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No. 25

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 6, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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 7, 2020, 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, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING SURVIVORS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the survivors of gun violence.

Last month, I had the opportunity to meet with Jules Oringel of Charlotte when she led the Pledge of Allegiance at my State of the District address. She is a local high school senior, and her story is a story that no young woman should ever have to tell.

She was at home in her room, on her phone, like any teenager, and then she gets a message from one of her best friends. She says there is an active shooter in her school and she doesn't know what is going on. She tells everyone in the group chat she loves us.

The best friend is at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Eventually, Jules learns that one of the people she had attended camp with lost her life in the shooting.

Jules says, for the next few weeks, she was riddled with anxiety at school, at other public spaces; she couldn't sleep, and she did not know how her friends would heal.

That is something no young woman should ever go through.

That is not okay with me.

In the aftermath, Jules stepped up to start the nonprofit Return Home Supplies, because every student and every teacher deserves to return home.

It is hard for me to believe that we have reached a point in our country where people have legitimate concerns about making it home at the end of the day. As a 40-year educator, I cannot imagine how students balance those concerns with every other challenge that they face.

And that is not okay with me.

Last year, the city of Charlotte saw the worst violence that we have seen in decades. Tragically, we concluded 2019 with 107 murders, the highest in decades. Our community lost a disproportionate number of African American men whose lives matter, too. The towns of the 12th Congressional District lost people to gun violence as well.

And that is not okay with me.

107 murders, total—the vast majority involving guns. Charlotte families lost siblings and parents and loved ones and community members, congregants, students, and children to gun violence. Our community has been torn apart.

That is not okay with me.

Our very own UNC Charlotte, our 49ers, lost two souls who called our community home. Four other students were gravely injured, and our community was shaken to its core. And many of us are still in disbelief.

A school shooting happened in Charlotte. In a hallowed place that is supposed to prepare our youth for their future, two futures ended.

It was the first mass shooting that we have had at a school in Charlotte, and it should also be the last.

That is not okay with me.

Many Holy Books tell us that whoever destroys a single life is considered by Scripture to have destroyed the whole world, and whoever saves a single life is considered by Scripture to have saved the whole world. Each time we lose someone, we lose an entire world, an entire universe of hopes, dreams, and aspirations; we lose a thread that binds together families and communities.

Well, as a Charlotte community, as a nation, we must do something to stop the gun violence that tears at the fabric of our communities.

In this Congress, the first three bills the House sent to the Senate took weapons of war off the street and would make our communities safer. Now that the Senate has concluded its impeachment trial, they have no excuse to continue to hold these bills up other than they just don't care.

And that is not okay with me.

My colleagues and I have led the efforts to introduce key pieces of legislation that would close the loophole in our background checks, extend the background check process, prohibit those convicted of hate crimes from purchasing firearms, and reinstate the Federal ban on assault weapons.

I would like to take a moment to applaud the Charlotte City Council for

☐ 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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taking the lead with their Safe Communities Committee and our educational institutions for their security upgrades and initiatives.

Despite this Congress, more work lies ahead. And that is personal to me, because the violence must stop.

Let me end by sharing one more message from the Queen City. Our city's comedians at Charlotte Squawks took a break from being funny to add a somber note to the comedy show.

To the tune of "This Land is Your Land" by Woody Guthrie:

This land is Parkland,
It's Columbine and
It's Thousands Oaks at
A student line dance.
From Santa Fe High School
To Virginia Beach murders,
This stuff is not okay with me.
As I keep watching
This endless violence,
With thoughts and prayers for
A moment of silence,
The politicians
Are doing nothing,
This stuff is not okay with me.

I agree. This is not okay with me. We need sensible gun laws, and we need them right now.

HAROLD KNIGHT AND DAVID HALE TO BE INDUCTED INTO GRAND NATIONAL TURKEY CALLERS HALL OF FAME

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trigg Countians Harold Knight and David Hale for their coming induction into the Grand National Turkey Callers Hall of Fame. Next week in Nashville, they will be formally recognized for this high honor within the hunting and turkey calling world.

Kentuckians are notably passionate about hunting and outdoors, but maybe none as much as Harold and David. Their impact on this unique industry cannot be understated.

Starting in the early 1970s, these two individuals started Knight & Hale Game Calling and have been promoting their passion for the outdoors ever since. What began as a small startup out of a basement has become a successful and recognized enterprise within the hunting industry.

After 40 years of work and raising significant attention to the field of game calling, I am thrilled to see two of my constituents receive this very high honor. This distinguished accomplishment is certainly something to be proud of and is deserving of recognition by this entire body.

HONORING THE PADUCAH WORKFORCE EFFORTS

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, near the end of last week, I had the privilege of being back home in Kentucky and, as I try to do often, visit with constituents and see some of the exciting programs underway in the First Congressional District.

While stopping in the city of Paducah, I had the opportunity to see some

of the life-changing workforce development opportunities becoming available to our citizens. In a time when we have more available jobs than qualified workers to fill them, both the McCracken County Jail and Paducah's school system are stepping up to fill the void.

At the local jail, I saw the great work they are doing to provide low-level inmates with a pathway to becoming productive members of society. The training programs they are providing for welding and HVAC training will help fill critical workforce gaps and reduce incarceration rates over the long term.

Once operational, the Paducah Innovation Hub will house technical classes like carpentry, welding, and engineering. I was excited to see the construction of this new innovative facility, which will be a model for education moving forward.

The old model of 4-year degrees and piles of student loan debt are not the answer for moving forward in education. Instead, we must emphasize certificates and skills training. I thoroughly enjoyed traveling my district and seeing firsthand the need for a more skills-based education system moving forward.

I am proud to represent McCracken County in this distinguished body, and I look forward to seeing the great work being done by the McCracken County Jail—and, in the future, the Paducah Innovation Hub—become a model for both Kentucky and the entire Nation.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SUCCESSFUL WEEK

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Trump for the overwhelmingly successful week he has had in Washington.

In addition to delivering a strong and forward-looking vision to the country on Tuesday night, the President has finally been acquitted of the baseless smear charges leveled against him by NANCY PELOSI and ADAM SCHIFF.

The historically partisan impeachment put forward by House Democrats was a stain on American history. But, thankfully, their desperate attempt to silence the will of the American people is finally behind us.

Starting with President Trump's unifying State of the Union Address, the country is now ready to move forward. It is long past time for Congress to join the President in advancing a positive agenda that will improve the lives of every single American. That includes moving on from classless actions like tearing up Presidential speeches on national television.

Whether it be the current economic boom, fairer trade deals, or steady leadership in keeping America safe, the President has a strong record of accomplishment. But, as always, we have more challenges to tackle.

I sincerely hope to see the Democrats move beyond the politics of impeachment and resistance and get to work for the American people. It is time for

action on lowering healthcare costs, securing the southern border, and continuing to advance our Nation's tremendous economic momentum.

I hope to see my Democrat colleagues join me in supporting the President's efforts to improve opportunities for working families and keep Americans safe. The millions of Americans whom we represent expect and deserve nothing less.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Gun Violence Survivors Week and to honor and support the Oregonians and people across the country who have been affected by gun violence.

Gun violence is a public health crisis in this country. Each year, more than 36,000 people, nationwide, including almost 500 Oregonians, are killed by guns, and more than 100,000 people across the country are injured by gunfire.

For those survivors of gun violence and the friends and families of those killed, life will never be the same.

Nobody is immune to the threat of gun violence, and communities have been forced to take what should be unthinkable steps to protect themselves.

Parents are buying bulletproof backpacks for their young children.

Schools across the country are conducting active-shooter drills to make sure their students know what to do in the event of an attack. These drills often cause trauma for students and for educators.

At a townhall meeting, a student told me the first thing she does when she goes into a classroom is she looks where to hide and how to escape.

As a mom, this is heartbreaking; as a policymaker, it is unacceptable. Kids in classrooms should be focused on learning, not being fearful for their lives. This is not normal, and it should never be normal.

But there is reason to be hopeful. Families and communities in Oregon and around the country are rising up and demanding change. Students are demanding that Congress finally take action to protect them.

This Congress, we took the critical step of passing H.R. 8, a comprehensive bipartisan background check bill that will save lives if it is enacted. I call on Leader MCCONNELL to immediately bring H.R. 8 to the floor. We cannot wait any longer. Every day this bill languishes in the Senate is another day when people are dying in Oregon and around the country.

We will not rest until we have done all we can to reduce gun violence in this country. We owe it to the children who are looking for a place to hide in the classrooms; we owe it to the families who are mourning their loved ones

they have lost; and we owe it to the communities that are forever changed by gun violence.

I stand in solidarity with the survivors of gun violence.

RECOGNIZING THE BUCKS COALITION AGAINST TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking, a group working to eradicate human trafficking in Bucks County and in our entire region. The Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking is a project created by the Network of Victim Assistance, working to end this modern-day slavery.

Members of NOVA received recognition recently from the Bucks County Board of Commissioners for their work to educate our community and to raise awareness.

The project was established to encourage victim identification, community education, enhancement of arrests and prosecution of traffickers, legislative advocacy, and a coordinated response for survivor services.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that 25 million people across the globe are victims of human trafficking, and approximately 75 percent of these victims are women and girls. Statistics show that one in seven children who run away from home end up being trafficked.

Mr. Speaker, one of the first bills I introduced this Congress, the End Banking for Human Traffickers Act of 2019, would increase the role of financial institutions in combating human trafficking, which is an incredibly important part of this fight.

I call upon the House to bring this commonsense legislation to a vote, and to continue to work to support the victims of human trafficking.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING 2019 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST OF THE YEAR, DR. JULIA SZARKO

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Julia Szarko, who was recently named the 2019 School Psychologist of the Year by the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Szarko is in her 23rd year as a school psychologist, currently working at Cold Spring Elementary in Central Bucks County, Pennsylvania. A former president of the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania, Dr. Szarko has worked for years to expand school-based mental health services in Pennsylvania and to address the national school psychologist shortages across the country.

Ensuring students have access to mental health resources is vital to their current and their future success, along with that of their peers as well.

With only 20 percent of America's youth receiving the mental health services they need, further action must be taken to expand access to these services in schools, which is legislation that Dr. Szarko helped us draft.

We need more people like Dr. Szarko working to ensure that children in Pennsylvania and across our Nation have the resources and support they need to succeed.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LESLIE KOLIFRATH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Leslie Kolifrath, who recently passed away after a brave and courageous fight with breast cancer.

A lifelong resident of Bucks County, Leslie always put the needs of others ahead of her own. She was very much beloved by her family, her friends, her pets, and her coworkers.

Mr. Speaker, I got to know Leslie personally through the amazing work she did throughout Lower Bucks County, particularly Bristol Township, and helping so many people. The one thing that we all remember about Leslie is that no issue was too small for her to tackle when it came to protecting and serving the residents of Bristol Township and Lower Bucks County.

So we offer our prayers to Leslie's family. We stand by her family in this very difficult time.

She is now enjoying her eternal reward for a life she lived serving others in Bucks County and across our region.

RECOGNIZING IVY HILL THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an organization in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, changing the lives for individuals with cognitive, physical, emotional, behavioral, and psychological needs.

For over 20 years, the Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Hilltown, Bucks County, has created therapeutic programs for people of all ages and levels of ability utilizing the equine experience.

In addition to equine-assisted activities, Ivy Hill collaborates with several community partners to provide job training through specialized programs dedicated to an exponentially-growing special needs population in our region and across the country. Through these programs, Ivy Hill serves over 150 program riders with more than a dozen trained therapy horses, led by nearly 200 staff members and volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, their motto is: "Horses + Love = Hope" and, having heard firsthand the heartwarming testimonials of riders and their families, it is clear that this equation is holding very true. We are very thankful for all they do for our special needs population and everybody in our region.

GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gun Violence Survivors Week.

The gun violence epidemic in our Nation is destroying lives. A recent study found that 58 percent of adults in America reported that they or someone they care about has experienced gun violence in their lifetime. Think about that. More than half of the adults in America have been touched by gun violence. It doesn't have to be this way.

In January of last year, our former colleague and gun violence survivor, Gabby Giffords, joined me, the Speaker, and members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force as we introduced H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019. It was 8 years to the day that she was shot. Gabby had one message for us in Congress. She said: "We must never stop fighting."

And the House did just that. We kept fighting, and we passed H.R. 8 almost 1 year ago, 344 days ago, to be exact.

Majority Leader MCCONNELL has had 344 days to act—to fight gun violence. What has he done? Nothing. Nothing. Not one vote, not one hearing. Survivors have called on him to act. More than 90 percent of Americans support the bill. Why won't he give the bill a vote?

Every time there is a mass shooting that makes headlines, the Republican leadership sends thoughts and prayers.

Survivors don't want your thoughts and prayers; they want a vote. They want to keep guns away from felons. They want to keep guns away from domestic abusers.

I call on the Senate to act. Honor survivors. Do your job. Pass H.R. 8 for Gabby and for every survivor across our country.

PROTECT MEDICAID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to stand here today to support H. Res. 826, the protect Medicaid resolution. I am proud to go on record today to spotlight the administration's continuous attempts to take away healthcare for Americans, especially those most vulnerable, such as seniors and those with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Medicaid was created in recognition of the importance of healthcare for all Americans. Even though many low-income people have jobs, working every single day, the reality is that they don't have access to employer or private health insurance, and Medicaid fills that gap.

It is such a sad reality that we need to remind this administration that the purpose of Medicaid is to provide healthcare for low-income individuals and families. Medicaid recognizes the humanity of everyone, despite their socioeconomic status.

When I was on the Budget Committee, I repeatedly voted against pernicious efforts to change the Federal-

State Medicaid partnership through the per capita caps, onerous work requirements—I led a letter on that—State waivers to jettison core medical protections, repeal of the Affordable Care Act. It was just exhausting. And of course, the favorite tool in the toolkit was block grants. Block grants.

If you don't know what block grants are, just think, chopping block.

And why has Congress repeatedly not enacted these harmful proposals? Because block-granting Medicaid will only lead to gutting care for millions, including seniors and people with disabilities.

Block-granting Medicaid means setting caps on total funding and leaving the hard choices to governors and State legislators to decide which populations to serve and which ones to drop.

Seniors and persons with disabilities, those account for a good portion of Medicaid spending, and any attempts to cut costs, as a result of cap funding, will hit these groups the hardest.

Perhaps we should cut services to more healthy children to meet the needs of those in nursing homes. We literally pit the medical needy against the medical needy.

Healthcare providers whose Medicaid payments would be curtailed and cut so low that they may decide not to provide services, will make it harder for even those who are eligible for Medicaid to find those services.

And let me just remind you that Medicaid block grants are not responsive to recessions. Per capita cuts, block grants, and work requirements would undermine Medicaid's ability to help when the need is greatest, such as during an economic recession, as it was designed to do.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 826 to reject efforts to reduce access to quality and affordable healthcare for low-income patients, especially those with serious and chronic health conditions.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CAPTAIN RYAN PHANEUF

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

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Air Force Captain Ryan Phaneuf, who died last week serving his country in Afghanistan.

His sacrifice is a solemn reminder that, after nearly 20 years of conflict, brave Americans regularly volunteer to take tremendous risks in order to keep us all safe. We are grateful for the service of our men and women in uniform.

Ryan grew up dreaming of flying. His commitment to service began at a young age. While at Alvirne High School in Hudson, New Hampshire, he joined the Junior ROTC program and was considered a leader by his peers.

After graduating from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, he signed up

for the United States Air Force. Ryan served his country with distinction and was a decorated pilot.

By flying communications missions, Ryan risked his own life to facilitate effective battlefield communication in Afghanistan which, in turn, helped keep servicemembers on the ground safe.

Tragically, Ryan's plane crashed in the snowy mountains of Afghanistan on January 27. Our thoughts and prayers are with his parents, Nancy and Donald, and his loving wife, Megan, during this tragic time.

We will never forget Ryan's commitment to protecting our country and our men and women in uniform. By the grace of God, we pray that the boy who dreamed of flying will forever rest peacefully.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF KATIE THYNE

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Katie Thyne, a Newport News police officer who died while serving her community on January 23, 2020.

Katie spent her formative years in New Hampshire and attended Alvirne High School in Hudson, New Hampshire. Her commitment to service began early. While at Alvirne, Katie participated in the Junior ROTC program, where she gained a reputation for hard work and kindness.

After high school, Katie enlisted in the Navy, serving her country with distinction and receiving commendation for her good conduct. Upon completing her service in the Navy, she continued to serve and joined the Newport News, Virginia police force.

Tragically, on January 23, Katie was killed in the line of duty. Her sacrifice is a reminder of the tremendous risks police officers take every day when they put on their uniform and go to work keeping our communities safe. Because of the service and sacrifice of members of law enforcement, all our communities are better for it.

Katie was irreplaceable, and she is dearly missed. She will always be remembered for her kind heart, her radiant and constant smile, and her love of family and friends.

We will keep Katie, and her family, and the Hudson community in our thoughts and prayers.

THE STAIN ON THE SENATE AND OUR CONGRESS FOR HISTORY

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, "Corrupting an election to keep oneself in office is perhaps the most abusive and destructive violation of one's oath of office that I can imagine."

Yesterday, Senator MITT ROMNEY outlined what so many of us know to be the truth; that the evidence of this President's guilt is beyond any doubt; that despite silencing witnesses and

shielding even more evidence, that this President abused his office to retain his slipping grasp on power.

□ 1030

Yet Senators voted to acquit, nonetheless. This will be a stain on the Senate and on Congress for all history.

But lost beneath the headlines and the attempts to justify the unjustifiable lies, the true motivation that guided almost every single Republican Senator and every last Republican Member of this House—fear, not just of losing a seat but of losing power; fear of what might happen if we allow this representative democracy to truly represent the interests and desires and agenda of all its people; fear of a country;

Where we actually address climate change because it is devastating our planet and threatening our lives;

Where women could have an unalterable right to bodily autonomy;

Where everyone would get the healthcare they need when they need it;

Where guns wouldn't shatter our schools and our churches and theaters and every place in between;

Where working families wouldn't go to bed fearful of what tomorrow may bring;

Where babies won't be ripped from their parents' arms and kids trapped in cages;

Where freedom means the freedom to be you, whoever you may be;

Where you count, no matter the God of your prayers, the color of your skin, the hand that you hold, the language that you speak.

The good news is, however, that their power, our power, as elected officials is temporary. The people's power is not.

It is our people who have always forced our Nation forward on civil rights, on healthcare, on justice, on war and peace, on liberty, on freedom. And it is our people who will hold every single person in Washington accountable for their actions yesterday, and that gives me faith. It gives me hope. It makes me sure that the best days of our democracy are still to come.

STOP THE SILENCE AND ACT ON GUN VIOLENCE MEASURES IN SENATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, 15,208.

15,208: That is how many Americans lost their lives to gun violence in this country last year.

For each life lost, there is a compounding grief of the friends, the parents, the children, the spouses, the loved ones, survivors whose lives are forever altered, forever shattered by this preventable public health crisis.

At the current rates of gun violence, nearly every American will know at

least one victim of gun violence in their lifetime. Imagine who that might be in your own life.

344: That is the number of days that have gone by since House Democrats passed not one but two safety bills to help bring an end to senseless suffering. For 344 days, both of these bills have been met by MITCH MCCONNELL's wall of obstruction. These are bipartisan bills that are also supported by 90 percent of Americans across political ideology, and they require immediate action.

Senator MCCONNELL, your complacency is lethal. Every day you fail to act is another day that more Americans suffer loss. Stop the silence. Start doing your job, and change the course of gun violence in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward Members of the Senate. Members are further reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

SENATE SHOULD ENACT COMMON-SENSE SOLUTIONS TO GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing the great State of Colorado. Unfortunately, Colorado is no stranger to gun violence.

I was 14 years old when my high school was put on lockdown. Soon after, my classmates and I learned that, just a couple of miles down the road, a terrible tragedy was unfolding at Columbine High School, a terrible tragedy in which 13 people were shot and killed.

One of those 13 victims was a 14-year-old boy named Daniel Mauser. This week, I brought Daniel's father, Tom Mauser, to the State of the Union to highlight the urgent need for action on the gun violence epidemic. He sat here in the gallery just a few days ago as the President delivered his State of the Union and heard that the President failed to mention any effort to engage in gun violence prevention and to deal with the public health crisis that we face.

For 20 years, Tom has bravely converted his pain and his anguish into action, pushing for gun violence prevention. Yet 20 years later, he and, frankly, the entire State of Colorado are still waiting on Congress to address the most basic and commonsense solutions to gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise for Tom. I rise for his son.

I rise for the so many victims that we have lost to gun violence across Colorado and across our country. I rise today for the more than 100,000 Americans who every year survive a gunshot wound and now face the lifelong physical and emotional toll surviving gun violence takes on an individual.

I rise today to give voice to the millions of Americans across this great country who are tired of the Senate's leadership being held hostage by the special interest gun lobby.

I rise today because all Americans have a right to make their communities safe from the onslaught of gun violence that this country witnesses day after day. They have a right to demand the dangerous loopholes like the Charleston loophole are closed. They have a right to demand an end to the unbelievable number of military-style firearms flowing through their streets.

And demanded they have, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, a majority of Americans support creating a red flag law, by way of example, allowing police or family members to request a judge to temporarily remove guns from individuals who may be dangerous. A majority of Americans think that it is absolutely ridiculous that we do not require universal background checks for gun purchases at gun shows or other private sales. And a majority of Americans think that it is beyond comprehensible that Members of Congress would stand in the way of working to ensure that individuals do not have access to weapons of mass murder.

Let us be clear, Mr. Speaker. Let us be clear. The gun violence epidemic that has gripped this country is neither a Democratic nor Republican issue, but, rather, one of national importance, the solutions to which must not face further delay.

We have grieved together; we have demanded change together; and we have been shocked by the paralysis that has gripped this institution when it comes to tackling our country's gun violence epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, I will close simply by saying the time has well since passed when we should have enacted these commonsense reforms. We should have done it 20 years ago. There is bipartisan legislation in the Senate right now that will address these pressing issues, and it is time for the Senate majority leader to bring that legislation to the Senate floor for a vote. Coloradans and Americans have waited long enough.

SUPPORT PUERTO RICO EARTHQUAKE SUPPLEMENTAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the thousands of our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters surviving the loss and trauma of ongoing natural disasters that have ravaged the island of Puerto Rico, the youth, the elderly, the ill, the unhoused, those in poverty, and those living with disabilities who find themselves disproportionately harmed by food and healthcare insecurity, frequent power outages, infrastructure collapse, and barriers to transparency.

Just last month, 13-year-old Jaideliz Moreno Ventura died due to chronic medical supply shortages. The only medical center on her island, Vieques, has not reopened its doors since Hurricane Maria 3 years ago.

To this day, 240,000 students and their educators must stay home because their schools are still too unsafe to open, and 5,000 families remain displaced from their homes.

But the fear and anguish are not limited to those remaining on the island. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts proudly boasts the fifth largest Puerto Rican community in the country, and in the Massachusetts Seventh Congressional District, I represent 35,000 Puerto Ricans.

I have borne witness to both the strength and the pain of those who were displaced after Hurricane Maria who now call Boston home and those Puerto Ricans who have called Boston home for decades who fear for their family members who are still on the island. They share with me their ongoing fear for their families in Puerto Rico facing ongoing threats to their homes and their lives.

For too long, this administration has turned its back on the people of Puerto Rico. It is shameful, and we must not allow it to continue.

I am grateful for the leadership of Chairwoman LOWEY and Chairman NEAL in working to organize this much-needed funding package that we will vote on later today. I also recognize my colleague from New York, Representative VELÁZQUEZ, for her unwavering love, which has informed her unwavering fight for the island.

In my own district, I thank IBA, Chelsea Collaborative, Somos de Sabana Grande, the Puerto Rican Veterans Association, and many more. I urge my colleagues to support this package, H.R. 5687.

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 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, perhaps our petitions weary and tire You but, as Your children, to whom else do You suggest we turn for guidance, strength and consolation. So, God, let's make a deal: If

You hear our prayer, we will heed Your wisdom, or at least try to.

In the midst of darkness, You are light; enlighten us. In the midst of discord, You are harmony; mend us.

When we swagger with self-righteousness, remind us that You are righteousness. When we hasten to justify ourselves, remind us You are our justification.

We thank You, God, for the blessings of vibrant, industrious newcomers from many nations that make our Nation stronger.

When, in our shadows, we despair; create hope in Your brightness. When, in our frailty, we doubt; give us faith in Your strength. When, out of fear and ignorance, we hate, make us wise and secure in Your love.

God, please, faith, hope, and love, without end.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SHERRILL 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 MONSIGNOR KEVIN SULLIVAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome Monsignor Kevin Sullivan as a guest chaplain here today.

Monsignor Sullivan is the Executive Director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of New York.

Monsignor Sullivan also represents Catholic Charities agencies in public policy discussions about immigration, welfare reform, job development, and foster care. He joins us on a day when we welcome more than 500 Dominican Americans from around the country to celebrate Dominican heritage and discuss civic engagement and issues affecting the Dominican community across the country.

A native of the Bronx, the Monsignor served as a parish priest at St. Elizabeth's Church, my church, in Washington Heights, which is home to a historic and thriving Dominican American community.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Monsignor Sullivan for his service to our community and to all New Yorkers and I am proud to see him give the invocation in the House of Representatives today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POSITIVE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge The Positive Community magazine on its 20th anniversary.

The Positive Community started as an idea of two broadcasting professionals, Adrian Council, Sr., and Jean Nash Wells. They were tired of all of the negative press about African Americans. They wanted to create a publication that focused on the good news coming from these communities.

They started with a newsletter and distributed it to churches and community centers. It became so popular that they turned it into a magazine. Today, The Positive Community magazine and its website highlights great events and people from our African American culture.

I applaud their efforts and encourage more people to read it. It is time to hear more positive stories from African Americans in their communities.

