Refuge in my district.

His service to the State of Arkansas and to wildlife conservation will not be forgotten, and I join all Arkansans in congratulating Eric on this recognition and wish him much continued success.

U.S. POLICY IN SYRIA

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the daily atrocities in Syria.

Few would have predicted that 8 years ago peaceful protests would turn into violent conflict that has left more than half a million men, women, and children dead, millions more displaced, and the entire region feeling like a lit fuse ready to explode into further conflict.

Shortly after coming to Congress, I met Mouaz Moustafa, a young Syrian American from Arkansas who has been leading a Syrian pro-democracy group here in Washington called the Syrian Emergency Task Force.

After meeting Mouaz, I studied his efforts and learned more and more about the horrific events happening in Syria over the past few years.

□ 1915

Mouaz led me through the Caesar file photos in a special exhibit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Earlier this year, he introduced me to Omar Alshogre, who was arrested as a teenager and survived the torture, starvation, and other brutalities in Assad's prisons for more than 3 years. Seeing those photos and hearing Omar's personal testimony were powerful experiences.

I believe what is happening in Syria today is a modern-day holocaust, and our obligation to end Assad's reign of terror is something that all Americans must confront.

I am grateful for The New York Times and its recent extensive front-page story, in last Sunday's newspaper, going inside Assad's torture prisons.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a link to this article: www.nytimes.com/2019/05/11/world/middleeast/syria-torture-prisons.html

Madam Speaker, it is the experiences shared by former prisoners like Omar that remind us of the likes of Hitler, Mao, and Stalin. Bashar al-Assad can add his name to this list of barbarous

thugs who rule with evil, torture, and mass murder.

We have known about these atrocities for years but have only expressed outrage while we twiddled our thumbs as these modern-day Hitlers annihilate the civilian population in Syria.

I commend Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL for passing S. 1, the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act.

Last week, many of us, including myself, signed the discharge petition for the companion legislation to S. 1 here in the House, H.R. 336 sponsored by MIKE MCCAUL from Texas. This legislation includes the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, which has critical provisions to hold Assad accountable for his atrocities.

As Speaker PELOSI well knows, this House, under Republican leadership, has passed the Caesar bill three times over the last three Congresses, only to have it bogged down in the Senate.

Now Leader MCCONNELL has acted, and we, in the House, must now act with expedition and pass H.R. 336 to end this step back into darkness, to stop the torture and the murder of thousands, and to move to convict Assad and his henchmen for war crimes.

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

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISION TO THE AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS, AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2019.

MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (CBA) and H. Res. 293 (116th Congress), I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record a revision to the aggregates and allocations set forth in the Statement of Aggregates, Allocations, and Other Budgetary Levels for Fiscal Year 2020 published in the Congressional Record on May 3, 2019, as adjusted.

This adjustment responds to House consideration of H.R. 1500, as amended, the Consumers First Act. This adjustment is allowable under section 1(d)(2) of H. Res. 293, as H.R. 1500, as amended, would not increase the deficit for either of the following time periods: fiscal years 2020–2024 or fiscal years 2020–2029. It shall apply while that legislation is under consideration and take effect upon the enactment of that legislation.

Accordingly, I am revising the aggregate spending level for fiscal year 2020 and the aggregate revenue level for 2020 and 2020–2029 and the allocation for the House Committee on Financial Services for fiscal year 2020. For purposes of enforcing titles III and IV of the CBA and other budgetary enforcement provisions, the revised aggregates and allocation are to be considered as aggregates and allocations included in the budget resolu-

tion, pursuant to the Statement published in the Congressional Record on May 3, 2019, as adjusted.

Questions may be directed to Jennifer Wheelock or Raquel Spencer of the Budget Committee staff.

JOHN YARMUTH.

TABLE 1—REVISION TO ON-BUDGET AGGREGATES
(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	2020	2020–2029
Current Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,712,348	n.a.
Outlays	3,677,940	n.a.
Revenues	2,740,533	34,847,515
Revision for the Consumers First Act (H.R. 1500):		
Budget Authority	2	n.a.
Outlays	1	n.a.
Revenues	27	19
Revised Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,712,350	n.a.
Outlays	3,677,941	n.a.
Revenues	2,740,560	34,847,534

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations for fiscal years 2021 through 2029 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

TABLE 2—REVISED ALLOCATION OF SPENDING AUTHORITY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
(In millions of dollars)