AMERICAN HEART MONTH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, February is American Heart Month, a month where we especially recognize and promote positive heart health.

Currently, 302,000 people in South Carolina have coronary heart disease. I am thankful for the great work of the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease and the American Heart Association for their steps to spread awareness about heart disease, the number one killer of men and women in America.

I am grateful that, in the Second Congressional District, we have many incredible events to recognize heart health, including the Heart Walk, held in Aiken and the Midlands. These walks raise critical funds to help save lives from heart disease.

As a volunteer with the Lexington County Heart Association, I know

firsthand of the dedicated personnel. I appreciate American Heart Association Executive Director Kirkland of the Midlands and Jackie Lipscomb of the American Heart Association-CSRA.

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

Congratulations, President Donald Trump, for your deserved exoneration.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

(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, I rise today in honor of National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Every day in America, 103 people are killed by gun violence, and many more survivors are left to deal with the life-long trauma. This is horrific and it demands action.

It is one of the reasons that last year the House Judiciary Committee, on which I sit, as well as the House of Representatives, passed for the first time in over a quarter century, significant gun legislation. We passed universal background checks.

It is now before the Republican-controlled Senate, and I ask them to simply do their jobs and put that bill up for a vote.

I am also grateful that last month, California's 33rd Congressional District's Youth Advisory Council, which consists of high school students in the area, got together to discuss ways to address the gun violence epidemic.

At their recommendation, I am proud to lend my support to bills like Ghost Guns Are Guns Act and Jaime's Law, both of which I believe will protect American lives.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT AICHELE

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of a true community leader, Mr. Robert "Bob" Aichele, of Lancaster, who passed away at the age of 92 on Tuesday. Bob was a friend to everyone and would always greet you with a signature warm smile.

He spent his life in service to others, in service to the Nation as a seaman first class in the United States Navy, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

He also served his community, serving as the president of many boards and associations, and was a Manor Township supervisor for more than 25 years.

When he was not serving the community he loved, Bob was with his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Mary Anne, five children, 15 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Madam Speaker, my prayers and condolences are with his family, with those who grieve, and all those who had the opportunity to know Bob. I know I always appreciated his friendship and I will cherish the time that we had together.

While we mourn the loss of Bob, we must also give thanks for the life that he lived and the time that we had to spend with him.

THE TRAGEDY OF GUN VIOLENCE IS PREVENTABLE

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, there have been 37 days so far in 2020. More gun deaths happened in this country in the first 37 days than in every other high-income nation in a year.

The tragedy of gun violence in this country is that it is preventable; 36,000 American lives are needlessly lost annually. Tens of thousands more are shot, injured, or left grieving for a family member, like Jamie McLaughlin from my community in New Jersey.

Twenty-eight years ago, Jamie's brother, Chet, was shot and killed. In honor of Chet and National Gun Violence Survivors Week, Jamie recently shared that there is not a day that goes by that she doesn't ache for her brother's presence in her life.

Families across this country grieve like Jamie, waiting for the Senate to have the courage to act.

We passed a bipartisan background check bill 344 days ago, a commonsense measure that more than 90 percent of Americans in this country support.

We owe action to victims, survivors, and families torn apart by gun violence. It is time, past time, that the Senate acts and passes H.R. 8.

HONORING THE LIVES OF FRANK AND CINDA EDWARDS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Frank and Cinda Edwards from Springfield, Illinois, who tragically died in a plane crash last week.

Frank and Cinda were my good friends. I met Frank when he was the fire chief in Springfield, Illinois. Frank was a proud Illinois National Guardsman, a former alderman, and a former mayor. Everyone who knew Frank knew that he was not afraid to speak his mind, and we will miss that.

Cinda worked as a nurse for 27 years before becoming the Sangamon County Coroner. She truly loved her job as coroner and took pride in making the office the best it could be.

I was blessed to see Cinda days before the tragic crash. I can't believe they are gone.

I still owe Frank a cheeseburger from Bill's Toasty for a wager he won with me last year. It will be a reminder when I eat that cheeseburger that life is too short.

My thoughts and prayers are truly with their son, Alex, during this impossibly difficult time.

Springfield won't be the same without you, Frank and Cinda.

God bless.

GUN VIOLENCE IS AN EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, what if I told you there was an epidemic in the United States that has killed close to 40,000 people, just in the year 2019 alone?

And what if I told you this epidemic has taken the lives of almost 8,000 people since 2014 in California alone?

I am not talking about coronavirus, or Ebola, or AIDS, or some global pandemic. This public health crisis is uniquely American. I am talking, of course, about gun violence.

We have let this public health epidemic go unchecked far too long. If gun violence were a disease with the death numbers I just shared with you, we would not rest until we had a cure. But because many Members of Congress are frozen in their ability to act in the face of the money the NRA pours into the gun lobby, we haven't acted; especially the Senate has not stepped up to act.

This week is National Gun Violence Survivors Week, where we honor the lives lost to gun violence and share the stories of those whose lives have been affected.

This disease does have a cure. We need the Senate to hear our urgency and to act on gun violence legislation now.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF FIRE CHIEF MIKE BRENT

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to salute a life of service. Next week, Fire Chief Mike Brent will hang up his helmet and enter a well-deserved retirement.

Mike joined the Fluvanna County Volunteer Fire Department in January of 1977 as a member of the Palmyra Volunteer Fire Company. He quickly rose through the ranks, and just 10 years later he was elected to serve as the Chief of Fluvanna County Volunteer Department; leading volunteers from Palmyra, Fork Union, and Kents Store.

During his 32 years as chief, he was instrumental in many significant improvements to the delivery of fire and EMS services in Fluvanna County, to include a capital improvements plan

for three new, state-of-the-art firehouses.

Even after retiring as chief, Mike continues to volunteer as a member of the Palmyra Volunteer Fire Company; a true testament to his resolute commitment and unwavering service to our community.

Chief Brent truly embodies what it means to be selfless and putting others' needs before his own. We are forever grateful for his service.

□ 1215

PROTECTING NATION'S WORKFORCE AGAINST EROSION OF THEIR RIGHTS

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

For over 3 years, the Trump administration has waged an assault on organized labor, limiting unions' ability to fairly represent the American workforce while undermining safeguards that protect against discrimination and unsafe working conditions.

This bill will protect our Nation's workforce against this erosion of their rights. The PRO Act introduces meaningful, enforceable penalties for companies that violate workers' rights to unionize, streamlines access to justice for workers who suffer retaliation, facilitates collective bargaining, and increases transparency in labor relations.

Our Nation was not built by gold or silver but was built by labor. Protecting the rights of workers to organize strengthens our workforce, our economy, and our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bill.

COMMEMORATING LEGACY OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN ON HIS BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the legacy of President Ronald Reagan on his birthday.

Some have called him Ronnie, the Gipper, or the Great Communicator. No matter what you call him, he was the right President for this country at the right time.

President Reagan came into office with the world still in crisis over the Cold War and a country under the crushing weight of stagflation. By the time President Reagan left office, the economy roared and Reagan's words had inflicted a mortal blow to the Berlin Wall. Shortly after leaving office, the Berlin Wall fell and the threat of communism along with it.

President Reagan led this country with conviction. His conservative principles empowered millions of people

from coast-to-coast and across the world. His words struck fear into the hearts of our enemies and warmed the hearts of our friends.

We have a lot to learn from President Reagan's life, his legacy, and his leadership.

RECOGNIZING VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, this is National Gun Violence Survivors Week, and I rise to recognize the victims and survivors of domestic violence across the United States who have felt the effects of our weak gun laws.

Just last week in my community in Miami, a man killed his infant son's mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother with a high-powered rifle before abducting the days-old baby. The infant, Andrew, is still missing.

Stories like this are not unusual in this country. Women in the United States are 21 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than in other high-income countries.

When we don't take action, it is people like Andrew, his mother, his grandmother, and his great-grandmother who pay the price.

Andrew deserves to grow up with his family. He deserves leaders who prioritize his well-being over the violent whims of abusers. He deserves a chance at life not tinged with tragedy.

GUN VIOLENCE IS MISNOMER

(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, it is indeed National Gun Violence Survivors Week. We all share in mourning the loss of those lives that have been taken by those filled with anger, hate, and evil. However, gun violence is a misnomer.

Evil lies in the hearts of people. Guns are inanimate objects, much like this pen, which isn't going to move for the entire time I am making this speech.

It is naive to believe that more gun seizures, more violations of our Second Amendment, are going to do anything other than create more victims in gun-free zones. Ask Jack Wilson, who stopped evil because he was armed in that church in Texas recently.

It is naive to think that evil will be disarmed. Only the innocent will be disarmed in this continued press to have our Second Amendment violated and eliminated.

LOSING LOVED ONE TO GUN VIOLENCE IS WOUND THAT NEVER HEALS

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I rise today during National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

We mark this occasion at the beginning of February because with a gun death rate 10 times greater than other developed nations, more Americans have already been killed with guns in 2020 than are killed in the entire year in our peer countries. We are a Nation suffering an epidemic of gun violence.

Each year, more than 36,000 Americans are killed in acts of gun violence, and an additional 100,000 are injured by firearms.

The trauma caused by this violence is not limited to the victims. Losing a loved one to gun violence is a wound that never heals.

If this were any other epidemic destroying lives on such a great scale, we would have long ago taken action.

To be fair, in this House, we did act. Nearly a year ago, we passed bipartisan background check legislation, H.R. 8, to close loopholes that allow gun sales to go unchecked. In the Senate, Leader MCCONNELL is blocking a vote and choosing obstruction over saving lives.

Enough is enough. For all the survivors of gun violence, this week, we demand action.

CHILDREN SHOULD GROW UP WITHOUT FEAR OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. ALLRED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor survivors during National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Tragically, this week, sisters Deja and Abbaney Matts of Garland were killed, and Abbaney's toddler was injured at a shooting at Texas A&M-Commerce University. The shooter was believed to be her ex-boyfriend, who was recently charged with aggravated assault for attacking Abbaney.

I send my deepest condolences to the Matts family.

To honor the Matts and to underscore the need for action, I want to share a letter 6-year-old Cal Bingham of Rowlett sent me after the mass shootings in El Paso at Midland. He wrote: "When kids get shot, that's less friends to play with. When I grow up, I don't want to hear about anymore on the news about people being killed with guns. What are you going to do to help make us safer?"

I want my son, Jordan, and kids like Cal to grow up without fear of gun violence. I call on the Senate to act and pass the bipartisan bills that we have passed in this House, including background checks and the Violence Against Women Act. Our children are watching.

SUPPORTING FEDERAL PRIVACY LEGISLATION

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Federal privacy legislation.

With every new app that is downloaded or website that is used, people run the risk of turning over their most sensitive personal data without even knowing it.

Right now, consumers are left with virtually no rights or protections. We have seen the damage done by the Facebook Cambridge Analytica scandal, yet there has been zero action from Congress. This is unacceptable.

I believe we can and must have a national data privacy law that gives consumers control over their data and that sets fair rules of the road for businesses to comply.

I introduced H.R. 2013, the Information Privacy and Personal Data Protection Act, which would address both. I urge my colleagues to take up this issue to make it a priority and work with me in moving this legislation forward.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

When gun violence occurs in a community, lives are too often lost, but for survivors, the neighborhoods they know and love are never the same.

This is especially true when gun violence impacts our young people. Despite the terrible loss of so many young lives in my district last year, I see hope in the messages from their peers.

I recently heard from some high school students who shared their stories and support for a bill I introduced with Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY, H.R. 3435, the Local Public Health and Safety Act, to empower local communities to address gun violence.

These students believe we can make changes to heal our communities and prevent future tragedies. I agree and join them in a renewed call to action on behalf of survivors everywhere.

HONORING COURAGEOUS SURVIVORS OF GUN VIOLENCE WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR CHANGE

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

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, this is National Gun Violence Survivors Week, and I rise today to honor the many courageous survivors of gun violence across our country who are fighting for change.

Over 70 percent of the American people, including a majority of gun owners, support universal background

checks. They know this policy will help keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

The current system has already stopped 3 million gun sales to convicted felons and others who are prohibited by law from owning a firearm, but we can and must do more.

The good news is that, a year ago this month, the new majority in the Congress took up two bills to establish universal background checks, including H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act. Sadly, the Senate refuses to take up these bills, and with every day that passes, 96 Americans are killed by guns.

Today, we remember the over 100,000 survivors who have been injured by guns and are every day, those that we have lost, and the countless other Americans who are affected by gun violence in our country. We should never rest until Congress takes every action to address this.

DON'T BE FOOLED

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, the new Medicaid proposal from the White House is a reverse Robin Hood on steroids, a coordinated effort to steal from the poor and give to the rich campaign donors at Mar-a-Lago and other places.

This White House has put Medicaid on the chopping block, Medicaid, the program specifically put in place to provide healthcare to our most vulnerable citizens, our seniors, our veterans, the working poor, and their children.

My Republican colleagues will tell you, no, this is merely about giving States greater flexibility. That is nonsense. Federal law already gives States flexibility. This is about taking away healthcare to pay for their tax cuts.

This is the latest in the GOP's long war on the working people and the poor people of this country. They have cut the Children's Health Insurance Program. They have cut food stamps. And now they are cutting Medicaid.

Don't be fooled. This has long been in their plan.

GUN VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO BRING AGONY TO COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES

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

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I rise today in support of National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Every year, over 36,000 Americans are killed in acts of gun violence, and almost 100,000 more are shot and injured. This includes nearly 3,000 children and teens who are shot and killed and nearly 15,600 who are shot and injured.

Firearms are the second leading cause of death for children and teens and the first leading cause of death for African American children and teens in the U.S.

Gun violence overly affects people of color. African Americans represent most gun homicide victims and are 10 times more likely than White Americans to die from gun violence.

Gun violence continues to bring agony every day to communities and families around the country. While we cannot bring back the many loved ones lost to gun violence, we must act to prevent more casualties. It is past time for the Senate to act to save American lives.

□ 1230

RECOGNIZING GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, 2 years ago, I was standing at a rally where the father of a gunshot victim, a father who lost his son to gun violence, spoke of all the things that he and others are doing to stop this senseless scourge, things that they are already doing.

But then he turned to the crowd, and he said, "But what is Congress doing?" And tens of thousands of people, as if they had rehearsed it a hundred times, all said, together, "Nothing."

"But what is Congress doing?"

"Nothing."

Madam Speaker, for too long, Congress has done nothing. We have passed bills here in the House that take the right steps, but this alone is not enough. The Senate needs to do their job, and we need to make them law. Thoughts and prayers won't cut it, only action saves lives.

ADMINISTRATION'S LACK OF DIVERSITY IN ITS ACTIONS

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I am concerned about the lack of diversity, the lack of care about diversity that this administration shows in its appointments and its actions.

In the Federal judiciary, the President has appointed approximately 250 judges, 6 of whom are African American. That is a disturbing and chilling number.

In a Super Bowl ad, he showed Alice Marie Johnson, whom he gave executive clemency to, a commutation, and said he was trying to help people who looked like her, an African American woman.

He has given two executive clemencies to African Americans. One was Jack Johnson, posthumous, dead for 80

years. Only one living African American has gotten a commutation, and that was when Kim Kardashian championed her case, as Sylvester Stallone championed that of Jack Johnson.

During his speech, he talked about the Tuskegee Airman, the woman who he said would get a scholarship, the young girl. The fact is he just appointed a TVA Board, Tennessee Valley Board, nine members—no African Americans, one woman.

The lack of diversity is chilling. America is diverse. It is our strength. We need to embrace it and not have an all White world.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. 826, EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S HARMFUL ACTIONS TOWARDS MEDICAID; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2474, PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE ACT OF 2019; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5687, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF AND PUERTO RICO DISASTER TAX RELIEF ACT, 2020

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 833 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 833

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 826) expressing disapproval of the Trump administration's harmful actions towards Medicaid. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

SEC. 2. 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. 2474) to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for

the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. 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. 5687) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. Clause 2(e) of rule XXI shall not apply during consideration of the bill. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), 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. DESAULNIER. 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 California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 833, providing for consideration of three measures: H. Res. 826, Expressing Disapproval of the Trump Administration's Harmful Actions Towards Medicaid; H.R. 5687, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act; and, finally, H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

The rule provides for H. Res. 826 to be considered under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The rule further provides for consideration of H.R. 2474 under a structured rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. The rule self-executes the manager's amendment from Chairman SCOTT making in order 16 amendments and provides one motion to recommit.

Finally, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5687 under a structured rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule makes in order six amendments and provides one motion to recommit.

Madam Speaker, before us today, we have three measures that all speak to one very, very important topic in America today. That topic is inequality.

Madam Speaker, Justice Louis Brandeis once famously said: In this country, we can either have democracy or we can have the concentration of wealth in the hands of very few, but we can't have both.

Unfortunately, right now in this country, we are at historic levels of inequality. A handful of families control more wealth than the bottom 50 percent of Americans—160 million Americans. Forty percent of lower income Americans make \$30,000 a year. The top 1 percent in income—not wealth, but in income—earn over \$7 million a year, while the other 99 percent earn on an average of \$54,000 a year.

We cannot have this level of inequality.

President Abraham Lincoln famously said that labor and capital must always be balanced in America to have democracy. And he said:

If capital ever had the control over labor, democracy would cease to exist.

From the pearls of wisdom of people like Lincoln and Brandeis, we are warned again today that we have to

have countervailing institutions, as John Galbraith said, between labor and capital. This is in the best interests of everyone, including those who are making and reaping exorbitant benefits from the current inequality.

But most importantly—most importantly—as Brandeis said, you cannot have democracy with the current situation of inequality.

Not only is this inequality wrong, but its consequences in our everyday lives, like worse health outcomes, diseases of depression, behavioral health impacts, and economic insecurity, these public health instances are directly correlated to income inequality as demonstrated by the landmark work, "The Spirit Level," 10 years ago.

The first resolution that is part of this rule expresses strong disapproval of the Trump administration's recent attempt to turn Medicaid into a block grant.

Medicaid is our Nation's promise to a group left behind by rampant inequality that will help provide basic services to protect their health and well-being—basic services. The Trump administration proposal doubles down on its cruel policies that put cost savings over life savings.

The second bill provides disaster relief to Puerto Rico. This is a community that has been devastated repeatedly by disasters, exposing the inequality not only in Puerto Rico, but between this administration's treatment of a territory versus a State. Puerto Rico needs our help. Without it, roads will remain unpassable, schools will remain closed, and the poor will become poorer.

And, finally, we have the Protecting the Right to Organize, the PRO Act. President Eisenhower once said that only a fool would attempt to block a working man or woman, an American worker, from joining a labor union. President Eisenhower said this, a Republican President, much admired.

This was at a time where America had the largest expansion in our history, and the world's expansion, growing at over 6 percent of GDP a year that everybody benefited from. One year was 13 percent. At that time, one in three American workers were in a labor union.

By the time Ronald Reagan became President, one in four Americans was in a labor union. By the time President Reagan left office, 1 in 10 American workers were in a labor union.

The balance between labor and capital is the essence of American democracy. It is unbalanced and risks our democracy at this moment.

The ability for American workers to organize and have a voice in the outcomes, not just of their work, but of their retirement and the benefit to their families and communities, has been attacked since President Reagan was in office.

□ 1245

Evidence is clear that the rise in inequality has coincided with the decline

in union membership. By most estimates, declining unionization accounted for about a third of the increase in inequality of which I speak in the 1980s and 1990s.

To address inequality, you have to include working people. You have to include the right to organize. Labor unions are universally recognized as providing major boosts to employees' wages and benefits. Sadly, the best evidence we have on this trend is by comparing union States like the one I am proud to represent, California, to right-to-work States.

In 1979, States with historically high levels of union membership, like in the Northeast and the Rust Belt, saw relatively low rates of income inequality. Just the opposite held true for right-to-work States. If you watched data over the years since the 1970s as States move as a group toward less union coverage, those same States have much worse inequality and poor performing GDP.

Unions not only raise wages for workers they represent, but they also have been shown to moderate compensation for executives. On top of all the obvious benefits you think of that are associated with labor unions like higher wages and safer workplaces, some of the others that come along with union membership also help address the inequities in our society.

Union workers are more likely to receive paid leave, are up to 28 percent more likely to have employer-sponsored health insurance and are up to 54 percent more likely to be enrolled in employer-sponsored pensions.

Not only do workers have better access to pensions, but their employers contribute an average of 28 percent more toward those pensions than non-union employers.

The PRO Act simply updates labor laws, labor laws that have been attacked for 30 years, to ensure that workers in today's economy are able to create and join labor unions to receive the same kinds of protections they see in other sectors. Nothing more.

Madam Speaker, I suspect we will hear a lot of misinformation—especially about the PRO Act—from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Make no mistake about it, Madam Speaker, these three bills will help restore power to the people, which the administration repeatedly has tried to strip power from.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today's rule provides for consideration of three unrelated measures, each of which have little chance of passing the Senate or becoming law. The one is a nonbinding messaging resolution, another one a partisan labor bill, and the third provides billions of dollars in Federal aid

for disaster recovery from recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico, but actually can be distributed to meet unmet needs in other States.

Let's talk first about the resolution expressing disapproval for the Trump administration's Healthy Adult Opportunity demonstration project that was just announced on January 30.

A letter provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to State Medicaid directors detailed an option for States to apply for increased flexibility under the section 1115 for Medicaid waivers.

The Healthy Adult Opportunity demonstration provides States with a choice as to how they would like to receive their funding for adults under the age of 65 who are covered by a Medicaid expansion population.

This does not include children. This does not include pregnant women. It does not include individuals with disabilities, or the elderly.

This only applies to healthy adults who are not covered as part of the traditional Affordable Care Act population, and if, and only if, the States decide to pursue the Healthy Adult Opportunity.

H. Res. 862 is a political statement made to diminish the efforts of the Trump administration. It is unreasonable and unrealistic for Democrats to declare this demonstration an attack on Medicaid after only a few days since the release of the plan.

Do we have a full understanding of the opportunity grants? So I strongly suggest Members on both sides of the aisle speak with their Governors and their counterparts in State legislatures to ask about this option.

My office did indeed speak with our Texas Governor this week. The State is still unpacking everything that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services may provide, and this may not be an option Texas will take, but it is up to them. They are currently running internal analyses to come to a conclusion, a process that does take some time.

Recognizing this, there is little chance that the Senate will agree to this messaging resolution. A far better approach would have been for us to have, perhaps, a hearing and a markup in our committee of jurisdiction.

Unfortunately, not everyone agreed with that.

H.R. 2474, the PRO Act, has a similarly low chance of being considered by the Senate. The bill is nothing more than a requirement that workers become members of labor unions. Republicans support the right of employees to form a labor union, but it should be a choice for every individual worker.

There is a card-check system included in this bill. Employees will no longer enjoy the privacy of a secret ballot election. Organizers will be able to collect authorization cards covering 50 percent of the bargaining unit and form a union without holding a secret election.

In effect, employees are not protected from potential political intimidation and not protected from coercive behavior by organizers in an effort to obtain the required number of cards.

That is not free and voluntary choice.

Against a recent National Labor Relations Board decision, the bill reinstates what are called micro unions, allowing bargaining units smaller than a workplace if there is a community of interest.

The joint employer standard is expanded, creating liability for franchise owners, franchise owners who may have no direct relationship with the franchisee employee. This is not only unreasonable, it is impractical, and certainly will weaken or damage the franchise model of business.

In addition, the bill preempts State right-to-work laws. My State is a right-to-work State. Does the Federal Government know Texas citizens better than the State of Texas? This disregards the rights of 27 States by overturning their right-to-work laws.

Even more concerning, employers will be required to provide union organizers with an employee's personal information without the employee's consent.

In the Energy and Commerce Committee we are in the middle of negotiating both sides: What are the parameters, or what should be the parameters of a Federal privacy law? This provision in this bill flies in the face of protecting individuals' privacy, and it is odd because in the committee, the other side seemed so eager to defend privacy in any other forum.

Along with these partisan measures, we are also considering emergency disaster funding for Puerto Rico. The supplemental appropriation provides over \$4 billion for cyber and energy security, electricity restoration, education assistance, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Community Development Block Grant.

In recent years, Puerto Rico has faced multiple natural disasters, including Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, and a series of earthquakes in January of this year. There is no doubt that Puerto Rico is facing a long road to recovery, but compounding the national disasters is a mismanagement of aid.

Just a couple of weeks ago, a warehouse was discovered full of emergency supplies. Some of them had been there since 2017. Citizens were outraged. They broke into the warehouse and took it upon themselves to distribute the aid.

President Trump released nearly \$16 billion in aid funding in January but did place restrictions on usage to help prevent any squandering of Federal resources. This bill provides additional billions in aid without any accountability measures. Existing disaster aid should be expended before appropriating billions of taxpayer dollars. And then here is the kicker: It may not go towards its intended recipients.

Only a small portion of these funds are specifically directed to Puerto Rico. The rest may be applied to unmet needs of disasters in recent years. Yes, including Puerto Rico, but including many other States.

FEMA has yet to complete its damage assessment, and initial assessments indicate \$40 million in Federal costs, a much smaller amount than appropriated in this bill.

No one wants to deny any Americans support when they are in need, but this appropriation is premature. We could and should take the time to evaluate the best path for recovery for Puerto Rico, and we have the ability because there is existing disaster aid that has been released to meet those immediate needs.

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

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

Madam Speaker, just a couple of points to my friend from Texas' comments.

I include in the RECORD a February 2 Washington Post article entitled: "You'd think Trump would stop threatening insurance coverage by now. Think again."

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 2, 2020]

YOU'D THINK TRUMP WOULD STOP THREATENING INSURANCE COVERAGE BY NOW. THINK AGAIN.

(By the Washington Post Editorial Board)

Notwithstanding the progress under Obamacare, the United States still does not provide health insurance to all of its population. About 27.5 million people, or 8.5 percent of the population, lacked coverage throughout 2018, according to the most recent Census Bureau report published in September. The country has moved in the wrong direction since President Trump took office: The 2018 uninsured numbers were up over 2017.