	2020	2020–2029
Current Allocation:		
BA	8,900	101,712
OT	1,250	1,428
Revision for H.R. 1500:		
BA	2	20
OT	1	19
Revised Allocation:		
BA	8,902	101,732
OT	1,251	1,447

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 163. An act to prevent catastrophic failure or shutdown of remote diesel power engines due to emission control devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on May 20, 2019, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2379. To reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of 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, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 1947

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2019–2024	2019–2029
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	3	1	-2	-3	-3	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-4	-11

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1060. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Hydroelectric Licensing Regulations Under the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 [Docket No.: RM19-6-000; Order No. 858] received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1061. A letter from the Director, Office of Financial Management, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the Statement of Disbursements for the United States Capitol Police for the period of October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1910(a); Public Law 109-55, Sec. 1005; (119 Stat. 575) (H. Doc. No. 116—37); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

1062. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Pacific Whiting; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Amendment 21-3; Trawl Rationalization Program [Docket No.: 170627602-7999-02] (RIN: 0648-BG98) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1063. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Disapproval of Northeast Fishery Sector IX Operational Plan [Docket No.: 170104016-7999-03] (RIN: 0648-XF138) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1064. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Widow Rockfish Reallocation in the Individual Fishing Quota Fishery [Docket No.: 150902809-7999-02] (RIN: 0648-BF12) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1065. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revisions to Framework Adjustment 56 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan [Docket No.: 170919911-7911-01] (RIN: 0648-XF710) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1066. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Black Sea Bass Fishery; Revised 2017 and Projected 2018 Specifications [Docket No.: 170316276-7483-02] (RIN: 0648-XF300) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1067. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Monkfish; Framework Adjustment 10 [Docket Number: 170314267-7566-02] (RIN: 0648-BG48) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1068. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Amendment 17B [Docket No.: 170823802-7999-02] (RIN: 0648-BG82) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1069. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's stay of final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Individual Bluefin Quota Program; Inseason Transfers; Correction [Docket No.: 160527473-6999-02] (RIN: 0648-BG09) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1070. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Na-

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Groupers Fishery of the South Atlantic Region; Amendment 36 [Docket No.: 161020986-7352-02] (RIN: 0648-BG38) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1071. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's proposed rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Framework Amendment 4 [Docket No.: 161103999-7146-01] (RIN: 0648-BG43) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1072. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Amendment to Regulations Implementing the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan; Change to Pacific Mackerel Management Cycle From Annual to Biennial [Docket No.: 160614524-7624-02] (RIN: 0648-BF96) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1073. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Mid-Atlantic Unmanaged Forage Omnibus Amendment [Docket No.: 161025999-7662-02] (RIN: 0648-BG42) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1074. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Adjustments to 2017 Northern Albacore Tuna Quota, 2017 North and South Atlantic Swordfish Quotas, and 2017 Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Reserve Category Quota [Docket No.: 170602535-7835-01] (RIN: 0648-XF480) received May 20, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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. Supplemental report on H.R. 1947. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to exempt transfer of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs to nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act (Rept. 116-76, Pt. II).

CONSENSUS CALENDAR

Under clause 7 of rule XV, the following motion was filed with the Clerk: Motion No 2, May 21, 2019 by Mr. Courtney on H.R. 748

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. HUDSON (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BUCK, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 2856. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for the administrative costs of providing health benefits to individuals who are unauthorized immigrants; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 2857. A bill to grant a Federal charter to the National Academy of Inventors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCARTHY (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Ms. BASS, and Mr. STANTON):

H.R. 2858. A bill to support endemic fungal disease research, incentivize fungal vaccine development, discover new antifungal therapies and diagnostics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. AMASH, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. PERRY, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 2859. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to exempt from inspection the slaughter of animals and the preparation of carcasses conducted at a custom slaughter facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2860. A bill to direct the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission to establish a task force for the purpose of studying the effects of automated accounts on social media, public discourse, and elections; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 2861. A bill to improve transparency regarding the activities of the American Red Cross, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 2862. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national system for surveillance of vaccine rates, to authorize research on vaccine hesitancy, to increase public understanding of the benefits of immunizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. NORTON, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 2863. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to restrict the use of exotic and wild animals in traveling performances; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 2864. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the excise tax on gasoline, diesel, and kerosene fuels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARDENAS (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 2865. A bill to establish a grant program to incentivize States to reduce prison populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 2866. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into grants or other agreements to assist State and local governments with community infrastructure projects that support medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HIMES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MENG, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. DEAN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SIREN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CROW, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 2867. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 2868. A bill to incentivize States and localities to improve access to justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself and Ms. GABBARD):

H.R. 2869. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand and rename the Troops-to-Teachers Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 2870. A bill to repeal the debt ceiling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 2871. A bill to provide flexibility to allow greater aquifer recharge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 2872. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to revise regulations concerning the

recording and reporting of occupational injuries and illnesses under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H.R. 2873. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize the knowing consent of the visual depiction, or live transmission, of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CARDENAS, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CROW, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 2874. A bill to strengthen parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, 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. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2875. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional reporting on crime and harm that occurs during student participation in programs of study abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2876. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to make available to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention copies of consular reports of death of United States citizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. NEAL:

H.R. 2877. A bill to add Ireland to the E-3 nonimmigrant visa program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 2878. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow qualified distributions from health savings account for certain home care expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SANCHEZ (for herself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2879. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide further tax incentives for dependent care assistance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 2880. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide degree granting authority for the United States Army Armament Graduate School, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H.R. 2881. A bill to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems, infrastructure, and software, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and

Commerce, 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 Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2882. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to reduce costs for certain businesses required to relocate from a Superfund site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 2883. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow chiropractors to provide items and services through private contracts with Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2884. A bill to improve the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2885. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to promote and encourage collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher learning that provide administrative assistance to veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2886. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include a single comprehensive disability examination as part of the required Department of Defense physical examination for separating members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ZELDIN (for himself and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 2887. A bill to include nonprofit and volunteer ground and air ambulance crew members and first responders for certain benefits; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SPEIER, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. PORTER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. SCHRIER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ESPALLAT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. MENG, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms.

KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COX of California, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CROW, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. EVANS, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. GALLEGÓ, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. BASS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida):

H. Con. Res. 40. Concurrent resolution supporting reproductive health care in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H. Res. 391. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend and National Gun Violence Awareness Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CRAIG (for herself, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H. Res. 392. A resolution recognizing "National Public Works Week"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. WILD, Mr. ESPALLAT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BERA, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. MAST):

H. Res. 393. A resolution remembering the victims of the violent suppression of democracy protests in Tiananmen Square and elsewhere in China on June 3 and 4, 1989, and calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the universally recognized human rights of all people living in China and around the world; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

57. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Colorado, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 19-003, recognizing the bravery and sacrifice of the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo on the fifty-first anniversary of its capture; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs.

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. HUDSON:

H.R. 2856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 2857.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

"To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H.R. 2858.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 2859.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This act is justified by the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution which, by granting Congress the power to regulate commerce among the several states, also allows Congress to prevent or prohibit federal interference with Americans' ability to slaughter and process meat. This act is also justified by the Ninth and Tenth Amendments to the Constitution, which recognize that rights and powers are retained and reserved by the people and to the States.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2860.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 2861.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 2862.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2863.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 2864.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause 1

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 2865.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM:

H.R. 2866.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have the power to . . . provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States"

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers . . ."

By Ms. DELAULO:

H.R. 2867.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 1, Article 1

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 2868.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution and Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 2869.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 2870.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 2871.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 2872.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H.R. 2873.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 2874.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8—to provide for the general welfare and to regulate commerce among the states.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2875.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2876.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 2877.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 2878.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. 16th Amendment: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:

H.R. 2879.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 2880.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Ms. SPANBERGER:

H.R. 2881.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2882.

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; . . .

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 2883.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2884.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2885.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2886.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 2887.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 95: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 141: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 158: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 205: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 372: Mrs. LURIA and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 473: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 500: Mr. CURTIS.

H.R. 510: Mr. RATCLIFFE.

H.R. 515: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 517: Mr. WRIGHT.

H.R. 549: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 550: Mr. CROW, Ms. PORTER, Mr. GIBBS, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. TRONE, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. KIND, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 553: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 555: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. FINKENAUER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. PORTER, Mrs. CRAIG, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. BERA, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 586: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 621: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. HAGEDORN, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 647: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 649: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 651: Mr. SPANO.

H.R. 661: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 663: Ms. CHENEY.

H.R. 669: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 693: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. REED, and Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 724: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 730: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 748: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 779: Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 808: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 864: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 865: Mr. CRIST and Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 873: Mr. TAKANO, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 921: Mr. RYAN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 943: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 959: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 960: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 1002: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 1004: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1043: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. EMMER, and Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER.

H.R. 1044: Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. SPANO, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 1055: Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 1058: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. LAMB, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1075: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1086: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1133: Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 1139: Mrs. AXNE and Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 1154: Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 1156: Mr. RIGGLEMAN.