You might think, given this history, that the Trump administration would cease proposing policy that threatens coverage; well, think again.

Mr. Trump's Department of Health and Human Services has unveiled a proposal that would allow states to receive federal Medicaid funding as a block grant, annually adjustable for inflation, while implementing cost-cutting measures such as work requirements, asset tests, co-payments and prescription drug limitations. (As a sweetener, states would be allowed to pocket some of the budgetary savings.) Existing rules essentially require states to provide a set of services to all those who meet federally established criteria, and fund them on an open-ended basis.

To be sure, the administration's proposal would not affect traditional Medicaid populations such as low-income pregnant women and people with disabilities. It targets only the so-called expansion population—the 17 million low-income adults who got Medicaid through Obamacare. And even then, it's unlikely it will be adopted in blue states with large Medicaid populations, such as California, or in red states that never expanded Medicaid in the first place and probably won't no matter how federal aid is structured, such as Texas.

Where it might make a difference is in red states that reluctantly expanded Medicaid

but are looking for ways scale it back, or in those 14 states that have not yet expanded but still want to do so in a limited way. An example of the latter category is Oklahoma, which is having a referendum on Medicaid expansion in November. That state's Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt, who opposes the referendum, jumped at the administration's offer. The proposal invokes—probably incorrectly—HHS's statutory authority to adjust Medicaid's core requirements, so its ultimate fate may depend on the courts. A federal judge in Washington blocked previous attempts by the agency to let New Hampshire, Kentucky and Arkansas set work requirements for Medicaid, which cost 18,000 people in the latter state their coverage, though the administration has appealed. (Kentucky has withdrawn its work requirements, which never took effect.)

Whatever its short-term practical impact, the administration's latest block-grant proposal could be significant in the long run. The ultimate goal is to legitimize block-granting and the coverage reductions the approach almost certainly entails. Reduced coverage, it should be mentioned, was partly why Congress previously, and repeatedly, rejected Republican plans to block-grant Medicaid. The United States badly needs a system of universal coverage that delivers services more efficiently than the existing hodgepodge. In its determination to chip away at Obamacare's compromise solution—Medicaid expansion—the Trump administration has revealed that it has other priorities.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, on the Medicaid block grants, I would just say, from my experience, as someone who was very involved in the adoption of the ACA in the California State Senate, both chairing the committee of jurisdiction and being involved in what we look back on as a very successful rollout, doing the block grants sets the threshold lower than is necessary. Remember that the Federal thresholds are only a base level. States can put more contributions from the State and local level in, which we have done in California. It has been successful at getting millions of Californians into insurance, as opposed to being in indigent care.

On the organizing aspect, this has come up in the Rules Committee, the secret ballot and privacy. A reminder, as Chairman SCOTT said last night: Secret ballot is still sacrosanct. It only comes up that it will not be if the National Labor Relations Board sanctions the employer for violating organizing rules.

Our research shows that 45 percent of employers threaten workers in meetings, threaten them if they are trying to organize. Seventy-five percent of employers hire consultants to run antiunion campaigns, and one in five employees who try to organize their fellow workers get fired or threatened with termination.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. DESAULNIER for his leadership. I rise in very strong support of the PRO Act because it will restore the constitutional and civil rights of American citizens seeking to organize a union.

We have to remember that the right to organize is rooted in the First Amendment of the Constitution which protects the right of the people to speak, to assemble, and to petition for a redress of grievances.

All of these rights have been under severe attack over the last several decades of union busting and interference with the right of the people to organize into unions.

There are three specific provisions I want to mention that will restore the constitutional rights of the people to organize.

The first treats the violation of the right to organize like a violation of any other civil right in America. If your civil rights are violated based on race or based on gender, you have a right to go to court to sue for enforcement of your rights and for compensation for violation of those rights.

This PRO Act will give the same right to workers to go to court to enforce their labor organizing rights. Right now, they have got to go through the National Labor Relations Board which has been stifled with bureaucracy and red tape. And right now, under the PRO Act, if it passes, you will have the right to go to court as well as to go to the NLRB in order to enforce your right to organize.

□ 1300

Secondly, the PRO Act will end so-called captive audience speeches. Those are already illegal right now. Employers cannot herd all the workers into a big room and tell them why they have to vote for Donald Trump for President at the risk of perhaps earning the disfavor of the employer, being fired or demoted or whatever. But they can herd you into the room to tell you why unions are bad and why unions are a bad choice and predicting that the company will have to leave or lay off people if a union is voted in by the workers.

This ends captive audience speeches. The union doesn't have the right to herd all the workers into a room to propagandize them for the union; the employers should not have the right to herd all of them into a conference room to propagandize them against a union.

Finally, the PRO Act will restore the First Amendment rights of workers organizing a union or in a union to support boycotts, strikes, and other labor actions by workers in other places.

Amazingly, under the Taft-Hartley provisions and the way the labor law has grown up now, it is against the law for workers in a union to engage in secondary support and secondary boycotts and so on. This is a naked violation of the First Amendment rights of workers. Unionized workers should have every same right to support boycotts and strikes of their fellow workers as anyone else.

Madam Speaker, I do strongly support the PRO Act.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from

Kentucky (Mr. COMER), who is a valued member of the Education and Labor Committee.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I have heard from business owners throughout my district about the investments they are making in their businesses and hardworking employees thanks to the strong economy ushered in by President Trump. We have seen companies establish education programs, provide bonuses to their employees, and reinvest in their communities as a result of our booming economic climate. Unfortunately, the bill we are considering today would quickly erode this progress.

As was made clear during the Committee on Education and Labor hearing and subsequent markup, the PRO Act would not serve the interests of individual workers. By overriding States' choices to enact right-to-work laws meant to curtail forced unionization, codifying harmful rulemakings from the previous administration regarding the definition and classification of employees, and increasing the prevalence of worker intimidation and privacy infringement, the PRO Act is a maze of misguided and costly antiworker policies.

To correct one of the countless issues with this legislation, I submitted an amendment to strike the provisions that would legalize secondary boycotts. Unions should not be empowered to target and economically harm suppliers or business partners of a workplace they are seeking to organize.

Unfortunately, this and many other commonsense amendments were rejected by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle during markup and again at the Rules Committee yesterday.

Notably, the PRO Act federalizes California's ABC test limiting flexibility and opportunity for entrepreneurs in our modern economy and codifies the previous administration's joint employer standard that would disrupt and fatally damage the franchise model, harming thousands of small business owners across the Nation.

I recognize a business's greatest asset is its workers. For this reason, I am solidly proworker and probusiness and want to continue our strong economic growth while also protecting the freedoms of hardworking Americans.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Kentucky an additional 1 minute.

Mr. COMER. Thankfully, this Democratic dream will meet a rude awakening in the Senate, where it will not see the light of day, and President Trump has signaled he would veto.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume before I introduce our next speaker.

I am a former small business owner who met a payroll for hundreds of people in the restaurant business in California. Our economy is the fifth largest economy in the world. There is lots of evidence showing that helping the employer and helping the consumer so they have more disposable income actually helps everyone.

As far as the dual employer rule, all we are doing is trying to protect what has been in effect for decades and not have it diminished, so there should be no impact on franchisees.

Lastly, the distinction I think that needs to be reiterated over and over again in light of the administration's assertions about the economy is, yes, the GDP is growing, not as large as the President had promised, but it is not being spread out.

As I mentioned in my opening comments, 50 percent—150 million, 160 million people—live on \$30,000 a year. They don't see the big benefit in what Wall Street gets. The average income is for the bottom 90 percent of Americans. It has increased just 1 percent from 1980 to 2017, while all their other costs have gone up, most notably healthcare and education. Average incomes, on the other hand, for the wealthiest 1 percent have increased by 184 percent.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, or the PRO Act.

I am the daughter of a garment worker, so the fight for workers' rights has always had a special place in my heart. My mother toiled every day in the sweatshops in New Haven, Connecticut, sewing shirt collars and dresses. And she was a pieceworker, which meant she got pennies on the dollar. As chair of the Appropriations Committee's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I work every day to ensure that her early struggles were not in vain.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the PRO Act introduced by the chair of the committee, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT. It strengthens the rights of working people to come together in union to secure better wages and better working conditions.

The single biggest economic challenge of our times is that people's pay doesn't keep up with their rising costs of healthcare, education, and childcare. From 1980 to 2017, average incomes for the bottom 90 percent of households stagnated to a 1.1 percent increase while skyrocketing more than 180 percent for the wealthiest 1 percent in this country. It is no coincidence that, at the same time, union membership fell to a record low of 10 percent.

Economists at Princeton found that the alarming rise of income inequality since the 1970s can be at least partially attributed to the decline in union membership.

The PRO Act is about leveling the playing field for working people. It penalizes predatory corporations that violate workers' rights and streamlines procedures at the National Labor Relations Board to more effectively deal with violations. It protects workers from being misclassified as independent contractors. It helps working people secure a winning agreement as part of a union. It protects union elections against interference. And it empowers unions and employers to negotiate agreements that collect fair share fees.

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Connecticut an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. DELAURO. It establishes a mediation and arbitration process to help ensure corporations and newly formed unions reach a first contract.

As Nobel-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz has said: Inequality is not inevitable. It is about the public policy choices we make.

Madam Speaker, it is not globalization, and it is not technology. We have the opportunity today to choose a public policy that, in fact, will defend and protect working people in this country.

Madam Speaker, pass the PRO Act.

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

Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to immediately consider a resolution reinforcing policies that are part of the "best is yet to come" blueprint, which was outlined by President Trump in this very Chamber on Tuesday night in his historic and optimistic State of the Union Address.

His address highlighted the increase in wages for American workers, the decrease in unemployment, the reduction in the number of those receiving nutrition assistance, and the strength of our Armed Forces. He went on to detail the ongoing efforts to decrease healthcare costs and to improve access to broadband and the continuing defense of our borders, among other priorities.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGGLEMAN) to speak on his amendment.

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in an America with a booming economy, strong military, and optimistic future. On Tuesday, President Trump outlined

the “best is yet to come” blueprint during the State of the Union Address.

This agenda is an optimistic plan to continue the record-setting economic growth we are seeing and provide solutions to problems that all American citizens. It is imperative that Congress step forward and support this agenda as I do.

It is an agenda that dramatically lowers prescription drug prices and raises wages for hardworking Americans, an agenda that will build an inclusive society and make sure every young American has the opportunity to achieve the American Dream, and an agenda that will ensure every citizen can have access to high-speed internet, including in rural areas.

With a national unemployment rate of 3.5 percent and a Virginia unemployment rate of 2.6 percent, it is clear the economic policies the President has implemented are working. The “best is yet to come” blueprint will continue this growth and build upon it.

The American economy is stronger than ever, and we should work to continue this growth.

I have a district that is 10,000 square miles large, bigger than the State of New Jersey. Seeing the optimism and excitement in Virginia and Virginia’s Fifth District is something to behold. We have built an inclusive economy where the least well-off are making some of the fastest gains and unemployment is at an all-time low.

There is no doubt that we are in the midst of a blue-collar boom in this country. Those who support the previous question are opposing the economic boom. That is why I will be voting against the previous question.

A vote against the previous question is a vote for lowering the number of impoverished Americans on food stamps. A vote against the previous question is a vote to continue the booming economic growth we have experienced. A vote against the previous question is a vote for enacting all these policies into law and furthering President Trump’s agenda.

Madam Speaker, I urge defeat of the previous question so that we can consider my resolution and support the policies outlined in the “best is yet to come” policy blueprint.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from California for his leadership, especially in bringing before us the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019.

Right now, in my home State, the Virginia General Assembly is engaged in a big debate about whether to repeal the right-to-work laws that have dominated our State for so many years, a repeal I have long supported.

That is why, today, I am proud to stand with my good friend and fellow Virginian, Chairman BOBBY SCOTT, in supporting this bill, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

Unions have been the backbone of a just and equitable economy. Their hard work gave us the 5-day workweek. Their hard work gave us safer working conditions. Their hard work helps deliver fair wages and better access to healthcare. But this isn’t just an economic issue. It is also a question of civil rights. Society itself is freer when workers are empowered to band together and negotiate for better pay, benefits, and working conditions.

I might say, even in those States that are not right-to-work States, it is hard to organize, but when you impose a right-to-work law, then you have really stacked the odds in the ability of working men and women to organize themselves.

This is Black History Month, and I am reminded of these words from Dr. Martin Luther King: “In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as ‘right-to-work.’ . . . Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer, and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped. Our weapon is our vote.”

Dr. King was right. Our weapon is our vote, and today, we are going to exercise that weapon and strike a blow for working men and women and for restoring the constitutional right of working men and women to organize freely and benefit this economy and benefit the quality of lives for people in communities all across this great land.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from California for giving me the time. I urge passage of the bill, and I support the rule underlying it.

□ 1315

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 16 minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 10½ minutes remaining.

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

Madam Speaker, one of the underlying bills here, H. Res. 826, is really nothing more than a political exercise, and I really am disappointed at how we have come to discuss the healthier adult opportunity demonstration, in the manner that it is.

If we were to have a legitimate debate on an optional policy, we should do so in a hearing in the committee of jurisdiction. That is why the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Republican leader WALDEN and me sent a letter to Chairman PALLONE to request such a hearing.

We should be asking questions of agencies and States that are deciding whether or not they would like to utilize this option to deploy the new section 1115 waiver for this very specific population.

Should a State choose to apply for this Healthy Adult Opportunity demonstration, it will only be allowed to address the adults that are under 65 that fall into the expansion population. This optional demonstration changes nothing for children. It changes nothing for seniors, changes nothing for individuals with disabilities. All essential health benefit requirements remain in place.

Most importantly, States do not have to take this option because it is an option. States can maintain the status quo and continue to operate their Medicaid programs as they were before this opportunity was presented to them. Some States may find this demonstration provides the necessary increased flexibility for them to handle the limited healthy adult population that is now covered under Medicaid expansion.

In fact, under one of the financing mechanisms, if a State does not spend all of its Federal allotment under the Healthy Adult Opportunity demonstration, it can keep 25 to 50 percent of the savings not to transfer over to the road and bridge fund, but to reinvest in Medicaid. In the States that might be ravished by an opioid epidemic, that could mean getting more individuals with opioid use disorder into treatment.

It could allow States additional flexibility to help their most vulnerable populations. And we heard very compelling testimony in the Rules Committee last night from the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) about the unconscionably long waiting list for individuals with disabilities to get coverage under Medicaid.

Madam Speaker, 700,000 people across the country are on that waiting list. These shared savings could go in to reducing that case backlog for those individuals.

Look, this may not be an opportunity that every State wants to take. That is why it is optional. That is what optional means. My State, the State of Texas, is working through whether or not this would be beneficial, a beneficial demonstration opportunity for them. There is a lot to look at in the rule that was produced by the Department of Health and Human Services. After all, it was just a week ago that this was received, and people are looking into whether or not it makes sense for them.

But we, in this body, should take the time to understand this, rather than simply jump to a conclusion with an action that is ultimately going to be meaningless because it goes nowhere.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California’s Eleventh District. I also thank, if I may, the persons who are associated with the Rules Committee who worked

tirelessly to get these bills to the floor. And I also thank the House leadership for allowing the bills to come to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I am honored today to say that I traveled to Puerto Rico after one of the hurricanes hit, Hurricane Maria. I was there with the Honorable BENNIE THOMPSON. This was a Homeland Security codel. And while I was there, I had the opportunity to meet with various and sundry NGOs, met with some of the emergency responders, the Corps of Engineers, the National Guard.

I had a firsthand opportunity to see the devastation that Puerto Rico suffered from. And this was prior to the 6.7 earthquake that hit on January 7.

Madam Speaker, I believe that it is time for us to act. I believe this legislation provides the means by which we can act appropriately and efficaciously. I believe that this bill, with what it contains from my bill, H.R. 3702, which was the CDBG-DR, disaster recovery bill, this legislation contains language from that, my bill, and I would like to just share some of the things that are important.

The bill includes the rigorous timelines for allocation action plan approval and grant agreement execution that was contained in the bill. It contains language that HUD will be required to allocate funds no later than 60 days after enactment of the supplemental. HUD would be required to review and approve or disapprove an action plan within 60 days of its submission to the Department, and HUD will be required to allocate funds no later than 60 days after the date of approval of a grantee's plan.

Madam Speaker, I think we have reached a point now where an emergency has become something that we must act upon immediately, if not sooner. The sooner would be today, but unfortunately, we will have the rule today. Immediately will be the vote tomorrow. I beg that all would support the bill.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Texas yielding to me.

I rise in opposition to this rule. And I have a whole stack of things that I will raise, but in the time that is available, I will say this: We watched as the Medicaid program was opened up more and more under President Obama. And when that happened, it caused a significant amount of turmoil in my State and many States across the country.

And so President Trump has stepped in and decided that he is going to offer an opportunity to have the equivalent of block grants going back to the States and let them make the decision, let them write the regulations because the States know best.

This great experiment in Federalism that we have, where the closer to the people that the decision can be made,

the more effective that decision is and the more effective the resources of our taxpayers are. That is the attempt and the endeavor on the part of President Trump, and I regret that so much politics have been churned into this, we have a hard time focusing on the policy.

When I see what happened at the prayer breakfast, and when I listened to the statement that has been made by the Speaker publicly in a conference a little earlier today, it spills forth upon this. Some of her words essentially show up in this document.

Madam Speaker, it is time for us to take a deep breath. Impeachment is over. Let's focus on policy.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of the PRO Act. This much-needed legislation rebalances the economic playing field to give workers a fair shake, and it is long overdue.

Two nights ago, the President stood here and talked about how great the economy is doing, how the stock market is soaring, and unemployment is falling. But the truth on the ground is that people in the middle class and below are not being lifted by this tide. The cost of housing, childcare, education, and other basic essentials are rising at rates not matched by stagnant wages.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a report by the Foundation for Delaware County and Philadelphia Citizens For Children and Youth.

UNDERWATER: WHAT'S SINKING FAMILIES IN DELAWARE COUNTY

[From PCCY, Public Citizens for Children and Youth, Mar. 2019]

The American Dream is eroding in Delaware County. Incomes that used to provide a comfortable middle class life are no longer enough to even cover the basics. Four in ten families are likely to be underwater if they're raising children. Their financial outlook is bleak—a far cry from the prosperity that their parents enjoyed. And if things continue down this road, their children face a future of continued decline.

Hard-working families earning \$50,000, for instance, are likely to be more than \$3,000 in debt between child care, health care, housing, utilities, transportation, food, and taxes. And that's with the help of crucial child care and health insurance benefits. Even if these families have no child care needs, they will have less than \$7,000 left over after paying for the other essentials. That's under \$7,000 for things like clothes, sports teams, birthday presents, summer camps, class trips—just to name a few. Nearly a quarter of families earn this much or less in Delaware County.

Even families who are near the median income—an income that should solidify their middle class status—are drowning. Families making \$75,000 a year, for example, are likely to be saddled with over \$2,000 in debt after paying for the basics, since they do not receive subsidies for child care and health care. If these families are free from the burden of child care, they would have around

\$15,000 left after the major basic costs, but this is still hardly enough to cover the additional everyday costs for the children and parents. On top of that, these families have little money, if any, to save for things like retirement or college for their children, not to mention any emergency costs that may spring up. Nearly 40% of families in Delaware County make this much or less.

The parents in these struggling families bank on the hope that their children can move up the economic ladder, becoming more prosperous as adults than they, the parents, were. The surest way for children to achieve that upward mobility is to get a good education. Unfortunately, many Delaware County schools are in a similar boat as many families, struggling to find the resources to provide students with the skills they need to be upwardly mobile.

The mandated costs of pensions, special education and charter school payments are skyrocketing, growing by \$223 million in Delaware County school districts since 2010. Meanwhile State funding for these districts has grown by just \$107 million, forcing districts to make up the difference through local property tax increases. Even with these tax increases, most districts are unable to get more money in the classroom.

The funding challenges translate to academic struggle. The majority of students in the county—58%—fail the math PSSA, and 39% fail in reading. These figures are even worse in the districts with high shares of low income students, where 75% of students fail the math exam and 52% fail in reading.

The bleak situation facing Delaware County families will only change with large-scale action. History teaches us that bold policies can overcome massive problems facing society and lead to huge gains in the quality of life for all. As Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Romer notes in discussing these types of policy changes, “[If we have a] sense of ‘we’ve got to do the right thing’ . . . everything can turn out better for everybody. But if you just are complacent, say ‘it’ll work itself out,’ you are not going to be happy with the outcome.” Delaware County families cannot afford complacency. The following policies must be implemented, or the cycle of financial stress will never end. The children in these struggling families will become the next generation of struggling families. The American Dream will become the American Drain.

To boost families' incomes:

Create a workforce development strategy to help people move into higher paying jobs.

Increase the State government's payments to agencies that employ low-wage, government-funded professionals, such as Direct Support Professionals and child care workers, so that wages are at least \$15 an hour and ideally \$18 an hour, to increase the ability of these professionals to stay above water while supporting a family.

To reduce the child care and early education cost burden:

Increase funding for Child Care Works, Pre-K Counts and Head Start.

Expand eligibility for Child Care Works.

Implement full day kindergarten in all school districts.

To reduce the health care cost burden:

Expand eligibility for free and subsidized Children's Health Insurance Program.

Preserve the Affordable Care Act.

To reduce the cost burden of other living expenses:

Create more affordable transportation through mobility planning at the County level.

Create affordable housing strategies at the County level.

To reduce the tax burden on financially struggling families:

Expand Pennsylvania's Tax Forgiveness program to incomes of at least \$75,000.

Offset property taxes by increasing State funding for public schools.

To improve the financial outlook of public schools:

Increase State K-12 basic education and special education funding.

Restore the State's charter school reimbursement to school districts.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, according to that report released in October, families in my district in Pennsylvania are being left underwater due to the high cost of living and debt they are forced to incur in order to make ends meet in this economy. A family making the median income of \$75,000 is likely to be \$2,000 under water at year's end.

The middle class is shrinking, and it is clear to see why. The economic divide in the United States has reached unprecedented levels, wealth is concentrated at the very top, and it is not trickling down. Workers have seen their rights stripped, their wages cut, and their dignity taken away.

Over the past three decades the average income for the bottom 90 percent of families, increased by 1.1 percent. During this same period, the average income for the wealthiest 1 percent nearly doubled.

Put simply, workers responsible for wealth creation in this country are not seeing their fair share. Over that same 30-year period, we have seen the percentage of American workers in unions steadily decline, not because people don't want to join unions and take part in the higher average salaries and better benefit structure they are likely to receive. No, it is a direct result of relentless coordinating and well-funded antiunion attacks from corporations and special interests.

Cynically misnamed right-to-work laws have harmed workers and their families. No one in this country is forced to join a union, but the fact is, states with higher numbers of union membership also have higher average salaries for all workers.

This bill would weaken antilabor State laws and close other loopholes that corporations use to exploit workers. The PRO Act will restore some fairness to the American economy and give workers a seat at the bargaining table they rightly deserve. It will introduce meaningful and forceable penalties for companies that violate workers' rights. No longer will companies be able to exploit employees' labor, betting that a toothless NLRB will only give them a slap on the wrist.

This bill would ensure that employees have the right to collectively bargain with companies that control the terms and conditions of their employment. One of the misleading arguments being made against this bill is that it will affect privacy. That is not true.

Madam Speaker, I proudly support this rule and the underlying bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in support.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I just want to highlight a few things.

The gentleman from Virginia came and spoke about an amendment that will be offered if we defeat the previous question.

As a consequence of that defeat of the previous question is the consideration of the amendment offered by Mr. RIGGLEMAN. And some of the things that people need to understand is that, well, they will be voting against these things if they vote to approve the previous question:

The acknowledgment that jobs and investment are coming into this country at a rate that has previously not been known. America is now energy-independent and energy jobs, like so many elements of our country, are at a record high.

We are building an inclusive society that is making sure that every young American gets a great education and the opportunity to achieve the American Dream. That Congress wants to support our students and back the plan to offer vocational and technical education to every single high school in America.

In addition, the commitment to access to high speed internet, including rural America, and the defense of religious liberty.

Many of us worked the prayer breakfast this morning and heard this an additional time, but including the constitutional right to pray in public schools. I just want people to be aware that if they defeat the previous question, this is where we will be engaging.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, as usual, Trump says one thing here and does another. He continues his assault on healthcare—no protection for pre-existing conditions, nothing done to lower prescription price-gouging, and even considering potential cuts to what they call "entitlements" and we call Medicare.

Trump supports only junk insurance and junk ideas, like this crazy idea to block-grant Medicaid, which is a truly block-headed approach that will jeopardize insurance coverage for 1 in 5 Americans.

In Texas, Medicaid is a safety net with more holes than net through which many needy Texans regularly fall. Much of the available assistance is critical to our seniors. Already slashed to the bone, Texas Medicaid does not have any more room for the kind of cuts that Trump is urging. Hospitals are struggling to stay afloat in many parts of the State. Healthcare providers, some of them go out of business. And to the disgrace of the Lone Star State, we have almost 1 million children, more than in any other State in the Union, who lack any insurance access.

Indeed, it is the Affordable Care Act that actually slowed Medicaid spend-

ing, but Republicans will have none of that. This landmark legislation tried to patch the holes in the safety net, but even when Texas was offered 100 cents on the dollar from the Federal Government to extend Medicaid to some of its citizens, Texas refused to do that, and has continued to do so.

Now this Trump block-headed approach would widen the coverage gap for 5 million people with disabilities and millions of children who suffer when their parents cannot get care.

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I yield another 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. One of the advantages of the Medicaid program is if more people require coverage during an economic downturn, or if costs go up because of a public health emergency, like coronavirus or an opioid epidemic, the Federal funding automatically increases. If you have a stingy State Republican government that caps it, that coverage will go down instead of up. What is out of control in America today is not Medicaid spending, but this unhinged President's attempts to undermine healthcare access for as many Americans as he can do.