H.R. 1175: Mr. COHEN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio.

H.R. 1179: Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 1225: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. LURIA, and Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 1230: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 1236: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1297: Mr. SOTO, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1301: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1306: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1307: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1309: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 1325: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 1327: Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 1346: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 1375: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1379: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Mr. MAST.

H.R. 1380: Mr. PETERS and Mr. KIM.
H.R. 1423: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 1432: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1452: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 1474: Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 1507: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 1530: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. MURPHY, and Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 1550: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 1554: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GOLDEN, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1588: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 1595: Ms. UNDERWOOD and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 1605: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. DUNN.
H.R. 1607: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 1610: Mr. WOODALL and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 1629: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1643: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 1646: Ms. TITUS, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1665: Ms. TITUS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.

H.R. 1679: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1680: Mr. STAUBER, Mr. RYAN, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 1682: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1732: Mr. WRIGHT.
H.R. 1748: Mr. BACON, Mr. CRIST, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1753: Mr. FULCHER.
H.R. 1766: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 1767: Ms. TITUS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 1773: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1802: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 1837: Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1845: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 1850: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 1869: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 1890: Mr. SPANO.
H.R. 1933: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 1941: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1944: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 1948: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BACON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. KIM, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mrs. MURPHY, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 1961: Mr. PETERS and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 1980: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 1982: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. DEAN.

H.R. 2013: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 2015: Mr. BOST, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 2023: Mr. FLORES, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 2053: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2062: Mr. STAUBER, Ms. WILD, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. KIM.

H.R. 2086: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 2088: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2089: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mr. GALLEGGO.

H.R. 2091: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 2096: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 2112: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 2117: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 2137: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 2142: Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 2146: Mr. TRONE and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2149: Mr. RIGGLEMAN and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2150: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 2151: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. KING of New York, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2153: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2156: Ms. DEAN.

H.R. 2164: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 2178: Mr. KIM, Ms. MENG, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 2204: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H.R. 2207: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 2208: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 2209: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 2218: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 2249: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 2258: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 2261: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 2271: Mr. HASTINGS and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 2283: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 2294: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 2315: Mrs. LURIA.
H.R. 2336: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2344: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2347: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 2348: Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. STEUBE, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2353: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2354: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 2355: Mr. BANKS.
H.R. 2382: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 2397: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. CRIST, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LAMB, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 2402: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 2406: Mr. SPANO.
H.R. 2419: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2420: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 2435: Mr. KIND and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2441: Mr. GALLAGHER and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 2443: Mr. BYRNE.

H.R. 2466: Mrs. AXNE, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. WATKINS, and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 2474: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 2481: Ms. STEVENS, Ms. PORTER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. KIM, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. MENG, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. REED, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 2483: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. ROUDA, and Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 2498: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 2505: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 2506: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 2517: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 2542: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 2568: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 2581: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 2594: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 2597: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2615: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 2635: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2637: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 2648: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 2689: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 2706: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. WRIGHT.

H.R. 2720: Ms. HAALAND and Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 2729: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 2744: Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 2747: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2748: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 2754: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 2759: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2772: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 2775: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. COX of California, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SIRES, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 2776: Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 2778: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 2803: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2808: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 2809: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 2829: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. OMAR, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.J. Res. 2: Mr. LYNCH.

H.J. Res. 48: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.J. Res. 53: Mr. ROUZER.

H. Con. Res. 27: Mrs. MURPHY.

H. Res. 60: Mr. REED, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H. Res. 91: Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio.

H. Res. 114: Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 129: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 134: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 152: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H. Res. 165: Ms. ESHOO.

H. Res. 174: Mr. COURTNEY.

H. Res. 189: Mr. LONG.

H. Res. 219: Mr. TAKANO.

H. Res. 246: Mr. PENCE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. ROY, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Res. 255: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. AMODEI.

H. Res. 277: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 285: Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. RYAN.

H. Res. 321: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H. Res. 326: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KIND, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. DELGADO.

H. Res. 345: Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. BASS, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MENG, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. OMAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. COLE.

H. Res. 354: Mr. HECK, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. COOPER, Mr. REED, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H. Res. 360: Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. VEASEY, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H. Res. 372: Mr. TURNER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. CISNEROS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

20. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City Council of Prince George's County,

May 21, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H4067

MD, relative to Council Resolution-13-2019, the federally proposed roll back of federal which was referred to the Committee on expressing the Council's strong opposition to protections under the Clean Water Act; Transportation and Infrastructure.