Madam Speaker, let's oppose it.

□ 1330

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

As I have stated many times over, the rule proposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is an option for States. It does in no way affect or impact the mandatory safety net populations that are required to be covered under Medicaid.

The population that was included in Medicaid expansion, in States that underwent expansion, this is where the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services would provide those State Governors, those State legislatures, an option to consider a block grant if they desired. It is also written in the proposed rule that they could opt for a per-beneficiary allotment, which might even impart additional flexibility.

But one of the provisions of the rule, as has been proposed, is that, if there is a significant change—the State undergoes a natural disaster or emergency—the block grant number can be adjusted. It is not something that is immobile.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers. So, if the gentleman from Texas would like to close, I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I do want to share and introduce into the RECORD an article published by the Brookings Institution—Brookings, of all places—published in September of 2018 that analyzes global poverty levels, finding that

over 50 percent of the world's population can now be considered middle class or above. That means, for the first time, a majority of the world's population is above the poverty line.

According to this article from Brookings, worldwide, one person escapes extreme poverty every second, and five people are entering the middle class per second.

In the United States, the strength of our economy is partly based on pro-growth and pro-business policies, including those policies included in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Madam Speaker, I include the Brookings article in the RECORD.

[From Brookings, Sept. 27, 2018]

A GLOBAL TIPPING POINT: HALF THE WORLD IS NOW MIDDLE CLASS OR WEALTHIER

(By Homi Kharas and Kristofer Hamel)

Something of enormous global significance is happening almost without notice. For the first time since agriculture-based civilization began 10,000 years ago, the majority of humankind is no longer poor or vulnerable to falling into poverty. By our calculations, as of this month, just over 50 percent of the world's population, or some 3.8 billion people, live in households with enough discretionary expenditure to be considered "middle class" or "rich." About the same number of people are living in households that are poor or vulnerable to poverty. So September 2018 marks a global tipping point. After this, for the first time ever, the poor and vulnerable will no longer be a majority in the world. Barring some unfortunate global economic setback, this marks the start of a new era of a middle-class majority.

We make these claims based on a classification of households into those in extreme poverty (households spending below \$1.90 per person per day) and those in the middle class (households spending \$11–110 per day per person in 2011 purchasing power parity, or PPP). Two other groups round out our classification: vulnerable households fall between those in poverty and the middle class; and those who are at the top of the distribution who are classified as "rich."

Our "middle class" classification was first developed in 2010 and has been used by many researchers. While acknowledging that the middle class does not have a precise definition that can be globally applied, the threshold we use in this work has the following characteristics: those in the middle class have some discretionary income that can be used to buy consumer durables like motorcycles, refrigerators, or washing machines. They can afford to go to movies or indulge in other forms of entertainment. They may take vacations. And they are reasonably confident that they and their family can weather an economic shock—like illness or a spell of unemployment—without falling back into extreme poverty.

By classifying all households in the world into one of these four groups, using income and expenditure surveys from 188 countries, we are able to derive measures of the global distribution of income. Our social enterprise World Data Lab—the maker of World Poverty Clock—has refined these estimates and created a new interactive data model to estimate all income brackets for almost every country for every point in time until 2030 by combining demographic and economic data.

A lot has been written about the world's progress in reducing the number of people living in extreme poverty, as highlighted in the recent Goalkeepers report put out by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. We believe that another story relates to the rapid

emergence of the global middle class. This middle class story is probably bigger in terms of the number of people affected. In the world today, about one person escapes extreme poverty every second; but five people a second are entering the middle class. The rich are growing too, but at a far smaller rate (1 person every 2 seconds).

Why does it matter that a middle-class tipping point has been reached and that the middle class is the most rapidly growing segment of the global income distribution? Because the middle class drive demand in the global economy and because the middle class are far more demanding of their governments.

Consider the structure of global economic demand. Private household consumption accounts for about half of global demand (the other half is evenly split between investment and government consumption). Two-thirds of household consumption comes from the middle class. The rich spend more per person, but are too few in number to drive the global economy. The poor and vulnerable are numerous, but have too little income to spend. For most businesses, the sweet spot to target is the middle class. This has long been true in individual advanced economies; it is now true on a global scale.

Targeting the global middle class is not easy. The middle class like differentiated products, and their tastes will vary from country to country. The new middle class is predominantly Asian—almost nine in 10 of the next billion middle-class consumers will be Asian—but they are spread out in China, India, and South and South East Asia. It's no accident that the latest Hollywood hit is Crazy Rich Asians or that Asian multinationals are emerging that have built a domestic brand and now look to compete abroad.

The middle class is already the largest segment of demand in the global economy. What makes it interesting for business is that it is also the most rapidly growing segment, projected to reach some 4 billion people by end 2020 and 5.3 billion people by 2030. Compared to today, the middle class in 2030 will have 1.7 billion more people, while the vulnerable group will have 900 million fewer people. Trends for the poor and the rich and more modest, at –150 million people and +100 million, respectively.

By our calculations, the middle-class markets in China and India in 2030 will account for \$14.1 trillion and \$12.3 trillion, respectively, comparable in size to a U.S. middle-class market at that time of \$15.9 trillion.

In most countries, there is a clear relationship between the fate of the middle class and the happiness of the population. According to the Gallup World Poll, new entrants into the middle class are noticeably happier than those stuck in poverty or in vulnerable households. Conversely, individuals in countries where the middle class is shrinking report greater degrees of personal stress. The middle class also puts pressure on governments to perform better. They look to their governments to provide affordable housing, education, and universal health care. They rely on public safety nets to help them in sickness, unemployment or old age. But they resist efforts of governments to impose taxes to pay the bills. This complicates the politics of middle-class societies, so they range from autocratic to liberal democracies. Many advanced and middle-income countries today are struggling to find a set of politics that can satisfy a broad middle-class majority.

The tipping point in the world today offers opportunities for business but complications for policymakers.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, labor unions were initially created to

ensure fair wages and fair working conditions for employees. Today, Americans are more prosperous than ever.

While I support the freedom of an individual to join a labor union, the necessity that required labor unions is waning as wages increase and, subsequently, union membership decreases.

Why would we now pass a bill that is diametrically in opposition to the benefits that have been enjoyed by this country?

And, again, I would like to emphasize that State participation in the Healthy Adult Opportunity demonstration is optional. If this demonstration project does not fit the needs or the goals of a State Medicaid program, they do not have to participate.

As the Republican leader of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, I believe conversations like this are best to occur at the committee level first, where Members can call witnesses and have a serious discussion.

Do you know what? Regular order can be your friend. It doesn't appear that Democrats are taking this seriously.

Finally, Republicans remain committed to helping all Americans in need, including those in Puerto Rico, but a thorough evaluation of best and most accountable allocation of resources is needed. We support our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico and will continue to find ways to ensure their recovery.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on the previous question, "no" on the rule, "no" on the underlying measures, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I just want to thank everyone who came down and spoke on this important issue. In my view, there is nothing more important.

You don't have to read the 600 pages in Thomas Piketty to know that the level of inequality in this country right now. And I acknowledge some of the improvements that globalism has given to people who earn \$1 a day and are now up to the astronomical level of \$2 a day, but that has not benefited the American worker.

As I said in my opening comments, 40 percent of American households live on \$30,000 a year. That is not helping everybody. Most of the benefits of the last 50 years went to the top 1 percent, people, as I said before, who earn—not own, earn—\$7 million a year as opposed to the 99 percent below them who earn \$54,000 a year.

We have to fix this. This is not democracy, as Brandeis and Lincoln said. As Eisenhower said, when the economy was growing at historic records, as I mentioned in my opening statements.

And this is how times have changed, particularly as a former Republican, former small business owner, former teamster, and former hotel and restaurant union member. Those jobs, that protection, gave me the money to

save enough money to go into business for myself and treat my employees as I would want to be treated, which helped my customers.

Eisenhower said:

Only a handful of reactionaries harbor the ugly thought of breaking unions and depriving working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice.

President Eisenhower said:

I have no use for those, regardless of their political party, who hold some vain and foolish dream of spinning the clock back to days when organized labor was a huddled, almost helpless mass.

Eisenhower said:

Only a fool would try to deprive working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice.

Lincoln said:

All that harms labor is treason to America.

Madam Speaker, for decades, tax breaks, rollbacks on regulations that benefited the ultrawealthy and powerful corporations, unfair labor laws and the enactment and enforcement of those laws, and the rise of monopolies have fueled inequality to the point where we are at Great Depression levels, and we will suffer the consequences if we don't address that in this room. It will be addressed outside of this room.

We have an opportunity today to move this country in the right direction with these three measures. I urge a "yes" vote on the rule and the previous question.

And I have two last quotes. Plutarch said, 2,000 years ago, that the oldest and fatal flaw to republics has always been the imbalance between the rich and the poor.

Samuel Gompers, great union leader, when he was fighting to organize Americans during the Depression, said: Unions and equality, and until we get it, no surrender.

The text of the material previously referred to by Mr. BURGESS is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 833

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the resolution (H. Res. 834) supporting policies that are a part of the "Best is Yet to Come" blueprint, outlined by President Trump during his historic, optimistic State of the Union Address. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the Majority and Minority Leaders or their designees. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of House Resolution 834.

Mr. DESAULNIER. 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. BURGESS. 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.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer a question of the privileges of the House previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 832

Whereas, on December 20, 2019, Speaker Pelosi extended an invitation for President Trump to address a joint session of Congress on February 4, 2020;

Whereas, on February 4, 2020, President Trump delivered his State of the Union address, in which he honored the sacrifice of the following American heroes and their families:

General Charles McGee, one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen, who served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War;

Kayla Mueller, a humanitarian aid worker who was caring for suffering civilians in Syria when she was kidnapped, tortured and enslaved by ISIS for over 500 days before being murdered by ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi;

Army Staff Sergeant Christopher Hake, who was killed while serving his second tour of duty in Iraq by a roadside bomb supplied by Iranian terrorist leader Qasem Soleimani;

Sergeant First Class Townsend Williams, who is currently serving his fourth deployment in the Middle East and his wife Amy, who works full time for the Army and devotes hundreds of hours helping military families;

Whereas immediately following the address, while still presiding over the joint session, Speaker Pelosi ripped up an official copy of the President's remarks, which contained the names and stories of these patriots who sacrificed so much for our country; and

Whereas the conduct of Speaker Pelosi was a breach of decorum and degraded the proceedings of the joint session, to the discredit of the House: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives disapproves of the behavior of Speaker Pelosi during the joint session of Congress held on February 4, 2020.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to table the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. HOYER moves that the resolution be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to lay the resolution on the table.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 833; and

Adoption of House Resolution 833, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 193, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 38]

YEAS—224

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

Doyle, Michael F.	Levin (CA)	Roybal-Allard
Engel	Levin (MI)	Ruiz
Escobar	Lieu, Ted	Ruppersberger
Eshoo	Lipinski	Rush
Españillat	Loeb sack	Ryan
Evans	Lofgren	Sánchez
Finkenauer	Lowenthal	Sarbanes
Fletcher	Lowey	Scanlon
Frankel	Luján	Schakowsky
Fudge	Luria	Schiff
Gallego	Lynch	Schneider
Garamendi	Malinowski	Schrader
Garcia (IL)	Maloney	Schrier
Garcia (TX)	Carolyn B.	Scott (VA)
Golden	Maloney, Sean	Scott, David
Gomez	Matsui	Serrano
Gonzalez (TX)	McAdams	Shalala
Gottheimer	McBath	Sherman
Green, Al (TX)	McCollum	Sherrill
Grijalva	McEachin	Sires
Haaland	McGovern	Slotkin
Harder (CA)	McNerney	Smith (WA)
Hastings	Meeks	Soto
Hayes	Meng	Spanberger
Heck	Moore	Speier
Higgins (NY)	Moulton	Stanton
Himes	Mucarsel-Powell	Stevens
Horn, Kendra S.	Murphy (FL)	Suozi
Horsford	Nadler	Swalwell (CA)
Houlahan	Napolitano	Takano
Hoyer	Neal	Thompson (CA)
Huffman	Neguse	Thompson (MS)
Jackson Lee	Norcross	Titus
Jayapal	O'Halleran	Tlaib
Jeffries	Ocasio-Cortez	Tonko
Johnson (GA)	Omar	Torres (CA)
Johnson (TX)	Pallone	Torres Small (NM)
Kaptur	Panetta	Trahan
Keating	Pappas	Trone
Kelly (IL)	Pascrell	Underwood
Kennedy	Payne	Vargas
Khanna	Perlmutter	Veasey
Kildee	Peters	Vela
Kilmer	Peterson	Velázquez
Kim	Phillips	Visclosky
Kind	Pingree	Wasserman Schultz
Krishnamoorthi	Pocan	Waters
Kuster (NH)	Porter	Watson Coleman
Lamb	Pressley	Welch
Langevin	Price (NC)	Weston
Larsen (WA)	Quigley	Wild
Larson (CT)	Raskin	Wilson (FL)
Lawrence	Rice (NY)	Yarmuth
Lawson (FL)	Richmond	
Lee (NV)	Rose (NY)	
	Rouda	

NAYS—193

Abraham	Duncan	Keller
Aderholt	Dunn	Kelly (MS)
Allen	Emmer	Kelly (PA)
Amodei	Estes	King (IA)
Armstrong	Ferguson	King (NY)
Arrington	Fitzpatrick	Kinzinger
Babin	Fleischmann	Kustoff (TN)
Bacon	Flores	LaHood
Baird	Fortenberry	LaMalfa
Balderson	Foxx (NC)	Lamborn
Banks	Fulcher	Latta
Barr	Gallagher	Lesko
Bergman	Gianforte	Long
Biggs	Gibbs	Loudermilk
Billirakis	Gohmert	Lucas
Bishop (NC)	Gonzalez (OH)	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (UT)	Gooden	Marchant
Bost	Gosar	Marshall
Brady	Granger	Massie
Brooks (AL)	Graves (GA)	Mast
Brooks (IN)	Graves (LA)	McCarthy
Buchanan	Graves (MO)	McCauley
Buck	Green (TN)	McClintock
Bucshon	Griffith	McHenry
Budd	Grothman	McKinley
Burchett	Guest	Meadows
Burgess	Guthrie	Meuser
Byrne	Hagedorn	Miller
Calvert	Harris	Mitchell
Carter (GA)	Hartzler	Moolenaar
Carter (TX)	Hern, Kevin	Mooney (WV)
Chabot	Herrera Beutler	Mullin
Cheney	Hice (GA)	Murphy (NC)
Cline	Higgins (LA)	Newhouse
Cloud	Hill (AR)	Norman
Cole	Holding	Nunes
Collins (GA)	Hollingsworth	Olson
Comer	Hudson	Palazzo
Conaway	Huizenga	Palmer
Cook	Hurd (TX)	Pence
Crawford	Johnson (LA)	Perry
Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Posey
Curtis	Johnson (SD)	Ratcliffe
Davidson (OH)	Jordan	Reed
Davis, Rodney	Joyce (OH)	Reschenthaler
DesJarlais	Joyce (PA)	Rice (SC)
Diaz-Balart	Katko	Riggleman

Rodgers (WA) Spano Walker
 Roe, David P. Stauber Walorski
 Rogers (AL) Stefanik Waltz
 Rogers (KY) Steil Watkins
 Rose, John W. Steube Weber (TX)
 Rouzer Stewart Wenstrup
 Roy Stivers Westerman
 Rutherford Taylor Williams
 Scalise Thompson (PA)
 Schweikert Thornberry
 Scott, Austin Timmons
 Sensenbrenner Tipton
 Shimkus Turner
 Simpson Upton
 Smith (MO) Van Drew
 Smith (NE) Wagner
 Smith (NJ) Walberg
 Smucker Walden

NOT VOTING—12

Cleaver Kirkpatrick Roby
 Foster Lee (CA) Rooney (FL)
 Gabbard Lewis Sewell (AL)
 Gaetz Morelle Webster (FL)

□ 1410

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

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 826, EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S HARMFUL ACTIONS TOWARDS MEDICAID; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2474, PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE ACT OF 2019; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5687, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF AND PUERTO RICO DISASTER TAX RELIEF ACT, 2020

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. 833) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 826) expressing disapproval of the Trump administration's harmful actions towards Medicaid; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2474) to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5687) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, 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.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 194, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 39]
 YEAS—224
 Adams Gomez Pallone
 Aguilar Gonzalez (TX) Panetta
 Allred Gottheimer Pappas
 Axne Green, Al (TX) Pascrell
 Barragán Grijalva Payne
 Bass Haaland Perlmutter
 Beatty Harder (CA) Peters
 Bera Hastings Peterson
 Beyer Hayes Phillips
 Bishop (GA) Heck Pingree
 Blumenauer Higgs (NY) Pocan
 Blunt Rochester Himes Porter
 Bonamici Horn, Kendra S. Pressley
 Boyle, Brendan Horsford Houlihan
 F. Hoyer
 Brindisi Brown (MD) Huffman
 Brownley (CA) Jackson Lee
 Bustos Jayapal
 Butterfield Jeffries
 Carbajal Johnson (GA)
 Cárdenas Johnson (TX)
 Carson (IN) Kaptur
 Cartwright Keating
 Case Kelly (IL)
 Casten (IL) Kennedy
 Castor (FL) Khanna
 Castro (TX) Kildee
 Chu, Judy Kilmer
 Cicilline Kim
 Cisneros Kind
 Clark (MA) Krishnamoorthi
 Clarke (NY) Kuster (NH)
 Clay Lamb
 Clyburn Langevin
 Cohen Larsen (WA)
 Connolly Larson (CT)
 Cooper Lawrence
 Correa Lawson (FL)
 Costa Lee (CA)
 Courtney Lee (NV)
 Cox (CA) Levin (CA)
 Craig Levin (MI)
 Crist Lieu, Ted
 Crow Lipinski
 Cuellar Loeb sack
 Cunningham Lofgren
 Davids (KS) Lowenthal
 Davis (CA) Lowey
 Davis, Danny K. Luján
 Dean Luria
 DeFazio Lynch
 DeGette Malinowski
 DeLauro Maloney
 DelBene Caroleyn B.
 Delgado Maloney, Sean
 Demings Matsui
 DeSaulnier McAdams
 Deutch McBath
 Dingell McCollum
 Doggett McEachin
 Doyle, Michael McGovern
 F. McNeerney
 Engel Meeke
 Escobar Meng
 Eshoo Moore
 Espallat Moulton
 Evans Mucarsel-Powell
 Finkenaue Murphy (FL)
 Fletcher Nadler
 Frankel Napolitano
 Fudge Neal
 Gallego Neguse
 Garamendi Norcross
 Garcia (IL) O'Halleran
 Garcia (TX) Ocasio-Cortez
 Golden Omar

NAYS—194

Abraham Bishop (UT) Cline
 Aderholt Bost Cloud
 Allen Brady Cole
 Amash Brooks (AL) Collins (GA)
 Amodei Brooks (IN) Comer
 Armstrong Buchanan Conway
 Arrington Buck Cook
 Babin Bucshon Crawford
 Bacon Budd Crenshaw
 Baird Burchett Curtis
 Balderson Burgess Davidson (OH)
 Banks Byrne Davis, Rodney
 Barr Calvert
 Bergman Carter (GA)
 Biggs Carter (TX)
 Bilirakis Chabot
 Bishop (NC) Cheney

Estes King (NY) Rouzer
 Ferguson Kinzinger Roy
 Fitzpatrick Kustoff (TN) Rutherford
 Fleischmann LaHood Scalise
 Flores LaMalfa Schweikert
 Fortenberry Lamborn Scott, Austin
 Foa (NC) Latta Sensenbrenner
 Fulcher Lesko Shimkus
 Gallagher Long Simpson
 Gianforte Loudermilk Smith (MO)
 Gibbs Lucas Smith (NE)
 Gohmert Luetkemeyer Smith (NJ)
 Gonzalez (OH) Marchant Smucker
 Gooden Marshall Spano
 Gosar Massie Stauber
 Granger Mast Stefanik
 Graves (GA) McCarthy Steil
 Graves (LA) McCaul Steube
 Graves (MO) McClintock Stewart
 Green (TN) McHenry Stivers
 Griffith McKinley Taylor
 Grothman Meadows Thompson (PA)
 Guest Meuser Thornberry
 Guthrie Miller Timmons
 Hagedorn Mitchell Tipton
 Harris Moolenaar Turner
 Hartzler Mooney (WV) Upton
 Hern, Kevin Mullin Van Drew
 Herrera Beutler Murphy (NC) Wagner
 Hice (GA) Newhouse Walberg
 Higgins (LA) Norman Walden
 Hill (AR) Nunes Walker
 Holding Olson Walorski
 Hollingsworth Palazzo Waltz
 Hudson Palmer Watkins
 Huizenga Pence
 Hurd (TX) Perry Weber (TX)
 Johnson (LA) Posey Wenstrup
 Johnson (OH) Ratcliffe Westerman
 Johnson (SD) Reed Williams
 Jordan Reschenthaler Wilson (SC)
 Joyce (OH) Rice (SC) Wittman
 Joyce (PA) Riggelman Womack
 Katko Rodgers (WA) Woodall
 Keller Roe, David P. Wright
 Kelly (MS) Rogers (AL) Yoho
 Kelly (PA) Rogers (KY) Young
 King (IA) Rose, John W. Zeldin

NOT VOTING—11

Cleaver Kirkpatrick Rooney (FL)
 Foster Lewis Sewell (AL)
 Gabbard Morelle Webster (FL)
 Gaetz Roby

□ 1418

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 220, nays 194, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 40]
 YEAS—220

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

Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fletcher
Frankel
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlihan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)

Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MD)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsock
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Luján
Luria
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyne B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rose (NY)

Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Luján
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Suzuki
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small
(NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—194

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford

Crenshaw
Cunningham
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxo (NC)
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)

Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McAdams
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser

Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)

Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spano
Staubert
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons

NOT VOTING—15

Bilirakis
Cleaver
Foster
Gabbard
Gaetz

Kirkpatrick
Lewis
Lynch
Morelle
Pascrell

Roby
Rooney (FL)
Sewell (AL)
Stivers
Webster (FL)

□ 1425

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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal emergency, I was not present for votes Wednesday, February 5 and Thursday, February 6, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted: Rollcall No. 35 yea, rollcall No. 36 yea, rollcall No. 37 yea, rollcall No. 38 yea, rollcall No. 39 yea, and rollcall No. 40 yea.

EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL OF
THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S
HARMFUL ACTIONS TOWARDS
MEDICAID

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on H. Res. 826, Expressing Disapproval of the Trump Administration's Harmful Actions Towards Medicaid.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1430

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 833, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 826) expressing disapproval of the Trump administration's harmful actions towards Medicaid and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 826

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the illegal actions taken by the Trump administration to undermine the Medicaid program, including beneficiary protections, are a cruel attack on a program that provides for the health and well-being for some of our most vulnerable citizens;

(2) the Trump administration should immediately withdraw its illegal block grant guidance and cease its campaign to undermine and weaken Medicaid; and

(3) the Trump administration should uphold its responsibility to faithfully execute the law, including the Medicaid Act, and cease any and all efforts that threaten the care of the millions of Americans who rely on Medicaid.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H. Res. 826 expressing disapproval of the Trump administration's harmful actions toward Medicaid.

Last Thursday, the Trump administration continued through its relentless campaign to sabotage the Affordable Care Act and its unprecedented attack on Medicaid. Despite promising as a candidate that he would not cut Medicaid, the Trump administration proposed just that last week. It has issued guidance that will allow States to block grant their Medicaid program. Just another day and another broken promise by this President.

Unfortunately, like a lot of his other broken promises, this proposal could have devastating consequences on the health of millions of Americans, including those affected by the opioid epidemic.

One in five Americans have access to healthcare through Medicaid. Block grants limit the amount of Federal dollars States receive, forcing them to cut benefits, cut payments to doctors, and tighten eligibility standards.

The administration's proposal is also illegal. Converting Medicaid to a block grant would require an act of Congress. Our Republican colleagues understand this, and that is why they included a Medicaid block grant provision in their failed attempt to repeal the ACA.

Congressional Republicans know that block granting Medicaid is a seismic change in the program that requires a change in the law. I would hope that they would be concerned by this illegal action and would join us in sending a bipartisan message of disapproval to the Trump administration.

I would also like to refute some claims that you are likely to hear during this debate, Mr. Speaker. First, this has nothing to do with increasing State flexibility. It is about cutting

Medicaid. States already have significant flexibility to design a Medicaid program that works best for them.

You are also likely to hear that the Trump administration proposal only applies to the Medicaid expansion population. But, again, that is not true.

As the Kaiser Family Foundation makes clear, States could include many low-income parents and pregnant women who currently rely on Medicaid. Now, imagine if States would be allowed to cut pregnant women off of their health coverage in the midst of a maternal mortality crisis, which we now have.

At the end of this day, this illegal proposal will lead to lower quality of care for fewer people. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution and reject the administration's illegal and cruel attack on working families, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution. We wouldn't be having what is going to be a spirited debate today over the facts if the Energy and Commerce Committee had bothered to have a hearing on the underlying issue.

I have asked the chairman, my friend, Mr. PALLONE, to do exactly that. He cited a source, Kaiser Family Foundation, saying pregnant women are going to be involved in all of this. The head of CMS and their lawyers say: Not true. Not the case at all.

So here we have a disputed fact on the floor being hammered out here without the benefit of due process and regular order. There has been no regular order, no hearing, no opportunity to bring in these very qualified people, and do what we do best in this Congress, which is listen to the experts, take the testimony, make up our minds, and have debates.

No. The administration put out their letter, their guidance, saying here is how States can innovate. Our State of Oregon spent a lot on innovation in this space. We were both in the State legislature at times, and we sought waivers as a State so we could innovate, create the Oregon Health Plan, and do all of these things. Forty States have waivers. Most of our States have waivers so they can innovate; so they can bring better healthcare to the working poor; and find cost savings they can plow back into better services and more services, which is what this underlying proposal allows.

Let me talk about a couple of things: One, there is no mandate here. This is not, as my friend describes, some evil-empire approach where the Trump administration is forcing something on States. That is factually not the case. This is States seeking an option to innovate and provide better healthcare at lower costs to the people they are trying to serve.

They would have to meet rigorous standards, including all of the essential health benefits required under ObamaCare. That is a requirement here. They can't walk away from that.

This applies to able-bodied adults, not to children, not to people with disabilities, on down that list of mandatory populations. This does not affect the mandatory. This is only the expansion population in the States that expanded Medicaid.

They are going to argue differently because I heard it in the Rules Committee. I can tell you directly from CMS, that is not the case. That is not their intent. That is not what they have suggested. That is not in their proposal.

If we are going to have this difference of opinion, I go back to the underlying issue here. Why in the devil did we not take an hour or two to do regular order and have the Subcommittee on Health, chaired by my dear friend from California, Ms. ESHOO, who could have done a great job having a hearing? She can be rigorous on the administration. We could have hashed this out there. But no.

This isn't even a resolution of disapproval that stops what the administration is proposing. This is the partisan equivalent of a press release. It is a sense of Congress saying: We don't like this.

So when we are done with that, then what happens? Nothing. This is a partisan, political, pathetic debate that serves no real legislative purpose. Done.

If you want to argue legislation, the grownup work we do so well at Energy and Commerce, then let's have a legislative hearing. Let's bring in the Kaiser Family Foundation that was just cited and hold them accountable under oath to show us where what they claim is fact. We can dispute whether something is legal or not. Let's have the lawyers there to give us guidance. But that is not what we are doing.

On Monday afternoon, this language got posted. We went to the Rules Committee. We asked for an opportunity to have an alternative, a motion to recommit on this issue. We were denied that. We had no opportunity to dig into the facts and the figures.

We do know one thing: Our States are great laboratories for innovation. They really are. California has waivers. Oregon has waivers. A lot of States have waivers. We had it back in the day when, I think, Project Independence was a waiver from Medicaid because we thought we could do it better and be a laboratory.

This administration believes in that. States can, those closest to the people can create even better programs to take care of those they serve. This is a Federal-State partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I object to this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to House Resolution 826; a resolution hastily put together that opposes the Administration's Healthy Opportunity demonstration initiative in Medicaid.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services introduced a voluntary proposal to allow states to file for an 1115 Waiver called

the Healthy Adult Opportunity Initiative. This is an option; let me emphasize, an option, for states for certain able-bodied adults-only.

This optional Healthy Adult Opportunity Initiative does not apply to children, seniors, or those with disabilities—just able-bodied adults. It is a prepackaged set of flexibilities, most of which are already used by states in running their programs.

There are many provisions in this proposal that we can all get behind: lowering drug costs, increasing transparency, and greater access to health care. These proposals build on bipartisan legislation we've worked on in the past.

Administrator Verma released a 56-page letter for the demonstration initiative on January 30th. Industry groups were already voicing opposition to the initiative only an hour later—pretty quick to read it and write an opposition to it if you ask me. House members were faster than that.

The day before the plan was released, 36 House members sent a letter to Secretary Azar and Administrator Verma opposing the initiative. How can you oppose something you haven't even seen?

The resolution says that the goal of the Waiver Opportunity is to deprive Medicaid beneficiaries of health services. But on Page 7, CMS points out that any state electing to participate in this demonstration initiative will be expected, at a minimum, to provide coverage of items and services in the categories of the ACA's Essential Health Benefits (EHBs), benefits such as (1) ambulatory patient services; (2) emergency services; (3) hospitalization; (4) maternity and newborn care; (5) mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment; (6) prescription drugs; (7) rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices; (8) laboratory services; (9) preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management; and (10) pediatric services, including oral and vision care, which generally are not applicable for the populations that would be covered under any state that participates in the Waiver Opportunity.

The resolution also asserts the initiative would roll back access standards. But on Page 4, CMS expressly states that those who participate in the demonstration will be monitored to ensure health outcomes are achieved.

This resolution is just another case of Democrats putting partisan political rhetoric in the way of facts and meaningful health reform.

The Healthy Adult Opportunity—if states choose to participate in it—will not give states the ability to cap beneficiary enrollment or cut benefits. CMS is putting an expenditure cap on the waiver should a state choose to take this option, but expenditure caps are fairly common in health programs.

For example, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and many section 1115 Medicaid demonstrations (of which more than 40 states currently participate voluntarily) already operate under a funding ceiling.

I want to point out that while total federal funding will be capped, the waiver does not change the need for states to submit claims reflecting actual expenditures to obtain federal matching funds for the Medicaid program and to maintain health outcomes as under current law. Again, states will not be allowed to cap

enrollment and qualify for the statutory enhanced federal match rate for this expansion population.

Finally, to the extent a State achieves savings and demonstrate no declines in access or quality, CMS will share back a portion of the federal savings for reinvestment into Medicaid. Perhaps, this sort of shared responsibility and incentives could help the people the Medicaid program is intended to serve.

Now, to be clear, I agree this is a major proposal, one that needs to be examined carefully. To that end, let's have a committee hearing at Energy and Commerce, the Committee with jurisdiction over Medicaid, where we can hear from stakeholders as well as the Administration and walk through the facts of the Waiver Opportunity. Instead of a hurried disapproval resolution that bypassed the Committee process, let's do the work at the Committee level to examine this proposal carefully.

When I was Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, we were committed to a process of regular order, allowing for enough time to have meaningful debate and examination of the issues that came before our committee.

House Democrats said they are just as committed to regular order, yet time and time again, we come to the House floor to debate bills or resolution with no committee process and always for partisan political theatre.

Instead of this resolution, we should be voting to end surprise billing. We should be debating how to avoid the Part D catastrophic cliff Obamacare created. We should be considering bipartisan legislation to lower drug prices.

This is another episode of House Democrats putting politics over progress.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), who is a sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring this resolution to the floor today which will fight against the Trump administration's harmful Medicaid block grants.

I would like to take a moment to thank the chairman and the committee and their staff for working hard to protect healthcare for all Americans.

Today, we are here to shine a light on yet another one of the harmful and irresponsible policies designed by the Trump administration.

These block grants are just the latest in a slew of attempts by his administration to gut the Affordable Care Act and the numerous coverage expansions that have been offered to millions of Americans of all ages and all backgrounds who were unable to gain coverage before, and the millions more who could gain coverage if States like mine would be smart and expand Medicaid in our own States.

They have been talking about these block grants in Texas for a while, and they are a hee-hee, ha-ha joke. Everybody knows that these are harmful. People in the healthcare industry in Texas know that these are harmful, and block grants would be harmful for the Nation.

This resolution on the floor today demonstrates our majority's strong opposition to removing the expanded protections that the Affordable Care Act provided to primarily childless adults and those parents who are living at or below the poverty line.

Millions of hardworking Americans have finally been able to gain affordable health insurance. Now the Trump administration wants to take away the progress made by these Americans and undercut their access to healthcare.

They also want to chip away at the access to healthcare for millions of Americans who have and will be able to gain coverage through State Medicaid expansions.

That is why I am proud to lead this resolution today because affordable and accessible healthcare is a right. It should not be a privilege, Mr. Speaker. It should be a right for all.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTI).

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Republican leader of the Energy and Commerce Committee for yielding.

I rise in opposition to H. Res. 826. This resolution is solely a political talking point. The administration's proposal does not harm Medicaid. I applaud the Trump administration for moving in the right direction. Block grants give States the flexibility to invest in their citizens' best interests, while spending an estimated \$1.4 trillion over the next 10 years. That is trillion.

It is plain and simple. Children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities will not be negatively affected by this option, and those in low-income communities will be greatly benefited.

Additionally, CHIP and many of the other Medicaid demonstrations are currently running under similar structures.

As earlier stated by the Republican leader, States do know what is best for their residents. By giving States the options to voluntarily participate in this program and to share in the Federal savings, it is a win. This resolution is simply a Democrat health scare tactic, and I encourage all of my colleagues to oppose H. Res. 826.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. ESHOO), who is the chair of our Health Subcommittee.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the committee for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I do so for the following reasons: We have heard from our friends on the other side of the aisle about process issues. They are always appropriate to bring up. But that reality is an obfuscation of why we are on the floor today with this resolution. This is about healthcare. This is about the Democrats looking to protect the healthcare that the American people have today.

Now, from the outset of this administration, Medicaid coverage for low-in-

come and disabled Americans, medically complex children, and our Nation's most vulnerable communities have been under attack.

After failing to repeal Medicaid coverage for 17 million Americans in the last Congress, the Trump administration is now taking a hatchet to Medicaid. They are ripping coverage away from families, through onerous paperwork—saying: "Oh, no, that really doesn't matter," but it does—onerous paperwork requirements, discriminatory policies against documented immigrants, and funding cuts through proposed block grants.

□ 1445

Block grants are not exactly tidy. It is not the way they are being represented. They use the word "flexible."

Whom is it flexible for? It is flexible for the States that can't stand it and allow them to cut, and they are the States that have some of the poorest people in them.

The administration's actions have already taken a terrible toll. They are directly responsible for 818,000 fewer children being enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program and 750,000 fewer adults being enrolled in Medicaid since 2017.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from California an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to hear the Republicans today stand up on the floor and say: We object to the administration being in the court to eviscerate, remove, undo, and get rid of the entirety of the Affordable Care Act, and I don't think this can stand.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it. I think a vote against this resolution is a vote to throw millions of Americans with preexisting conditions overboard.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I have to just respond in that none of that is what is in this resolution because this resolution has no force of law. This resolution is not healthcare policy; it is a press statement. It does nothing to deal with any of the issues my dear friend has just raised, other than make a statement.

Do you want to legislate? Then legislate. Let's go have a hearing. Let's go have a markup. Let's go work on these issues together.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS). The good doctor is the former chairman of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I did want to speak in opposition to H. Res. 826. It is indeed a political exercise, and I am disappointed that the Democrats have decided to discuss the Healthy Adult Opportunity demonstration in this manner.

If we are to have legitimate debate on this optional policy, then we should do so in a hearing. We should do so in

a hearing in our committee. That is why the Energy and Commerce Committee Republican Leader WALDEN and I sent a letter to Chairman PALLONE to request such a hearing. We should be asking the questions of the agencies and the States that are deciding as to whether or not they want to utilize this option, a new section 1115 waiver for a very specific population.

This optional demonstration changes nothing for children, seniors, or individuals with disabilities.

The comments about the State of Texas are absolutely erroneous. Texas did not expand Medicaid. This only applies to the Healthy Adult expansion population, not to the traditional mandatory populations.

All essential health benefits requirements would remain in place, and States do not have to take the option. States can maintain the status quo and continue to operate their Medicaid programs as they were before this opportunity was presented to them.

Again, this is an option. Give States flexibility. States are great laboratories of innovation. We should let them innovate.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), who chairs our Energy Subcommittee.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the full Committee on Energy and Commerce for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 826. Over the last 3 years, the Trump administration has deliberately and repeatedly sabotaged the Affordable Care Act. This has led to higher healthcare costs for low- and middle-income Americans. This has also led to an increase in the number of uninsured Americans, including those in my home State of Illinois.

As such, Mr. Speaker, it is not surprising to me that the administration is, once again, attacking vulnerable Americans' healthcare.

We have not forgotten that our colleagues across the aisle tried and failed to force through the Medicaid block grant in the year 2017. It failed, Mr. Speaker, because the American people saw the plan for what it was: a way to weaken the Medicaid program.

Under this latest proposal, just like TrumpCare, much of the financial burden would shift to States. States, Mr. Speaker, would be forced to reduce benefits, kick vulnerable Americans off Medicaid, and siphon funds from other priorities, including schools, roads, and first responders.

Mr. Speaker, healthcare is a human right, and we cannot and we will not stand idly by if this right is taken away from the most vulnerable among us.

As such, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to vote in favor of this resolution to express my disapproval of the Trump administration's Medicaid block grant plan.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I just point out the State Gov-

ernor would have to seek a waiver and get approval to maintain all the essential benefits of the Affordable Care Act in everything they do. This only applies in States that took the expansion, not others. States are the great laboratories that innovate and deliver healthcare better for the working poor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS).

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and our leader for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in opposition to H. Res. 826.

It really is a partisan resolution. It has zero reforms. It is being rushed through to attack the administration's Healthy Adult Opportunity program to modernize Medicaid.

The majority is ignoring that Medicaid's status quo is leaving people like pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities behind today. Instead of working in a bipartisan fashion to actually improve Medicaid, they are more interested in scoring political points.

There are currently over 700,000 individuals across this country on waiting lists, people with disabilities on waiting lists, to get care within Medicaid. I would urge you to check your States, Mr. Speaker. Two-thirds of the 700,000 who are waiting for care and services that they need currently today on Medicaid are living with a disability.

I listened to one family's story. Their daughter had a rare neurological condition. She was put on a Medicaid waiting list for 10 years to be approved for services—10 years.

This is happening in my home State of Washington, too. There are almost 14,000 individuals with disabilities today waiting for care and services.

The most appalling figure is that at least 21,900 people across the country have died waiting for Medicaid services that they need.

The status quo is unacceptable. It needs to be fixed. We need a solution, not a partisan resolution that maintains the status quo.

It is time to modernize Medicaid. Let's work together. Let's get solutions. The Healthy Adult Opportunity program will improve the Medicaid program's integrity by giving States the option to innovate and provide coverage by enrolling in the program. This will give States the flexibility to control costs and share the program's savings within Medicaid. States like Washington could put those savings directly back into the Medicaid program so that they can shorten their waiting list and save lives.

Let's have a hearing. Let's get this done. Let's work in a bipartisan way.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE), who chairs our Communications and Technology Subcommittee.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have a strange

feeling of *deja vu* today because, once again, Democrats are down on the floor, speaking out against another attempt by the Trump administration to take away people's healthcare.

This should go without saying, but let me say clearly: Block grants do not strengthen the Medicaid program, and they do not protect Americans.

It makes sense that when the economy is bad, more people might need Medicaid, and when the economy is good, Medicaid payments shrink. This is common sense and good public policy. Medicaid should be there when people need it the most, yet the Trump administration wants to undo that. Instead, the amount of money that a State would receive would be flat, and States would have to adjust their coverages accordingly.

That means one of two things: either fewer people can be covered or fewer services can be covered. In fact, this policy encourages States to cut coverage and divert Medicaid money to other parts of their budgets.

We should be trying to improve people's healthcare and investing more so that American families don't have to.

Republicans have been trying to cut Medicaid for 30 years. This is just the latest attempt. They most recently failed to cut Medicaid coverage when they were in the majority and tried to repeal the Affordable Care Act because the American people were overwhelmingly opposed to their plan. Now the Trump administration is trying to go it alone.

But the American people will see through what you are doing, and they will see the Republicans in Congress, once again, turning a blind eye while this President and his administration try to take healthcare away from millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to condemn this outrageous and unwise proposal.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, could I inquire as to how much time each side has remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon has 18¼ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 19 minutes remaining.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL).

Mr. MITCHELL. I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, if you are aware or my colleagues are aware that we are now over 15 resolutions expressing disapproval with some policy of the administration, more than one per month. It appears maybe we have a monthly checklist that we must do some resolution disapproving of the administration's action on a monthly basis.

There is a point in time in this body we actually legislated. Imagine that. We considered an issue. We would have hearings. We would get experts in. We would have a bill. We would have regular order. We would amend the bill. And we would debate the policies.

This is not legislation. H. Res. 826 has less impact and less importance than the tissue in the Cloakroom has on this body. I repeat that: less impact because, frankly, it is more useful.

This is not. This is a media opportunity. This is a press release. At some time, the media will have people gathered together to bemoan the policy of the Trump administration.

By the way, this is simply a guide to the States if they want to pursue waivers. States are choosing what is best for their citizens to serve them. As has been noted, there have been over 43 waivers approved by multiple States.

So let me just say, I watched with great interest last evening the debate over expressing one's opinion and First Amendment rights in this body. With great interest, I watched them. So let me at this point in time express my opinion and exercise my First Amendment rights by simply saying—

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), who chairs our Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee in Congress.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the Trump administration's cuts to Medicaid as yet another broken promise from this President.

On May 7, 2015, then-candidate Trump tweeted: "I was the first and only potential GOP candidate to state there will be no cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid." He even said that these programs were a part of what makes America great.

The President was right. Medicaid is a pillar of our society. Mr. Speaker, 3.26 million people in my home State of Illinois receive their healthcare through Medicaid. Since Illinois expanded Medicaid in 2013, our uninsured rate has been cut nearly in half. One study found that expanded Medicaid coverage reduced mortality in Illinois by 6 percent.

Mr. Speaker, 40 percent of kids in my State can see a doctor when they are sick and get vaccinations and screenings that they need only because of Medicaid, and over 275,000 Illinois seniors and almost 400,000 people with disabilities rely on Medicaid. In fact, Medicaid pays for over half of all long-term services and supports across the United States.

□ 1500

Despite all this, the administration is gutting Medicaid funding and allowing States to cut benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voicing our opposition to the Trump administration by voting "yes" on this resolution. Medicaid matters, and we will protect your care.

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

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

I just point out that, again, this is a State option. Nobody is mandating anything on any State. States can

come to the Federal Government, as they willfully do, and say: We have a better idea to take care of the working poor. We think we can achieve some savings that we understand. If we do, we will be plowed back into more benefits and services in some large measure to improve and expand Medicaid in our State.

Mr. Speaker, our States have done that. As you know, others are. This is an option. It is not a mandate.

Finally, the resolution on the floor today has no legal effect on any of this. It is a press release called a resolution. It never even goes to the Senate. It will never go to the President. It will never become a law. It is just a press statement.

Mr. Speaker, so for all the comments about stopping this and stopping that, you do that with legislation. That is why we have said you ought to have a hearing in the committee of jurisdiction. If you want to mark up a bill, let's go do that. Let's have witnesses. Let's do what we do best around here. But we are not doing this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), Congress' pharmacist.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak against H. Res. 826, a resolution that was hastily put together that opposes the administration's Healthy Adult Opportunity demonstration initiative in Medicaid.

The use of waivers to grant States more flexibility in managing their healthcare systems is foundational to health reforms from both parties throughout the years. In fact, most Medicaid programs across the country today are currently operating under some form of waiver.

In the latest waiver proposal, the Trump administration would allow States more flexibility to manage their Medicaid expansion population by choosing to accept their Federal funds in a per person or lump sum basis. States would be able to take that Federal money and more efficiently treat these patients and then share in the savings.

The Medicaid program was built to be a safety net for our children and the poor, not to be our Nation's largest insurer. This waiver would not affect how Medicaid cares for children, seniors, or those with disabilities.

The Healthy Adult Opportunity waivers are designed only to help States manage the rapidly ballooning costs from able-bodied adults who are now on Medicaid after ObamaCare.

Medicaid benefits and patient access to care will not be cut in this proposal. Any State pursuing a Healthy Adult Opportunity waiver will still be held responsible for the accessibility of services to beneficiaries.

As much as my friends across the aisle seek to demonize this proposal and use every scare tactic in the book, this is sound policy to help the growing number of States struggling to manage the costs of their growing Medicaid programs.

Mr. Speaker, I commend President Trump, Secretary Azar, and Administrator Verma for their work, and I urge my colleagues to vote against this resolution.

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman PALLONE for yielding the time.

Affordable healthcare is fundamental to the well-being of American families, but the Trump administration doesn't believe that. Now, they are proposing again to shrink, block, or eliminate health services under Medicaid.

For over 50 years, Medicaid has provided a coverage guarantee. It is guaranteed that if you fall on hard times or if you have a disability or you are a senior in skilled nursing, care will be there if you need it. But this proposal out of the administration will severely chip away at that coverage guarantee.

It is particularly harmful to my home State of Florida, and it will complicate our ability to expand Medicaid health services to families who need it.

Don't just take it from me. Patient advocates, doctors, and hospitals overwhelmingly oppose block grant waivers because they will weaken access to care. Groups like AARP, the American Cancer Society Action Network, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Federation of American Hospitals, the Children's Hospital Association, and many others have spoken out against block grants and waivers.

Unfortunately, this is part of the administration's broader antihealthcare agenda. They have tried to weaken affordable care through budgets; we have rejected it. Through legislation, we have defeated it. Now, they are in the courts to take away that coverage for preexisting conditions.

The Trump antihealthcare agenda is cruel. It is wrong. And I urge my colleagues to reject it today by passing this resolution.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 826, a rushed resolution to dismantle the Trump administration's Healthy Adult Opportunity Medicaid initiative.

The Affordable Care Act expansion of Medicaid is simply unsustainable. It is bankrupting my home State of Kentucky.

In the 114th Congress, I served as the chair of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Medicaid Task Force. We explored ways that would make Medicaid sustainable so that it can be fully utilized by vulnerable populations for generations to come.

The Trump administration has proposed a commonsense option that will not affect funding for children, pregnant women, the elderly, or people with disabilities but, rather, give States flexibility for their Medicaid programs.

I will continue to work with my colleagues on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to make Medicaid sustainable and accessible to those who need it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose H. Res. 826.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the millions of Americans who rely on Medicaid for access to mental health services. Individuals with mental illnesses and addictions were among the largest beneficiaries of the Medicaid expansion.

The mentally ill, along with disabled, low-income families, and older adults, will undoubtedly suffer if their coverage is reduced or taken away entirely under the Trump administration's new guidance to cut Medicaid funding. Block grants will shift costs to States, forcing them to make tough decisions about what services to cut, picking the well-being and care needs of one patient population over another.

Not only is this plan unethical, it is illegal. And the American people understand block grants would hurt some of the most vulnerable amongst us. We cannot allow this administration to recklessly cause such hardship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing their disapproval of the Trump block grant plan by voting to support H. Res. 826.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, Medicaid saves lives. It helps save patients from poverty and provides families with access to critical care. It is the largest payer of mental healthcare in the country and the longest payer of long-term care in the country.

It covers half of all births and strengthens special education opportunities in our schools. It covers working families. It covers babies. It covers the elderly, the sick, the addicted, and those in need.

In short, it covers those that this administration has relentlessly targeted from its very first day, from a healthcare repeal effort that would have denied care to millions of Americans; to a lawsuit that could still steal healthcare from millions more; then a relentless effort to impose onerous bureaucratic red tape known as work requirements on people struggling to make ends meet; and now this, an illegal and immoral block grant that will end in countless lives lost to preventable deaths.

We can afford trillions of dollars in tax cuts to make the rich richer. We can afford \$60 billion for a wall that falls in the wind and fails in the rain. But taking care of our neighbors, that is a cost we can't bear, a challenge too great for this country to shoulder.

For an administration that seeks to make America great, our President far

too frequently doubts the capabilities and grit of our fellow neighbors. But as this administration stands proudly behind this illegal policy, I have no doubt that it will be rejected by this Chamber, in our courts, and by the American people yet again.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to President Trump's constant efforts to gut Medicaid.

Let's be clear. This is another attempt by President Trump to take healthcare away from millions of Americans. This block grant proposal is the latest step in Trump's ongoing efforts to end the Affordable Care Act. Trump is, tragically, trying to affect the most vulnerable in our country: children, people with disabilities, low-income families, and seniors.

According to a recent study, this proposal could lead to cuts of \$37 billion, perhaps as much as \$49 billion a year of healthcare benefits to our American citizens.

Just 2 days ago, President Trump spoke right here in this Chamber, saying that he is out to protect healthcare for the American people. But once again, we see he is trying to hurt Americans when all he is trying to do is talk one way and take actions like this against the American people and their healthcare.

I know what it is like to not have healthcare, when I was a little boy, when an aspirin, a prayer, and the emergency room were your only options.

Americans should not have to suffer through that. There is no need for it. But this President wants people to suffer.

Many of my constituents rely on Medicaid for their health coverage. People shouldn't be forced to choose between buying medicine for their children or putting food on their tables.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues in Congress, such as Congressman VEASEY, in supporting H. Res. 826. We will not stay silent as this administration continues its efforts to gut and take healthcare away from millions of Americans across our great Nation.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I was going to raise that point.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ), a member of our committee.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, block-granting Medicaid will increase out-of-pocket costs, limit patient care, and take away health coverage for millions of Americans across this country.

Block-granting Medicaid is just another way of cutting Medicaid. To reduce costs, States will cut eligibility, cut payments to doctors and hospitals that care for the poor, and cut coverage for seniors and medicines.

These cuts will raise out-of-pocket costs for Americans, result in fewer hospitals and providers for Medicaid recipients, and increase barriers to care for low-income, rural, and vulnerable patients.

□ 1515

It will harm people in underserved areas with physician shortages, like Desert Hot Springs, Eastern Coachella Valley, and Hemet in my district, people in rural areas, low-income seniors, children, people with disabilities, our neighbors and families.

Put simply, Medicaid block grants hurt the very people Medicaid is here to help. That is why I urge this body to vote for H. Res. 826 and make a strong statement to protect healthcare for millions of Americans.

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

May I say, the proposal before us today has no force of law. There is a lot of heated rhetoric, yes. There is a lot of fire and brimstone, yes. There are even words that probably could have been taken down. But the resolution before us is nothing more than a partisan political press release.

So for all of the comments, you could legislate, but you are not. You could actually have the force of law.

Now, let's get to the underlying issue. All these attacks on the President say the President is doing this, the President is doing this, that, and the other thing, when, in fact, that is not what is happening here. The President is giving States the opportunity to do a better job of providing healthcare to their citizens.

Nothing in this waiver process that exists today in statute or exists tomorrow under this proposal that the administration has put forward is allowed to adversely affect people on disabilities or pregnant women or children. This goes to the expanded adult population, where they can then innovate.

Our State, Mr. Speaker, as you know, is seeking a waiver to be able to expand substance abuse disorder treatment. That would be allowed under this. States like California could come to the administration under this authority and say we would like to expand our Medicaid program to include more services for people who need mental health, so mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in the debate, my colleague from Washington State talked about the backlog for people on disabilities who can't get access to Medicaid. So what is wrong with a State saying: We can do it better; we can do it more efficiently; we can save money; and we can plow the savings back into expanded coverage?

By the way, Mr. Speaker, Oregon has been a leader in this sort of effort with our CCOs, our Coordinated Care Organizations, where they have done precisely this. They do wraparound services. They take the most vulnerable and people in need in our communities and say: Let's all get together and take care of this patient. In doing so, the savings, in large measure, go back into expanded services.

So, for all the doomsday talk I hear on the floor, Mr. Speaker, let's get to the facts of the matter. The facts of the matter are nobody is being forced to do a block grant; nobody is being forced to do cap and a gap.

What we are saying is: States, let's be thoughtful about this. Come to Washington. Here are some things we know work elsewhere, and you can do it in your State and save money and probably provide more benefits and maybe save a little for the taxpayers and improve the quality of the healthcare for the people you are over-seeing.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), also a member of our committee.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my chairman for all the hard work he has been doing.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 826 and in opposition to the Trump administration's recent proposed cuts to Medicaid.

Medicaid provides important life-saving care for our Nation's children, seniors, and disabled, including in my home State of Michigan. That is why political leaders, under the leadership of Governor Rick Snyder, a Republican, worked across the aisle to expand Medicaid in Michigan in 2014.

This expansion, Healthy Michigan, currently covers over 650,000 Michiganders, providing them access to both quality and affordable healthcare and protection from crippling medical bills.

It has also supported rural hospitals both in Michigan and across the country. Without Healthy Michigan, hospitals across the State that serve some of our most vulnerable residents would face closures and terrible increased financial pressures.

Finally, Medicaid is the single largest payor of long-term care in this country and allows our seniors the opportunity to live with dignity as they age.

The Trump administration's recent actions puts this all at risk. Both the 2017 healthcare proposal and the CMS proposal would block grant Medicaid, drastically cutting the resources it provides for lifesaving medical care.

We know what this means: increased healthcare costs for my constituents and a loss of coverage for seniors, the disabled, and our children, who are the overwhelming majority of Medicaid recipients.

This resolution sends a strong message: We will make good on our com-

mitment to provide quality and affordable healthcare to every American, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. Speaker, Michigan doesn't have to apply for another waiver. Nobody is going to force anything like we just heard on Michigan. That is not the proposal from the administration, and nothing in this resolution stops anything anyway.

In fact, I would argue, Michigan probably came to an administration to get exactly an 1115 waiver to do everything my friend and colleague just said they are doing in Michigan, just like Oregon had to come back and get waivers to do what we are doing.

All this administration is doing is saying: Let's make that waiver process a little easier, but you have to make sure you are continuing to provide the best care possible to the people you serve.

And once again, despite what we have heard on the floor today, nothing in their proposal would apply to the categories we have been discussing: the mandatory, the legacy population. That is not what is there.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, it would have been so much better to have a real hearing in the Energy and Commerce Committee where we could have had a real discussion with real experts there to get us all on the same basis of fact. It is unfortunate we don't have that.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), who is the vice chair of our Health Subcommittee.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, for the life of me—for the life of me—I just cannot understand why 14 States have flatly refused to expand their Medicaid program to provide healthcare to their low-income, healthy, childless adults, a demographic that was omitted from Medicaid in 1965 when it was enacted into law.

North Carolina, my home State, would greatly benefit from Medicaid expansion. Other congressional districts would benefit.

And to my Republican friends: The fact is that your low-income constituents would greatly benefit. Talk to your doctors. Talk to your hospitals. Talk to your providers. The coverage low-income individuals would receive will not only benefit them, but the entire economy of your State.

Let's cooperate on this one. Let the States know that Medicaid expansion will benefit them, and it will not break their budget. We, the Federal Government, will pay 90 percent of the costs in perpetuity.

For the President to direct the block granting of Medicaid to the State will be absolutely beyond his executive authority.

I repeat: To direct block granting to the State will absolutely be beyond his executive authority.

To cap and slash these benefits is unlawful, and it is cruel. It will require authorization from this Congress.

I urge my colleagues to vote "aye" on this resolution, H. Res. 826.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, my friend from North Carolina, I would just say, through the Chair, that Oregon is an expansion State. So you are right. We have seen the benefits of this in my State. We have seen the benefit of flexibility. We have sought waivers and gotten them to do exactly the sorts of things you are saying.

And, ironically, under the proposal of the administration, North Carolina could use this authority to expand its Medicaid population. That is allowed under the proposal from the administration out to the States. They can actually use these tools and do exactly what the gentleman is saying: expand the population in North Carolina.

So there are good things in here.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to get into the legal debate. I am not a lawyer. I am not burdened with a law degree. But I would argue that, if we had this discussion in our committee we love so much, maybe we would have a better outcome here.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of respect for both you and the chairman, but there is a parting of the ways here. I want to urge my colleagues to stand against the administration's vicious assault on Medicaid. That is how I perceive it.

The expansion of Medicaid by the ACA is one of the great success stories of government in action in the last 50 years. Despite the decade-long obstructionism, Medicaid expansion has saved 19,000 older, low-income adult lives—and I know they don't challenge those numbers—and 825 lives just in our State of New Jersey.

But many Republicans have rejected the attempts to destroy—they tried to destroy the ACA at the ballot box and at the courthouse. But like Captain Ahab after his white whale, they remain singularly dedicated to stealing healthcare away from as many Americans as possible.

This administration knows their policy is pure poison. They gave it an innocuous name and, as we heard on Tuesday, are lying about the details to fool people.

Americans will not be fooled by this Orwellian scheme. This policy would rip away healthcare for some of the most vulnerable of our neighbors. They want to obliterate the ACA no matter what the consequences.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution to send a loud message: Those on the other side cannot be allowed to steal your healthcare. We will do everything in our power to stop their schemes.

Now, the “Joker” movie may not prevail at Sunday’s Oscars. We must think about any other jokers that go through any of their basements, including the White House, after today’s vote. What will they be sulking about? This is important legislation.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the amount of time each side has.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon has 8 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 3¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I don’t have any more speakers other than myself at this time, so I am prepared to close.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I don’t believe we have any more, but I still have 8 minutes, so I am going to share a few comments.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say a couple of things.

When I chaired the Energy and Commerce Committee, we did try to do some reforms on healthcare, certainly, and there was a big disagreement, but we also extended funding for community health centers, the biggest increase they had ever gotten, 2 years fully funded.

The chairman and I both are supportive of a 5-year extension of fully funding community health centers going forward. In my State, I think we had 63 different places people got healthcare in my district, and 122—well, a lot of people in Oregon go through community health centers.

As chairman, I led the effort in this Congress the last session to fully fund a 10-year expansion of the Children’s Health Insurance Program. That is the biggest expansion, I think, in modern legislative history, probably.

Many Democrats voted against it when I tried to get it extended for 4 years, and then a lot of Democrats voted against it when it was 6, and then eventually we got to 10—unprecedented. We got that into law. We eventually came together and we got that into law.

We have done a lot of work on special diabetes program funding and a special program for those with diabetes in our Native American community.

One thing after another, in the last Congress, we accomplished in a bipartisan way.

The work we did on opioids together as a Congress, you were a very important part of that, Mr. Chairman, on a proposal that we passed in the House. Unfortunately, we fell a little short in the Senate to get better communication among providers.

We put real money behind that, billions of dollars into our States and communities; and that help is starting to show up with expanded access—I

think it is a 38 percent increase in access—to the kind of services, health services, people dealing with addiction need.

And, as a result of our work, I would say, in public education and other work, we saw, finally, a topping off in the overdose deaths.

Now, there is more work to do there.

□ 1530

This proposal, the underlying proposal the administration has put forward, I would argue, builds on the notion of local, State, Federal partnership to serve the same people. We would give States more authority to manage their Medicaid programs more efficiently and effectively. Savings would be put back into the Medicaid program in large measure.

Now, my friend from New Jersey, not the chairman, but the predecessor speaker here, talked about ripping away healthcare. Ironically, it is the socialist left that wants to take away all Americans’ healthcare and have the Federal Government run it. That would be Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, veterans’ healthcare in there, Medicare for all proposals that would, I think, bankrupt the Federal Government.

But it would rip away all the health insurance products out there and make them illegal. So if you liked your health insurance, you could say goodbye to it. And some of these same people that can’t count votes in Iowa want to run your insurance in America, and I don’t think that is really a good thing.

So we stand here today opposing this resolution. We stand here today saying, the resolution does nothing anyway, other than make a statement. Do you want to legislate?

We can be partners, as we were on community health centers, as we were on opioids, as we were on children’s health insurance, as we were on a lot of things; but let’s go back to work where it belongs, in the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I would just ask my colleagues, vote against this resolution. Then let’s get back to work on the real policy in the place where policy is done best. And with all due respect to those on the Ways and Means Committee, that would be the Energy and Commerce Committee. That is one thing we agree on in a bipartisan way.

We can do our work there. We can get this right. Mr. Speaker, I ask for a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

I would urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this resolution. And in doing so, I would like to point to some of the whereas clauses of the actual resolution.

It points out that the President has waged an unrelenting war on Medicaid. It says that, under President Trump’s watch, the number of uninsured chil-

dren has increased, reversing years of decline, largely as a result of substantial losses in Medicaid coverage for children.

Over a million children have lost Medicaid and CHIP coverage, and over 750,000 adults have lost Medicaid coverage.

And I know that my colleague, the ranking member, who I respect, made reference to pregnant women and said that they would not be included under this block grant.

In contrast to that, I want to read something from—the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists was sent a letter, and they say, under Federal law, States must cover pregnant women earning up to 138 percent of the Federal poverty level in their Medicare programs.

Almost all States cover pregnant women beyond the Federal minimum. Any pregnant women covered beyond this minimum are, therefore, an optional population, and could be included in a State’s block grant demonstration program. So, the fact of the matter is that pregnant women and postpartum women would be included in this.

Also, it says in the whereas clauses, not only the guidance that we are trying to reverse here today that allows States to cap their Medicaid funding through a block grant, but the President has also proposed regulations to roll back access standards put in place to ensure beneficiaries receive the care they need.

He also issued guidance to allow State Medicaid programs to restrict access to prescription drugs by adopting closed formularies. He proposed massive annual compounding cuts in Federal funding to the program, in direct contradiction to an explicit campaign promise.

Last year, the President’s budget cut Medicaid by \$1 trillion. We are going to get the President’s budget next week. I would not be shocked if he didn’t cut it again by \$1 trillion.

We have been seeing this war by President Trump on Medicaid in every way, and that is why we are here today, to say this war against Medicaid has to stop.

If the GOP claim that they support Medicaid, which oftentimes they don’t, then they should be voting for this resolution.

So I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the Trump Administration’s cuts to Medicaid as yet another broken promise from this President.

On May 7, 2015, then-Candidate Trump tweeted: “I was the first & only potential GOP candidate to state there will be no cuts to Social Security, Medicare & Medicaid.”

He even said that these programs were a part of what makes America great.

Well, Mr. President—you were right: Medicaid is a pillar of our society.

3.26 million people in my home state of Illinois receive their health care through Medicaid.

Since Illinois expanded Medicaid in 2013, our uninsured rate has been nearly cut in half.

One study found that expanding Medicaid coverage reduced mortality by 6 percent.

40 percent of kids in my state can see a doctor when they are sick and get the vaccinations and screenings they need to stay healthy only because of Medicaid.

Over 275,000 of Illinois' seniors and almost 400,000 people with disabilities rely on Medicaid to live independently, including nursing home care and services that help them live at home.

In fact, Medicaid pays for over half of all longterm services and supports a cross the United States.

Despite all this, the Administration is gutting Medicaid funding and allowing states to cut benefits that people need to survive.

Why?

Maybe because they need to pay for the GOP Tax Scam, which created a \$1.5 trillion deficit in tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires.

And because they want to continue their legacy of punishing low-income people and the most vulnerable among us.

Medicaid is critical to the health and financial security of people across the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting YES on this resolution so that we can send a clear message: Medicaid matters, and we will Protect Your Care.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I adamantly oppose Tennessee's proposal to block grant its version of Medicaid, TennCare, and the Administration's proposal for all states to have the opportunity to restrict Medicaid funding. This proposal would harm Americans most in need across the country. We should not be encouraging states to limit resources and cap budgets. In Tennessee, one in ten people have no health insurance. When this is the case, we should be expanding options for affordable health care options. Instead, this Administration has relentlessly attacked Medicaid and the people who depend on its support to stay healthy. The fact is, the majority of non-disabled, non-elderly adults on Medicaid are working hard and rely on Medicaid to help get the basic health care that they need. I am proud to support H. Res. 826 and will continue to fight for access to health care for all Americans. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my Colleagues in support of House Resolution 826, "Expressing disapproval of the Trump administration's harmful actions towards Medicaid."

Great Presidents are made by landmark policy initiatives and programs that bring a positive impact for the lives of the American people or the world.

Trump has promised to introduce new proposals to protect those with pre-existing conditions if the Affordable Care Act (ACA) bill is replaced, but so far none of his administration's alternatives have come close to providing the level of healthcare currently available.

The landmark bill, seen as one of the key pieces of legislation signed by President Obama barred insurers from denying coverage, or charging more, to those with a pre-existing condition.

Trump said during his State of the Union Address that he would protect the rights of the

insured with pre-existing conditions is not true and the dishonesty of his statement is revealed by his administration joining a lawsuit to take away this important protection.

Through his actions Trump is doing all that he can to end the protections for those with pre-existing conditions.

Trump's Justice Department joined a lawsuit that would end the protections for pre-existing conditions.

In July of this year, Medicare and Medicaid will reach 55 years of service to Americans from all walks of life.

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, another great president, signed Medicare and Medicaid into law as part of the Social Security Act.

This landmark legislation that truly represents Americans at our best became a reality due to the tireless efforts of great leaders like Teddy Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Lyndon B. Johnson.

The signing of the law that established Medicare forged a promise with American seniors that we must not allow Donald J. Trump to take from them.

America's word matters and our promise to our seniors cannot be allowed to be broken.

Both Medicare and Medicaid promise our nation's elderly and poor that they could enjoy their lives with peace of mind and the security of reliable, affordable, and high-quality healthcare.

Medicaid created a crucial partnership between the Government and the governed to provide a basic health care safety net for some of the most vulnerable Americans: children of adults with low incomes, persons with disabilities and the poor.

Mr. Speaker, over half a century later, the legacy of these programs has proven how powerful government action can be to the life and wellbeing of our nation's most vulnerable.

Today, the Trump administration is trying to go back on this promise.

On January 30, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released its long-rumored guidance on Medicaid block grants.

This notice to state Medicaid directors invites states to restructure their Medicaid programs in a radical manner previously rejected by Congress, by capping federal funding at an artificially low level. Millions of Americans will be denied health care because of this draconian directive. Also persons who are disabled, children, and seniors will be most impacted. We should vote no on cutting Medicaid and making Americans sicker.

Medicaid's financing is already based on federal matching of state Medicaid costs.

The current program reimburses states as they spend money to pay for Medicaid services, with the federal government paying for a portion of state costs ranging from 50 percent to 90 percent, depending on the nature of the cost and the state.

State fiscal flexibility is therefore built into Medicaid: States can spend what is needed on Medicaid knowing that their match rate is fixed in statute.

Today, 70 million Americans rely on Medicaid for health care, ranging from preventive services, hospital visits, lab tests, to critical medical supplies, and prescription drugs.

Before the Medicaid, funding poor families with children, pregnant women, and low-income working Americans were not able to afford even the most basic medical care they needed to remain healthy and productive.

The most likely group to be block granted under HAO in the next several months is therefore the Medicaid expansion population, composed of adults who are under 138 percent of the federal poverty level and do not otherwise qualify for Medicaid as disabled, as a very low-income parent, or as a pregnant woman.

However, according to the guidance that CMS released, other groups of Medicaid beneficiaries are also vulnerable to a federal approval of a similar block grant if they are in any way optional for states to cover.

The HAO guidance is a quid pro quo that proffers to states accept financial risk in return for new flexibility.

But "flexibility" in this case is simply another route to cuts to Medicaid that are not allowed under the Medicaid statute.

As detailed below, HAO allows states to make otherwise disallowed cuts to Medicaid eligibility, benefits, and provider payment rates.

The underlying reason for changing eligibility is to reduce the numbers of those covered.

In my home state of Texas and in communities across the U.S. Medicare and Medicaid are vital programs that have significantly changed the lives and improved health outcomes of many Americans over the past century and represent the best American values where we believe Health is a Human right not a commodity. Medicaid is also really needed when communities face natural disasters like hurricane Harvey in Texas.

Unfortunately, Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured (27.6 percent) in the nation, 4 percent more than Louisiana the next state on the list and has opted out of participating in Medicaid expansion.

The State of Texas' refusal to participate in the Medicaid expansion created by the Affordable Care act has already put the poor residents in my state in jeopardy, with this proposed change many more will be at risk of losing health insurance.

In the 18th Congressional District there are 195,400 persons with Medicaid.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas favor access to universal health care, because they understand the insecurity and feeling of helplessness of being uninsured or underinsured.

I join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 826 because it sends a clear message to this Administration and the American people that the House of Representatives—the People's House will not tolerate harmful changes to critical health care programs like Medicaid by this Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COURTNEY). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

The question is on the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO
ORGANIZE ACT OF 2019

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 833 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2474.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1536

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2474) to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes, with Mr. BLUMENAUER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

General debate will be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, throughout their history, America's labor unions have enabled millions of American workers to secure their place in the middle class and receive their fair share of the profits they produce. When workers have the power to stand together and negotiate with their employer, they have higher pay, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

Unions not only benefit union members, but also nonunion members benefit from the higher wages that union members enjoy. And even the children of union members also do better. And under union contracts, pay gaps disappear because union members get equal pay for equal work.

But union membership, which peaked at around 30 percent of the workforce during the 1950s, is just at 10 percent today. That is the lowest level since just after the National Labor Relations Act was enacted in 1935. It is not a co-

incidence that as union membership has decreased, income inequality has increased.

This decline in union membership is not a function of workers' choices. A recent study found that nearly half of nonunion workers would join a union if given the chance. The gap between worker preferences and union membership is the product of intensified antiworker attacks and labor laws that fail to address unfair labor practices.

The lesson from the last 40 years is clear: That it is our current labor laws that are too weak to defend workers' rights to join a union and to collectively bargain with their employer.

H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, or the PRO Act, is the most significant upgrade in U.S. labor laws in 80 years. This comprehensive proposal makes sensible reforms to protect and strengthen workers' rights.

The PRO Act would put teeth in the Nation's labor laws by authorizing the NLRB to assess meaningful civil penalties when companies violate their workers' rights to organize and bargain.

It will close loopholes that the corporations use to misclassify workers as independent contractors instead of employees; thereby evading their obligation to bargain, as well as evading their obligation to pay minimum wage and overtime; provide Worker's Compensation, unemployment compensation, and employee benefits.

It ensures that workers can decide whether to form a union without interference. Democracy in the workplace should be a right, not a fight.

Too many Americans are now working too hard for too little. And while corporations are enjoying record-level profits, workers and their families are struggling to keep pace with rising costs of housing, childcare, education, and other essentials.

So I urge my colleagues to support the PRO Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019.

Big Labor is in a panic over plummeting union membership. Union bosses could self-correct and increase transparency and accountability to serve workers better, or dedicate more resources to union organizing, rather than attempting to organize less than one-tenth of 1 percent of eligible employees, as they did in 2018.

Instead, the largest federation of labor unions in America spends more than three times as much money on political activities as it does on its stated purpose of organizing and representing workers. And they are resorting to their usual arm-twisting and intimidation tactics by demanding Democrats pass the PRO Act.

Before I get into the many, many failings of this bill, I want to correct

the Democrats' false narrative that the decline in union membership is hurting workers.

Americans are benefiting from a booming economy, thanks to Republican tax and regulatory reforms. Despite Democrats' false claims, wages are rising fastest for lower- and middle-income workers. Unemployment is at a 50-year low, and millions of jobs have been created since President Trump took office.

In fact, millions of poor Americans continue to move into the middle class, and millions in the middle class are moving into the ranks of the wealthy. The substantial economic mobility many Americans are experiencing should be celebrated.

Instead, Democrats are trying to claim falsely that the economy isn't working for average Americans, and the only way to fix it is to expand enforced unionism through coercive, socialist schemes like the PRO Act.

Let's also remember that Federal law already protects the rights of employees to organize, and Republicans respect that right. Any reforms to U.S. labor laws should help workers, not union bosses.

The PRO Act will require employers to hand over workers' private, personal information to union organizers, without workers having any say in the matter. This would make it even easier for union organizers to target, harass and intimidate workers.

It would also overturn all State right-to-work laws. These are laws that allow workers to decide for themselves whether to join a union and pay dues. If the PRO Act becomes law, workers will be forced to take money from their paychecks and give it to labor unions, even if they don't want to be represented by a union.

This provision is astonishing since we know that from 2010 to 2018, unions spent \$1.6 billion in members' dues on hundreds of left-wing groups, without first receiving consent from workers to do so.

The PRO Act will also undermine workers' rights to vote by secret ballot. This is hypocrisy at its worst, or best. House Democrats elect their own leaders by secret ballot, and Democrats held up the USMCA trade deal to guarantee workers in Mexico had the right to a secret ballot. Yet, they are willing to deprive American workers of that same protection.

Among the PRO Act's most harmful provisions is the incorporation of California's newly-enacted, overly broad, and confusing definition of employee, which will deprive millions of Americans of the opportunity to work independently and start their own businesses.

Bottom line, there are over 50 harmful provisions in this bill that are bad for workers, job creators, and the U.S. economy.

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

□ 1545

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, low-income workers are being better paid because of State minimum wage laws that most Republicans opposed. And jobs created in the 35 months of the Trump administration are fewer than the jobs created in the last 35 months of the Obama administration.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON), chair of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, or the great PRO Act. The Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, which I am privileged to chair, conducted three long, riveting hearings in the 116th Congress. During these hearings, we assessed a multitude of legal obstacles workers face in securing union recognition and winning collective bargaining agreements.

Some facts are indisputable. Collective bargaining gives America's workers an economic ladder and safer working conditions. There are so many unsafe working conditions all over America.

During our first hearing, we heard testimony from Cynthia Harper, who suffered a severe injury in an Ohio assembly plant. Even though Cynthia was hurt, she did not give up. She fought for her rights. Cynthia was fired from her plant for organizing a union to win safer working conditions for herself and her coworkers.

Incredibly, the National Labor Relations Act has no civil penalties that deter employers from violating workers' rights. Importantly, the PRO Act addresses this by establishing meaningful penalties for companies that violate their employees' rights. This important legislation cements into law the principle that workers deserve the right to negotiate for a fair share of the wealth, wealth that their hard work, sweat, and tears helps to create for this Nation.

This bill makes every American man's, woman's, and child's life better. Make no mistake, anyone who has gotten a livable wage, equal pay for equal work, and a safe working environment should thank unions and support the PRO Act. Anyone who grew up in a middle-class home and is fighting to build a middle-class home for their own children should thank unions and support the PRO Act. Anyone who believes in growing wages, providing healthcare for all people, and protecting workers' rights should thank unions and support the PRO Act. Anyone who knows we should protect the right to organize and institute financial penalties on companies that interfere should thank unions and support the PRO Act.

Every single Member of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate, represents working people, and this is a working people's bill.

Simply put, if you claim to fight for and support the interests of working people, you must support the PRO Act.

I ask all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to support the working people of America and support the PRO Act.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER).

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chair, I thank Ranking Member FOXX for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chair, today, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2474, the PRO Act. In fact, the more you learn about this legislation, the more the name fits. It is pronounment. It is proshadness. It is pronounemployment. It is prohibitive. You know what it is not? It is not proworker.

By repealing right-to-work laws, this legislation fails to protect workers from being forced into paying hefty union dues. With unemployment hitting record lows and wages hitting record highs, our workers should be able to keep their paychecks, not hand them over to corrupt union bosses.

By changing the classification of the majority of independent contractors to employees—that is important—this legislation will restrict workers, create confusion, reduce opportunity, and then increase costs. It also dramatically expands the joint employer standard, trying to force businesses to restructure their entire business models.

What might seem like an insignificant or a small change would actually result in the labor union mafia taking our booming economy in a one-way ride. In fact, this legislation is estimated to cost employers and workers more than \$47 billion—with a B—\$47 billion annually.

For a party that likes to talk about the right to choose when it comes to our most essential rights, why are House Democrats trying to restrict the power of choice for an entire industry of workers, and in doing so, forcing middle-income workers to hand over their earnings?

I urge my colleagues to oppose this blatant effort to reinstate a mob boss rule and vote against H.R. 2474.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), the chair of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Income inequality is challenging our communities and our future. In north-west Oregon and across the country, the labor movement has helped fight income inequality, raise wages, improve working conditions, and expand benefits.

More workers would join a union if given a choice, but many feel retaliation for supporting or engaging in organizing efforts. Under current law, tactics to intimidate, coerce, or fire workers involved in union organizing

are illegal, but the penalties aren't strong enough to deter employers.

I helped ban captive audience meetings when I served in the Oregon legislature, but these rights should be protected for every worker in the country. We should be making it easier, not harder, for workers to form unions and collectively bargain.

I am an original cosponsor of Chairman SCOTT's Protecting the Right to Organize Act. Under this bill, employers who break the rules will finally be held accountable.

Today, by supporting the bipartisan PRO Act, we can support workers, restore fairness, and help to make sure our economy works for everyone.

Mr. Chairman, I insert in the RECORD letters in support of the PRO Act from the BlueGreen Alliance and more than 70 environmental groups.

BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE, JANUARY 31,
2020.

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

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCARTHY: As a coalition of some of the nation's largest labor unions and environmental organizations, collectively representing millions of members and supporters, we write to express the BlueGreen Alliance's support for the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act of 2019, H.R. 2474.

In the United States, we face a critical juncture for the rights of employees to organize. As Supreme Court cases and anti-union legislators and their financial backers seek to strip workers of their rights, we need a strong law on the books to ensure that workers are not penalized for organizing and demanding collective bargaining for higher wages, safer working conditions, and better benefits.

Union membership has fallen dramatically from 33 percent in 1956 to ten percent in 2018, due in large part to exploitation by employers of labor laws that have been made toothless. As it stands, no meaningful penalties exist for corporations using illegal tactics to eliminate the option to organize.

Additionally, workers now are facing record wage inequality, and we know based on the National Bureau of Economic Research's statistics that unions consistently provide working Americans with ten to twenty percent higher wages than non-unionized workers. Empowering workers to band together to negotiate better wages and safer working conditions is the best path forward to protecting our workers and rebuilding America's middle class.

Organizing does not just affect job quality, though: unionized workers are better equipped to handle potentially hazardous workplace situations, and have more freedom to blow the whistle in dangerous situations. This can avert industrial accidents and result in safer communities, as well as cleaner air and water. Many unions also take firm positions on environmental issues because they understand the impact that clean air and water have on workers. Unions have supported the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and other actions designed to both reduce the carbon pollution driving climate change and grow good-paying jobs in the clean economy.

The PRO Act empowers employees by strengthening workers' rights to bargain and to organize. It does so by ending prohibitions

on collective and class-action litigation, prohibiting employers from permanently replacing striking employees, amending how employees are defined so that no one is misclassified as an independent contractor, strengthening remedies and enforcement for employees who are exercising their rights, creating a mediation and arbitration process for new unions, protecting against coercive captive audience meetings, and streamlining the National Labor Relations Board's procedures.

The PRO Act would take tangible steps to stem the tide of continued violations of the rights of working people to organize and would provide real consequences for those who violate the rights of workers. We must restore fairness to our economy so that workers no longer get a raw deal, and strengthen the right of workers all over the country to unionize and bargain for better working conditions.

For these reasons, the BlueGreen Alliance urges you to vote yes on the PRO Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JASON WALSH,
Executive Director, BlueGreen Alliance.

5 FEBRUARY 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As organizations dedicated to a sustainable future, we believe that such a future must include fair treatment for the people and communities working to build a clean and thriving economy. For that reason, we support H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, and urge you to vote in favor of the bill when it comes before the House this week.

Since 1970, global carbon dioxide emissions have nearly doubled, spiking the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, increasing the risk of drought, and putting the future of our entire planet at risk. Over that same period, income and wealth inequality have exploded in the United States and elsewhere—incomes have risen by 229% in the U.S. for the top 1% of earners since 1979, while the bottom 90% of households have seen income growth of just 46%, or 1% on an annual basis. These parallel trends reflect an economy built to serve the interests of a small group of the extremely wealthy and powerful, not people or the planet.

One key element of fixing our broken economic system is ensuring that working people have a voice in the economy and earn a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. Workers are often unable to have their voices heard or to earn fair pay, a function of weak labor laws that have made it virtually impossible for workers to organize and form unions in the face of unrelenting, aggressive corporate opposition.

The PRO Act would make common-sense changes to existing law to enable workers who want to organize and form unions to do so. It would penalize corporations that break the law, limit tactics used to intimidate workers, help workers who organize secure timely collective bargaining agreements, and institute a number of changes to better enable workers to act in solidarity with one another.

Remaking our economy and environment to address climate change and rising inequality will require substantial investment and transition, across many sectors. This is an opportunity to create millions of good jobs with family-sustaining wages and strong worker protections. We need strong, common-sense worker protections like those in the PRO Act to ensure that a sustainable economy reverses rather than reinforces rising inequity. There is no way to build a greener, more inclusive economy without strong, thriving labor unions.

Our planet and our communities are under enormous threat. We must act urgently to

confront the dangers imposed by climate change, including by ensuring that working people are treated fairly and helping lead the transition to a fair, green economy. The PRO Act would help advance that goal and help us rebuild our economy to function for both people and the planet. Therefore, we urge you to vote in favor of the PRO Act.

Sincerely,

ActionAid USA, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, Already Devalued & Devastated Homeowners of Parsippany, Asian Pacific Planning & Policy Council Environmental Justice Committee, Athens County Future Action Network, Beyond Extreme Energy, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Climate Change & Health, Center for International Environmental Law, Citizens For Water.

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two, Climate Action Rhode Island, Climate Hawks Vote, Climate Mobilization Project, Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline NJ, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, The Democracy Collaborative, Earthworks, Faithful America, Food & Water Action.

Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice, Franciscan Action Network, Friends of the Earth, Great Lakes Water Protectors, Green America, Green For All, Greenpeace USA, Harford County Climate Action, Idle No More SF Bay.

Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program, Jewish Climate Action Network—Massachusetts, League of Conservation Voters, Long Beach 350, Louisiana Bucket Brigade, Louisiana Rise, Miami Climate Alliance, Mothers Out Front.

Natural Resources Defense Council, North Country 350 Alliance, Nuclear Information & Resource Service, NYH2O, Oil Change International, Organic Consumers Association, Peoples Climate Movement—New York, Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania.

Plymouth Friends of Clean Water, Public Citizen, Safe Climate Campaign, Safe Energy Rights Group, Save the Pine Bush, Seeding Sovereignty, Sierra Club, SoCal 350 Climate Action.

Stand.earth, Sunflower Alliance, Sunrise Bay Area, Sunrise Movement, Toxics Action Center, Unitarian Universalist Mass Action, Washtenaw350, Wendell State Forest Alliance.

350.org, 350 Colorado, 350 DC, 350 Deschutes, 350 Kishwaukee, 350 Loudon, 350 Merced, 350 New Hampshire, 350 Wenatchee, 350 West Sound Climate Action.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman SCOTT for his leadership. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

This week, in this very Chamber, we heard from President Trump about the great American comeback. Our booming economy is a result of proworker, progrowth, and pro-American policies passed during the 115th Congress and enacted by President Trump.

Wages are rising. Jobs are being created. And Americans from all different backgrounds are getting back to work, including workers without high school diplomas, who are experiencing the lowest unemployment rate recorded in U.S. history.

This body must build on this success, not go backward. The radical PRO Act

will undoubtedly hurt the economy and force Americans out of work. In fact, a report from the American Action Forum found employers could face more than \$47 billion in new annual costs if the PRO Act becomes law.

As a small business owner, I know firsthand the PRO Act would harm both employers and employees. The PRO Act contains numerous poison pills, from outrageous privacy violations to forced union dues.

This bill would outright ban the right-to-work laws that have been successful in States like my home State of Georgia, which has been named the best State to do business in now 7 years in a row.

Without right-to-work laws, workers are forced to pay for representation and political activities that they may not even agree with. From 2010 to 2018, unions spent more than \$1.6 billion in member dues to hundreds of leftwing groups. Those include Planned Parenthood and the Clinton Foundation.

That is why I offered an amendment, which I hope everyone will support, to strike that provision and protect States' right-to-work laws. The Federal Government should not restrict American workers' First Amendment rights by forcing them to pay union dues.

The PRO Act will restrict our booming economy and infringe on the rights of workers and employers. The American worker deserves fairness, and he deserves choice.

My colleagues have a choice before them. They can stand with Americans and President Trump to keep America great and free by voting "no" on the PRO Act, or they can join the radicals who have seized the Democratic Party and put America on a path of socialism. I will always stand with liberty and President Trump and will proudly vote "no" on the PRO Act.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), the co-chair of the Progressive Caucus.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chair, I insert in the RECORD a letter from the AFL-CIO.

AFL-CIO,
January 30, 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I urge you to support the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, H. R. 2474, and to oppose weakening amendments and any Motion to Recommit when the House of Representatives considers the bill next week. The PRO Act will restore the original intent of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), which was to give working people a voice on the job so they can negotiate for higher wages, better benefits, a more secure retirement and a safer workplace.

For too long, employers have been able to violate the NLRA with impunity, routinely denying workers their basic right to join with coworkers for fairness on the job. As a result, the collective strength of workers to negotiate for better pay and benefits has eroded and income inequality has reached levels that predate the Great Depression. (Please see the attached summary of recent research on unions, inequality and the economy).

The PRO Act would modernize the NLRA by bringing its remedies in line with other

workplace laws. In addition to imposing financial penalties on companies and individual corporate officers who violate the law, the bill would give workers the option of bringing their case to federal court. The bill would make elections fairer by prohibiting employers from requiring their employees to attend “captive audience” meetings whose sole purpose is to convince workers to vote against the union.

Under the bill, once workers vote to form a union, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) would be authorized to order that the employer commence bargaining a first contract. These orders would be enforced in district courts to ensure swift justice. In addition, the bill would ensure that employees are not deprived of their right to a union because their employer hides behind a subcontractor or other intermediary, or deliberately misclassifies them as supervisors or independent contractors.

Too often, when workers choose to form a union, employers stall the bargaining process to avoid reaching an agreement. The PRO Act would establish a process for mediation and arbitration to help the parties achieve a first contract. This important change would make the freedom to negotiate a reality for countless workers who form unions but never get to enjoy the benefits of a collective bargaining agreement.

The PRO Act recognizes that employees need the freedom to picket or withhold our labor in order to push for the workplace changes we seek. The bill protects employees’ right to strike by preventing employers from hiring permanent replacement workers. It also allows unrepresented employees to engage in collective action or class action lawsuits to enforce basic workplace rights, rather than being forced to arbitrate such claims alone.

Finally, the bill would eliminate state right to work laws. These laws have been promoted by a network of billionaires and special interest groups to give more power to corporations at the expense of workers, and have had the effect of lowering wages and eroding pensions and health care coverage in states where they have been adopted.

Restoring our middle class is dependent on strengthening the collective power of workers to negotiate for better pay and working conditions. That is why public support for unions is the highest it has been in decades. We urge you to support the PRO Act and help us build an economy that works for all working families.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
Director, Government Affairs.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chair, as one of the few union members in Congress, let me tell you that the benefits that workers and families earn from being in a union are significant.

Workers in a union make almost \$10,000 more per year, and 70 percent of workers in a union have a pension plan compared to just 13 percent of non-union workers.

The problem is there have been decades-long coordinated attacks on workers’ rights to join or form a union. It is time to make it easier for workers to have a voice in their workplace, and we have got some work to do.

There are laws that make it harder to organize, and employees involved in organizing face barriers, including a one-in-five chance of getting fired. Even when workers do form a union, employers refuse to bargain, and more than half of the unions don’t get a col-

lective bargaining agreement within a year.

If you vote to form a union, you should have one and get a contract. If you are an employee, you shouldn’t be misclassified as an independent contractor. And if an employer violates your labor rights, they shouldn’t be let off the hook.

I am proud to support workers’ rights, and I am proud to support the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. TIMMONS).

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the PRO Act.

Our economy is booming. The unemployment rate is at a record low. The PRO Act would interfere with this historic progress by adding more Federal regulations on the very businesses that have been responsible for this growth.

Employers and businesses could face more than \$47 billion in new annual costs if this bill becomes law. This bill would force employees to take a public vote on whether they would want to be a part of a union, a rule that the House Democrats do not even follow themselves.

Democrats even held up the USMCA vote to guarantee the right to a secret ballot, yet they are depriving the American worker of that same protection in the PRO Act. Over half of the States in this country have passed their own right-to-work laws, including my home State of South Carolina.

The PRO Act would effectively invalidate those laws by forcing workers to pay union dues in order to keep their jobs. This is a gross overreach of the Federal Government and something we need less of not more of throughout this country.

The PRO Act is yet another example of Democratic partisanship and a flagrant power grab and is, as many other things we have done this year, not going to get a hearing in the Senate. I urge my colleagues to vote “no.”

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, which is a pro-middle-class measure that, if enacted, would increase incomes, improve benefits, and promote better working conditions for tens of millions of Americans.

The bill essentially debugs all the outdated gaps and loopholes that a cottage industry of unscrupulous lawyers and consultants have exploited over the last 50 years to delay and deny Americans their right to organize for a better standard of living.

The data is crystal clear. The decline of unions since the 1970s has coincided with wage stagnation for the middle class and the skyrocketing wealth of Americans in the top one-tenth of 1

percent, re-creating our new gilded age of outrageous income inequality.

The rights this bill will secure have been internationally recognized as basic human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations Charter in the wake of World War II and the Vatican in Pope Leo XII’s encyclical *Rerum Novarum* in 1891. The right to organize “is the natural right,” Leo wrote, “and the state has for its office to protect natural rights, not to destroy them.”

Passage of this bill will protect those rights. Please vote “yes” for the PRO Act.

Mr. Chairman, I insert in the RECORD a letter from 2 million members of the Service Employees International Union, signed by its president, Mary Kay Henry, in support of this legislation.

SEIU,
May 8, 2019.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 2 million members of the Service Employees International Union (“SEIU”), we write to endorse the Protecting the Right to Organize (“PRO”) Act of 2019. This important bill would strengthen working Americans’ rights to join together in unions and bargain for higher wages and better working conditions to help create balanced, inclusive growth.

In today’s economy, too many people are working longer hours for lower wages, even as corporate profits soar. Unions are the best solution to leveling the playing field. But because of a concerted effort to undermine unions in America over the past forty years, just 6% of private sector working people have a say in the decisions that affect them at work, in their communities and in our economy. Too many unscrupulous employers take advantage of America’s outdated labor laws to stifle the ability of working people to join together in unions to improve their jobs and build a better future for their families.

The PRO Act would reinvigorate labor law to help build an economy that works better for the millions of people who work for a living—not just those at the top. We applaud the bill’s joint employer provision, which would ensure that workers can meaningfully bargain with all companies that actually control their employment. We also endorse the bill’s new standard to stop employers from misclassifying their workers as independent contractors or supervisors to escape their responsibilities. These changes would make it harder for companies to circumvent basic worker protections through subcontracting arrangements or other evasions.

We also strongly support the PRO Act’s reforms banning anti-worker state laws that supersede collective bargaining agreements. These so-called Right-to-Work laws weaken workers’ voice at the workplace, drive down wages, and threaten the economic security of all workers—union and nonunion alike. Working people subject to these laws earn \$1,558 less per year than those who are not. The PRO Act permits companies and workers to decide for themselves whether to negotiate fair share agreements in collective bargaining.

In addition, we are pleased to see PRO Act provisions that would deter employer misconduct by making remedies meaningful, penalizing the most egregious violations, limiting interference in union elections, and facilitating first contracts with newly formed unions. The bill rightfully removes restraints on workers’ solidarity actions across different workplaces.

Working people around the country urgently need new laws like the PRO Act to

make it easier for people to join unions and hold companies accountable. The PRO Act's much-needed reforms will help level the playing field for people like Jim Staus who testified in support of the PRO Act before House Education and Labor Committee, Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee on May 8, 2019. Although the federal government twice found that University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) illegally fired Jim for trying to form a union, six years later he still has not returned to work at UPMC, nor has he seen a penny of back-pay. If the PRO Act were law, Jim and so many other working people around the country would not have to risk everything to organize their unions to have a seat at the table in determining their families and community's future, the same way their bosses and corporations do.

SEIU members are proud to support the PRO Act. We will add any future votes on this legislation to our legislative scorecard.

Sincerely,

MARY KAY HENRY,
International President.

□ 1600

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I thank my good friend from North Carolina for yielding.

I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 2474, but not necessarily because of some of the reasons that I have heard, though questionable, from my friends on the other side of the aisle.

As the son of a machinist tool and die maker and a former union steel-worker myself, I value the time-honored role unions play in our workforce.

I can remember some of the arguments that my dad made for the unions in the steel mills' machine shops where he worked. I also remember many of the arguments he made for unions going above and beyond, in the sense of going too far, for their own protection and not that of the employees.

But any reforms we make to Federal labor laws should put workers first, not union leaders first. When we fail to do that, it opens the door to extravagant abuses of power. Just look at what is happening in Michigan, sadly, with the corruption scandal at the top levels of the UAW.

How can we even entertain a transformational labor law at a time when members of the UAW leadership are under an ongoing Federal investigation for using members' dues to pay for UAW leadership's lavish trips to California featuring poolside villas, top-shelf liquor, fine cigars, golf, and even a \$1,200 bill at a Hollywood salon. In our ethics investigations, we would certainly put those to the top of our concerns.

This corruption scandal has already yielded 11 convictions. Two previous UAW presidents have been formally implicated as members of a racketeering enterprise within the union—I hate hearing those words, because those impact union membership and their dues—and the current president, who took over because of the corruption allegations against the former

presidents, has come under Federal investigation as well.

We should, instead, be looking into these abuses as our committee rather than turning a blind eye and passing legislation that will, instead, consolidate special interest power to coerce workers by undermining their right to privacy.

Clearly, this bill sends exactly the wrong message at the wrong time. It is not speaking for the hardworking families we represent, the hardworking union members we represent. They deserve better, and that is what this legislation doesn't offer.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. POCAN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. chair, I yield an additional 10 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chair, I simply cannot, in good faith, support a bill that undermines basic freedoms for workers and takes our labor laws backwards. Instead, let's put workers' interests first by focusing on protecting and expanding workers' rights within their union.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Chair, before I begin, I enter into the RECORD letters in support of the PRO Act from the American Federation of Musicians and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA,

New York, NY, February 4, 2020.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: On behalf of 80,000 members of the American Federation of Musicians, I write urging your support of H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act ("PRO Act") and ask that you oppose any amendments or any offensive motions that may be offered during House deliberations.

The PRO Act strengthens the National Labor Relations Act by supporting the ability of working people to have a voice on the job. The bill would update the National Labor Relations Act to allow workers to have a greater say in such important workplace issues as higher wages and retirement security. Once workers vote to form a union, the National Labor Relations Board could seek enforcement and relief in federal court allowing for swifter justice. In addition, the bill would prohibit employers from forcing workers to attend captive audience meetings designed to encourage workers from voting against the union. Companies and corporate officers would be confronted with stiff financial penalties for violating the law.

The PRO act also establishes a mediation and arbitration process to prevent employers from avoiding the completion of a first contract. Historically, many employers attempt to stall first-contract negotiations in an effort to frustrate and in some cases stop the collective bargaining process, often after union organizers and negotiators have worked for years to finalize a first contract.

The bill also supports workers' right to picket or withhold their labor in order to push for workplace changes. It also protects employees' right to strike and prevents an employer from hiring permanent replacement workers and allows unrepresented workers to participate in collective action

and class action lawsuits against unscrupulous employers.

Finally, HR 2474 eliminates state right to work laws which over the years have given more power to billionnaires and special interest groups at the expense of lowering worker wages, eroding pensions and healthcare coverages in states where such laws have been enacted.

We urge you to support the PRO Act. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

RAYMOND M. HAIR, JR.,
International President,
American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.

NEW YORK, NY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the approximately 125,000 American members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), I urge you to support the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, H.R. 2474, and to oppose weakening amendments and any Motion to Re-commit when the House of Representatives considers the bill. The PRO Act will restore fairness to the economy by strengthening the federal laws that give working people a voice on the job so they can negotiate for higher wages, better benefits, a more secure retirement and a safer workplace.

Too often, when workers choose to form a union, employers stall the bargaining process to avoid reaching an agreement—as evidenced by riggers in the Pacific Northwest employed by Rhino Staging Northwest who voted in 2015 to be represented by Local 15 of the IATSE, but today still don't have a contract.

These riggers—who work high above stages, on scaffolding or catwalks, installing complex lighting and audio equipment—followed state and federal labor laws, and over many years organized themselves. Fed up with low pay, no employer-funded healthcare, and unsafe working conditions they voted to unionize.

Yet, after these workers voted for the union, Rhino refused to bargain in good faith as required by federal labor law. Rhino challenged the union before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and in federal court. It lost. It has stalled and delayed and still today has not entered into a contract.

This is just one example of how some employers have been able to violate the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) with impunity, routinely denying workers their basic right to join with coworkers for fairness on the job. Time after time, employers get away with it.

The PRO Act would establish a process for mediation and arbitration to help the parties achieve a first contract. This important change would make the freedom to negotiate a reality for countless workers who form unions but never get to enjoy the benefits of a collective bargaining agreement.

The PRO Act would modernize the NLRA by bringing its remedies in line with other workplace laws. In addition to imposing financial penalties on companies and individual corporate officers who violate the law, the bill would give workers the option of bringing their case to federal court.

Under the bill, once workers vote to form a union, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) would be authorized to order that the employer commence bargaining a first contract. These orders would be enforced in district courts to ensure swift justice. In addition, the bill would ensure that employees are not deprived of their right to a union because their employer hides behind a subcontractor or other intermediary, or deliberately misclassifies them as supervisors or independent contractors.

The bill would also eliminate “right to work” laws; prohibit mandatory “captive audience” meetings; and protect the right to strike, among other provisions.

The PRO Act is a top priority for the IATSE, we urge you to support this bill and help us build an economy that works for all working families.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW D. LOEB,
International President.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Chair, when I was a young college professor in the Los Angeles Community College District, the board of trustees passed a measure that would lay off over 100 of us, even though we had tenure.

It was my union, the American Federation of Teachers, that organized the protests and stood up for us. The union saved my job.

Yet, today, we see that there is a decline in union membership. It is not because workers don't want to be in a union. It is because employers have been allowed to use antiunion tactics, such as paying millions of dollars to professional union busters who come into the workplace to intimidate workers in captive audience meetings.

Even when workers vote to approve a union, more than half of them still do not have a collective bargaining agreement 1 year later. That is because employers face few penalties for bargaining in bad faith, while employees can be fired for striking and exercising their rights.

The PRO Act is the best way to protect the right to organize and to help workers have the quality of life they deserve.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

As a Virginian, I am proud that my State is currently one of the 27 that protects the fundamental right to work. Because of Virginia's pro-business and pro-employer stance, it has once again been ranked the number one State in which to do business by CNBC.

Unfortunately, this is being threatened both at the State level in the Virginia General Assembly and now at the Federal level through this bill, the PRO Act.

Every American should have the right to get a job or keep a job without being required to join a labor union. This bill would inappropriately preempt and prohibit that right, while concurrently violating the privacy of workers by forcing the sharing of their personal contact information with union organizers, even when this has been shown to enable harassment and intimidation of those very workers. This is unacceptable.

The PRO Act would have grave impacts on workers and businesses at a great cost to the fabric of our workforce.

Founding Father and fellow Virginian Thomas Jefferson said: “To

compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical.”

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this bill and to stand for the freedoms and success that our Founding Fathers believed in.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in strong support of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act. I rise in support of unions and millions of workers fighting for higher wages, better benefits, and safe working conditions.

For years, Republicans and corporate interests have been chipping away at the rights of workers in America. Employers are aggressively waging a campaign against unions and against the best interests of their workers.

It is illegal for employers to intimidate workers who want to join unions, but it is still happening, because these union-busting bosses are not being held responsible. The PRO Act will ensure that penalties are enforced to help put an end to these antiunion activities.

American workers are putting in the work; they should also be reaping the rewards of their labor. The PRO Act will help workers stand together to demand their fair share and to make their bosses listen.

Mr. Chair, I enter into the RECORD a letter from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in support of the PRO Act.

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE &
WAREHOUSE UNION,

San Francisco, California, February 3, 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As President of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), I urge you to support the PRO Act (*Protecting the Right to Organize Act*, H.R. 2474) when debated on the House Floor this week. The ILWU further urges you to oppose amendments that would weaken this important legislation.

The ILWU is committed to organizing the unorganized. We recently celebrated the first union contract for workers at Anchor Steam Brewing Co. in San Francisco, California. We have organized other workers into our great union, but have been unsuccessful in achieving a fair contract due to bad faith bargaining. The truth is that every day workers are intimidated, threatened, and coerced simply because they aspire to join a union and achieve a better life. Our current labor law allows this immoral corporate behavior without meaningful consequences.

The United States gave Americans the right to organize labor unions under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). The increase in unionization encouraged by the law significantly diminished income inequality over the next forty years. American workers prospered as a result of having a voice in the workplace.

However, over time, corporations and their political allies have gutted organizing rights, and diminished unions, which has caused great economic disparities. The decline in union density accounts for one third of the rise in income inequality among men

and one fifth among women according to the Economic Policy Institute.

The time is now to restore workers' potential to organize. The PRO Act restores the balance of power we desperately need between workers and management. This bill authorizes the NLRB to assess monetary penalties for each violation in which a worker is wrongfully terminated or suffers serious economic harm. The bill importantly imposes personal liability on corporate directors and officers who participate in violations of workers' rights or have knowledge of and fail to prevent such violations.

The PRO Act also gives workers the right to override so-called “right to work” laws that prevent unions from collecting dues from the people they represent. The bill would give employers and unions the right to enter into a contract that allows unions to collect fair share fees that cover the costs of collective bargaining and administering the contract. It is simply unfair and divisive for some non-dues paying workers to get a free ride off the backs of their fellow dues paying workers.

Further, the Act protects First Amendment rights by removing prohibitions on workers acting in solidarity with workers at other companies. The bill also prohibits companies from permanently replacing striking workers.

A critical part of the legislation seeks to facilitate initial collective bargaining agreements. Even when workers succeed in forming a union, nearly half of newly formed unions fail to ever reach a contract with the employer. The bill facilitates first contracts between companies and newly certified unions by requiring mediation and arbitration to settle disputes.

The ILWU fully supports the PRO Act and we urge you to actively support this important legislation to benefit the organized labor and those workers who seek to join a union. It is time to restore the right to organize to American workers.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM ADAMS,
President.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the PRO Act.

Today's egregious legislation really is mislabeled. It is called the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, but it really should be renamed the Unfair to American Workers, or the UAW, Act.

I strongly agree that our constitutionally guaranteed rights, like the freedom of association, should be protected, but this bill doesn't strengthen protections for all Americans. This bill upsets the balance between the right of employees to form a union and the right of individuals to refrain from joining a union.

H.R. 2474 deliberately speeds up the union election process so that employees do not have the time to fully vet the pros and cons of joining a union.

This bill also strips away critical privacy rights by forcing employers to hand over sensitive private employee information, such as where an employee lives, what work shifts they work, and more.

Why do they want this information? So union leaders can stalk and harass employees until they agree to sign up.

The PRO Act, in fact, leaves no corner of labor law untouched. This bill will disrupt the franchise model to eliminate a franchisee's ability to operate their business as their own, and it even decimates the sharing economy by codifying California's ABC test.

What is worse, this bill repeals every right-to-work law in the Nation, forcing millions of Americans to contribute to a union that they don't need or that they don't want.

I offered a commonsense amendment to this bill that would require unions to seek employee consent when using dues for political purposes, but my amendment was blocked by Democrats from being even debated on the House floor.

My colleagues on the left will claim that economic inequality has resulted because of declining union membership, but we know this isn't true. The economic success that we are seeing today, particularly for minority groups who have historically faced the most inequality, is changing thanks to policies put in place by a Republican Congress and by President Trump. Wage growth is rising faster today for minorities and individuals most impacted by economic inequality than for any other group.

Rather than innovating to become more attractive to employees so they want to join, unions are trying to change Federal law to stack the deck against hardworking Americans.

Americans aren't rejecting union membership because current labor law acts as a barrier to forming one. They are declining to join because they are sick of seeing union leaders harass and coerce their colleagues; line their own pockets with dues, as we have seen exhibited in the recent racketeering acts committed by former UAW leaders; and use employee dues to support political platforms that don't align with an individual's views.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this harmful power grab.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I rise today on an issue very personal to me and to American workers: the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, or the PRO Act.

I am a member of the IBEW for over 40 years and a lifelong labor leader, a proud labor leader. I can attest to the importance of giving workers a voice by protecting them from unfair labor practices.

I saw, firsthand, as workers were unjustly fired, lost their wages, their job, because they dared to speak up about unionization; workers with families back home, living paycheck to paycheck, who couldn't afford to be out of work, but they understood how important this was.

Companies have the money. They hire the \$1,000-an-hour lawyers. They

delay, they delay, they delay. They would make an example out of one person, as unjust as that is. They put the life of that worker on hold.

Currently, the NLRA has no penalties for employers that do this, that violate the law. If workers are fired, there is no current recourse.

I would just ask that we support the PRO Act.

Mr. Chair, I enter into the RECORD letters of support from the IBEW, the International Union of Operating Engineers, and the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS,

Washington, DC, February 3, 2020.

To: All Members of the United States House of Representatives.

Re Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: On behalf of the 775,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I urge you to vote in support of H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, when it is considered by the full U.S. House of Representatives this week and to oppose weakening amendments and any Motion to Recommit. The PRO Act would restore the original intent of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to protect workers' right to organize a union and negotiate higher wages and better benefits.

The right to organize and collectively bargain is a fundamental right of all Americans and the bedrock of a capitalist society that allows the benefits of a growing economy to be shared broadly between workers and employers. These fundamental rights, however, have been steadily undermined in recent decades. As a result, union membership has dropped precipitously from over 20 percent in 1983 to just 10 percent in 2018. During the same period, incomes for the bottom half of income earners in the United States have grown by just one percent between 1980 and 2014, while income for the top one percent increased by 205 percent. Today, income inequality has reached levels that predate the Great Depression.

The reason membership in labor unions is declining is not due to eroding interest in family-sustaining wages and benefits—it is because employers have the upper hand. Workers attempting to unionize often face a hostile legal environment and are commonly intimidated by aggressive anti-union employers. Outdated labor laws have failed to provide Americans with protection from this anti-worker onslaught against collective bargaining.

The Economic Policy Institute published a report in December 2019 that found 41.5 percent of all employers in a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) sponsored election were charged with violating federal labor law. The PRO Act would help even this vastly tilted playing field by invoking stronger remedies for violating the law. Currently, there are no penalties on employers who illegally fire or retaliate against workers attempting to form a union. This legislation establishes compensatory damages for workers and penalties against employers when they fire or retaliate against workers. In addition, the PRO Act streamlines the NLRB process so workers can petition to form a union and get a timely vote without their employer interfering or delaying the vote. It would also prohibit companies from forcing workers to attend mandatory captive audience meetings as a condition of continued employment.

Even if workers do vote for union representation, more than half do not have a collec-

tive bargaining agreement a year later. The PRO Act would establish a process for reaching a first agreement when workers organize.

Employers often misclassify workers as supervisors or independent contractors to deprive them of their rights under the NLRA while allowing management to skirt minimum wage, Social Security and workers' compensation laws. The PRO Act tightens the definitions of independent contractor and supervisor to crack down on misclassification and extend NLRA protections to more eligible workers.

Unions provide skills training and continuing education to their membership, as well as a more stable and safer workforce. A worker covered by a union contract earns more than 13 percent more in wages than a peer with similar education, occupation and experience in a non-union workplace in the same sector. Where unions are strong, wages are higher for typical workers—union and nonunion members alike.

Research shows that workers want unions, evidenced by the large gap between the share of workers with union representation—about 12 percent—and the share of workers that would like to have a voice on the job—48 percent. The PRO Act would take a major step forward toward closing that gap.

There is no better path to the middle class than a union job with the security it provides in salary, health benefits and retirement income. Family sustaining middle class jobs are the route to economic security, providing the crucial financial cushion that protect so many families on the edge of economic disaster once a job loss or a medical emergency hits a family. Unions provide economic independence and self-sufficiency, and an expanding middle class is good for the economy and the country.

The IBEW urges all members of the United States House of Representatives to stand with working Americans in every state and community and vote in favor of the PRO Act.

Sincerely yours,

LONNIE R. STEPHENSON,
International President.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
OPERATING ENGINEERS,

Washington, DC, January 31, 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The International Union of Operating Engineers requests your support for the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, H.R. 2474, and to oppose any weakening amendments and any Motion to Recommit when the House of Representatives considers the bill. The PRO Act will repair the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to protect workers and strengthen the fundamental rights of Operating Engineers across the nation.

The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) is one of North America's leading construction unions, representing nearly 400,000 hardworking men and women in the United States and Canada. Most members of the IUOE work in the construction sector, operating and maintaining heavy equipment, in addition to other occupations in the industry. We represent heavy equipment operators, mechanics, surveyors, and other occupations in the sector, and, building the nation's public works is the bread and butter of the skilled, proud members of the Operating Engineers union.

The PRO Act would reinforce the federal laws that protect workers' right to organize a union and bargain for better wages, benefits, and conditions at their workplaces. For decades, working families could depend on unions to represent their collective interests and, by encouraging collective bargaining, the NLRA offered protection and empowered workers to seek fairness on the job.

Over the past 50 years, unethical employers have exploited labor laws and routinely denied workers their basic rights. While the collective strength of workers has eroded over time, income inequality has reached levels that predate the Great Depression. It is imperative that Congress protect the rights of workers in order to guarantee a healthy economy.

This legislation addresses several major problems with the current law and tries to level a playing field that is currently stacked against workers. It will penalize employers for interfering in the workers' right to form a union, conduct organizing campaigns, and hold fair elections. It will strengthen their ability to negotiate first contract agreements and notably overrides so-called "right-to-work" laws by establishing a "fair share" clause. It will ensure workers have a voice on the job by prohibiting employers from permanently replacing strikers and repealing the prohibition on secondary boycotts. In addition, it will protect workers against misclassification—an egregious tactic used in the construction industry to dodge wage and hour standards. The PRO Act would ensure employers are not able to skirt their responsibilities for pay, benefits, and other working conditions.

This legislation will close loopholes in federal laws and increase transparency in labor management relations. Without these essential protections, the playing field will remain heavily stacked against workers. Strengthening the collective power of workers will strengthen our economy and restore the American middle class. We urge you to support the PRO Act to defend the dignity of work for all working families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JAMES T. CALLAHAN,
General President.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BRICK-
LAYERS AND ALLIED
CRAFTWORKERS,

Washington, DC, January 31, 2020.

DEAR HOUSE MEMBERS: On behalf of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC), I am writing to express our strong support for the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, H.R. 2474. The PRO Act is historic legislation that will help level the playing field and help give workers the opportunity to exercise their right to organize a union.

BAC is proud of the relationship that we share with our signatory employers across the United States to provide vital building and construction services to the communities we live in. However, our members, and just as importantly the contractors that hire them, are under assault by unscrupulous corporations and employers that abuse and deny their workers from having a meaningful voice in the workplace. The PRO Act would help address these abuses and provide workers a fair shot at forming a union of their choice to bargain for better wages, benefits, and conditions in the workplace.

Too often, employers intentionally violate the law during organizing campaigns because some of the penalties are so weak that low road employers just view them as a small cost of doing the business of union busting. The PRO act strengthens penalties for such behavior in order to deter employers from interfering with workers' rights.

The PRO Act also clarifies the definition of independent contractor and supervisor to help prevent the misclassification of workers. Misclassification is far too common in construction and other industries and it prevents workers from exercising their rights, getting the pay and benefits they deserve, and deprives communities of much-needed revenue through tax evasion.

Our economy is out of balance and it is time for Congress to step up to protect working class families and restore economic stability. We urge you to support the PRO Act and oppose any weakening amendments when the House of Representatives considers the bill.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY J. DRISCOLL,
President.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for yielding.

I rise today in opposition to the PRO Act.

I have heard some things from the other side of the aisle about how workers earn more in States that are not right-to-work.

Of the right-to-work States, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, 7 of the top 10 States in wage increases are right-to-work States. The highest right-to-work State, number one, saw an increase in wages over the period of time from 2001 to 2019 of 20 percentage points, which is 20 percentage points more than the closest right-to-work State.

This is not a bill about helping workers. This is a bill about getting in the way of the relationship between the employee and employer.

□ 1615

This is just another Democrat messaging bill that is nothing short of a special interest giveaway. The PRO Act needlessly inserts more government control into the employee-employer relationships.

At a roundtable I held with businessowners in Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, I heard firsthand how legislation like this would negatively impact their ability to grow and raise wages.

One of the many onerous provisions in this legislation is the allowance for intermittent strikes and banning permanent replacements. I am offering an amendment today to remove the intermittent striking provisions of this bill.

Intermittent striking would cripple the ability of job creators to do business and raise prices on consumers. Even if this amendment were adopted, I still have significant reservations about the bill. That is because the PRO Act is also terrible for employees.

Cloaked in the language of employee protection, the real result of the PRO Act is providing workers with fewer choices, fewer rights, and the inability to speak for themselves.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I yield the gentleman from Pennsylvania an additional 10 seconds.

Mr. KELLER. Strikingly, the PRO Act would destroy employee privacy rights by requiring employers to give away employee identifying information to union bosses.

If Congress really cares about jobs, the economy, and workers' rights, it should say "no" to the PRO Act.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN), a distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor who knows that union members make more than nonunion members.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Virginia for yielding and for his steady leadership on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, on Tuesday evening, the American people were treated to a number of fairy-tale promises. But none was more preposterous than the claim that the administration's agenda has been "relentlessly proworker."

It has been relentless, all right. Relentlessly hostile to our unions, particularly those seeking redress from the NLRB; relentless in favoring corporate interests over working people, such as those deliberately misclassified as contractors; and relentless in its opposition to permitting employees the right to have their day in court when their rights are violated.

The PRO Act is what a real proworker agenda looks like: It levels the playing field for workers in organizing drives. It reorients the NLRB to defend workers who are unfairly targeted. It blocks worker misclassifications, and it demands real penalties for violations of workers' rights.

I am pleased that the PRO Act includes my amendment to ban offensive lockouts, a cruel technique designed to bring workers to their knees rather than the negotiating table in good faith. The steelworkers in my home State of Massachusetts know that cruel tactic all too well.

Mr. Chairman, as the daughter of a union ironworker and the granddaughter of a union carpenter, I have experienced firsthand why unions are the foundation of America's middle class. I have lived the benefits that unions and organized labor bring to families across Massachusetts and the United States.

I wouldn't be standing here today without them. And it is perfectly clear why our unions must have their rights restored. Income inequality has risen as union membership has declined. It is time to reverse that trend.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD a letter from NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice organization which endorses the PRO Act.

NETWORK LOBBY FOR CATHOLIC
SOCIAL JUSTICE,

Washington, DC, February 6, 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice urges you to vote YES on the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (H.R. 2474). In the spirit of the Gospel, we promote a just society which ensures that all people are able to live dignified lives. According to Catholic Social Justice, labor "maintains the fabric of the world." We are called to recognize the value of people's human labor, thereby honoring

the dignity of work as a path to growth, human development, and personal fulfillment. The PRO Act does just that by restoring workers' rights to collectively bargain, empowering them to negotiate for fair wages, benefits, retirement security, and protection from discrimination and harassment. We urge a YES vote on the PRO Act to achieve fairness and justice for disenfranchised working people.

Labor union participation has fallen precipitously over the years: from a third of wage and salaried workers in the United States to just 10.7 percent, as of 2017. Protecting the right to freely associate and organize at the workplace has been proven to help settle workplace disputes by restoring the balance of bargaining power between employers and employees. Workers and employers alike benefit from the institution of labor protections through unions. Disputes can be settled unfairly when the power differential between the employer and employee goes unchecked. Without the power of collective bargaining, workers' voices go unheard and workers' concerns go unheeded. When Congress passed the National Labor Relations Act in 1953, they knew this. However, nearly every amendment to the law since has undermined its spirit—making it harder for working people to form unions, chipping away at workers' rights, and harming the economy. The PRO Act would expand the full force of protections once offered by the NLR.

The PRO Act would: shield workers from retaliation when they exercise their right to form a union, end mandatory arbitration in contracting, and apply a clear, fair standard of protection nationwide which “right to work” laws currently sidestep.

The PRO Act would also: prevent further erosion of the law by penalizing employers that don't comply, and apply simple tests to end misclassification of employees.

The PRO Act is a historic proposal that faithfully restores dignity to workers and rightly appraises their value as full participants in the workplace and in the economy. We urge you to vote YES to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize Act (H.R. 2474).

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Chair, it is time to pass the PRO Act.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the misnamed Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

The American economy is thriving by almost any economic measure, and it seems as though an important job of Congress would be to continue to support the workers, the employers, and the jobs that have been powering this, the longest economic expansion in American history.

What we shouldn't do is act to restrict State flexibility, worker flexibility, and worker choice. Unfortunately, the PRO Act eliminates the State's ability to decide that they want to be a right-to-work State; and unfortunately, the PRO Act hurts the franchise sector by imposing an aggressive new joint employer rule; and unfortunately, the PRO Act hurts workers who are involved in the gig economy by enacting unreasonable restrictions on who can be an independent contractor, and how they can work.

Now, let's make no mistake about it. The impact of these changes will, indeed, mean less freedom, less flexibility, and over time, it will mean less prosperity. As a result, Mr. Chairman, I am voting “no.”

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), the co-chair of the Progressive Caucus and distinguished member of the Committee on Education and Labor, and a lady who knows, by every measure, that economic progress was better under Obama than President Trump.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support today of the PRO Act. I talk to people every day who take tremendous pride in the work that they do, and, yet, many of these workers are facing terrible injustices on the job; poorly paid; inadequately insured; harassed; and often in workshops that are dangerous and discriminatory.

Mr. Chairman, no one should have to go to work and face injustice and be afraid to speak up. That is just not right.

The PRO Act makes it clear that we are putting power back into the hands of workers; and that we are ensuring and expanding workers' rights to organize. Let's be clear that that benefits everybody. Unionized women earn wages that are 23 percent higher. Black workers' wages are 14 percent higher, and Latinx workers' wages are 21 percent higher than in nonunionized workplaces.

Young unionized workers more often have health insurance, higher pay, and a retirement plan. That is why workers' approval for unions keeps rising.

Mr. Chairman, every worker deserves a fair and safe workplace, and that is what the PRO Act does.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD a petition signed by over 63,000 community members in support of the PRO Act.

FEBRUARY 4, 2020.

Re Delivery of signatures regarding the U.S. House of Representatives' floor vote on the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

Chairman BOBBY SCOTT,
House Education and Labor Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOBBY SCOTT: Please accept over 63,000 signatures from community members across the country on behalf of a coalition of 11 advocacy, climate, labor, and trade organizations advocating for the passage of the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. We ask that your office enter this letter and the accompanying signatures into the public record. We thank you, Chairman Scott, for your introduction and support of this historic legislation.

Our coalition believes that working class and middle class families in the United States deserve income security and should be able to organize their co-workers to demand living wages and healthy working conditions.

In a time when the richest Americans' wealth growth has increased by over 200 percent while wages remain stagnant for the

rest of us, we urge the U.S. House of Representatives to pass the PRO Act.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), Climate Hawks Vote, Courage Campaign, CREDO Action, Daily Kos, Economic Policy Institute Policy Center, Friends of the Earth Action, National Employment Law Project, People For the American Way, Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, I also include in the RECORD a letter from the CWA on how unions reduce income inequality.

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, February 5, 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the officers and 700,000 members of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), I am writing to urge you to vote for H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, when it comes before the House this week and to oppose any amendments that would weaken the bill. For CWA, this is the most important vote that has come before the House of Representatives in years and our members are watching it closely.

The huge surge in economic inequality over the past quarter-century is related directly to many workers' lack of a strong voice on the job. Over that time, wages have stagnated for workers across the economy, while income has skyrocketed for CEOs and the wealthiest 1%. By 2012, the wealthiest 1% made 22.5% of national income, while the bottom 90% of families made less than half of national income—just 49.6%.

During that same time period, union density has declined substantially. Since the early 1980s, the overall unionization rate has been cut in half. This harms workers who are unable to form unions directly, but it also hurts other workers, as research by the Economic Policy Institute shows that higher union density increases wages for all workers.

Moreover, the harm to workers caused by the lack of an organized voice on the job is not limited simply to compensation. Workers who form unions have stronger protections against discrimination and retaliation, enhanced job security, better retirement benefits, and more effective ways of combating practices that jeopardize their health and safety on the job.

Unfortunately, the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) does not currently include protections strong enough to ensure that workers are able to effectively exercise their right to organize, bargain collectively, and have a strong voice on the job. The NLRA's penalties are ineffective and insufficient, amounting to little more than a vague threat of a slap on the wrist to employers who violate the NLRA. As a result, workers are routinely illegally disciplined or even fired for exercising their NLRA rights, with little to no consequence for the bad actors.

Just as concerning is what is actually permitted under the NLRA. Employers can hold “captive audience” meetings, in which executives can and do force workers to attend hours-long meetings in which management berates and intimidates workers who want to organize. Employers can and do also fail to negotiate fair first contracts, preventing workers who form unions from ever securing a collective bargaining agreement. As a result, many workers are deterred from fighting to exercise their rights in the first place.

The PRO Act would strengthen the NLRA and, in so doing, empower workers across the country. The PRO Act would:

Strengthen remedies for workers who face illegal retaliation, including swift temporary reinstatement for workers who are illegally

suspended or fired, real financial penalties, and the clarification of their ability to have their day in court;

Clarify coverage of the NLRA to prevent the misclassification of workers as independent contractors;

Protect the integrity of union elections against coercive captive audience meetings;

Ensure that the National Labor Relations Board's orders are enforced in a timely manner;

Protect workers' right to strike for basic workplace improvements;

Ensure that workers and employers are able to reach fair deals for a first contract by establishing mediation and arbitration procedures;

Strengthen the ability of workers and companies to negotiate contracts that include fair share fees that cover the basic costs of representation and bargaining;

Safeguard the rights of all workers to engage in employment-related class action litigation.

The PRO Act would ensure that workers' right to a voice on the job would be protected. In doing so, it would help combat skyrocketing economic inequality and strengthen the middle class. Therefore, I strongly urge you to vote for the PRO Act. CWA will include votes on this bill and any amendments that would undermine the bill in our Congressional Scorecard and this is the single highest priority vote for CWA and our members of the 116th Congress.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DAN MAUER,

Director of Government Affairs,

Communications Workers of America (CWA).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill today.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend, the distinguished ranking member, for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, there is one reason we are here today and one reason alone. It is not to protect American workers. No, it is to protect big labor and their bosses.

There is so much real work to be done. We should be working to empower American workers, to modernize our employment laws, and to meet the demands of the 21st century economy. Instead, with this legislation, my friends on the other side want to turn back the clock and try to force power back into the hands of union bosses.

Make no mistake, this bill is a massive job killer. It will wipe out right-to-work laws which have now been adopted in a majority of States in this country. It will close small businesses. It will allow union bosses the freedom to coerce American workers, and it will force millions to pay union dues against their consent.

For some reason, my friends on the other side refuse to see the results of the proworker Trump agenda. When government gets out of the way, when we put down the regulatory pen, when we let the American economy work, American ingenuity will lead the world.

At a time of record prosperity, they propose we bring back many of the

failed policies of the Obama administration, the very policies that led to so many years of stagnation.

My message to my friends on the other side is clear: Do not betray the American worker. Do not turn back the clock. Vote "no" on the PRO Act.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished majority leader of the House of Representatives.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I have not been on the floor to hear all of the debate, but it is interesting to hear how proworker the debate is from a party that has been responsible for opposing workers' protections, workers' wages, minimum wages, and almost every other thing that lifted workers up.

I will remind my friends on the other side of the aisle that the best times for the middle class were when the unions had the largest number of members. Why? Because employers could not just tell them: You are going to get this. No, there had to be a bargaining saying: Look, we are making a lot of profits. We want to share in those profits because we enabled those profits.

So, yes, we are for giving workers the right to organize. We are for everybody who benefits from that, paying part of the taxes for that. There are a lot of people who don't like the policies we pursue. But they have to pay taxes because the majority decides that that is what we are going to do. And that is the policy of the United States. And you can't say: Well, I don't like the policy, so I am not going to pay.

I rise in very strong support of this bill. This is a bill about the middle class. This is a bill about working people. You talk a lot about working people. This is what lifts up working people, giving them some ability to negotiate on somewhat of an equal plane.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this legislation which will protect workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively. That right is at the heart of American opportunity. Furthermore, I would suggest there is not a robust democracy in the world that does not have a trade union movement. It is what made prosperity possible for generations of working people and their families.

This administration and Republicans in Congress have been working to undermine that right and erode the protections won by the workers' rights movement. Today, I am proud to bring this legislation to the floor to make it clear that Democrats will not allow that to happen.

We stand with the men and women of organized labor, and all workers who benefit through their efforts, and we will fight on their behalf to protect workers' rights.

I want to thank Chairman BOBBY SCOTT of the Education and Labor Committee for introducing this legislation and shepherding it through the

committee where Members helped strengthen it and ensure broad support across our caucus.

In addition to banning employers from forcing workers to participate in anti-union activities—perhaps my friends in the House who believe in freedom think maybe that is wrong. I don't know. We will see—the PRO Act ends the practice of management misclassifying workers in order to deny them benefits and fair pay. I challenge anybody to get up and say that doesn't happen.

It puts the National Labor Relations Board back on the side of workers, stopping the Trump administration's use of that board to subvert workers' rights. When they say "deregulation," regulation is making sure workplaces are safe; making sure that products that are sold are safe—that is regulation—making sure that automobiles are safe to be on the road. That is regulation.

By the way, we all know about regulations. We watch a football game. It is a regulation that you can't cross the line until the ball is hiked. That is regulation. It makes the game fair. This bill strengthens unions' hands in negotiations by prohibiting employers from hiring permanent replacements for striking workers. In other words, do it my way, kid, or get out.

That is the way it used to be before the 1930s where some people died walking lines. They were trying to picket or trying to make the case for their employees. Yes, some people died, and some people bled so that other workers would have a fair shot, fair pay, safe workplace, and some long-term security.

In short, the PRO Act is the workers' rights legislation our Nation has been waiting for. If we are for the middle class, we need to make sure that the middle class has some bargaining power. It is the legislation our country needs to confront the assault of unorganized labor that has been ramped up under this antiworker President.

□ 1630

When we have strong unions, workers—even those not in unions—end up with higher wages, better healthcare, more secure retirement benefits, and safer workplaces.

They had to fight for that, and as I said, some people died for that. That is why we need legislation like the PRO Act.

When the Democratic-led House passes this bill, it will join other proworker legislation waiting for action in the Senate. These include the Raise the Wage Act to bring the Federal minimum wage up to \$15. There is not one of us who could live on \$15 an hour, but we have kept, over the 12 years that the Republicans were in the majority, \$7.25 as the minimum wage. I challenge anybody in this House to live on \$7.25 an hour for 40 hours.

We ensured equal pay for women in the Equality Act, which bans discrimination against LGBT workers. Martin

Luther King said to judge on the content of character and effort, not on some extraneous character trait that may have nothing to do with whether you can perform the job.

We also passed the Butch Lewis Act to protect multiemployer pension funds, as well as the SECURE Act to help more workers save for a secure retirement.

Let's not forget we passed legislation protecting coverage for Americans with preexisting conditions. The President said he was for preexisting conditions, but he wanted to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They tried, and they had a big celebration down at the White House right after they passed it from the House to the Senate.

Guess what happened 2 weeks later? The President said: That is a mean bill.

Check the RECORD, Mr. Chairman. All of these bills are sitting on Senator MITCH MCCONNELL's desk. I call on Senator MCCONNELL to restore democracy and let Senators vote.

I urge my colleagues to send the PRO Act to the Senate with strong support. This is proworker, pro-middle class, profamily, and pro-American. Vote "yes."

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I have to say that saying that this is the most antiworker President ever in the country is just pretty far off the mark. And we are, on our side of the aisle, I believe, the most proworker people in the Congress.

American workers have the right to organize, and Republicans support that right. This bill is not needed to protect those rights.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member, who has fought hard on this legislation that I want to talk to you about today.

It is very interesting to stand here and listen to my colleagues and me talk about refereeing and talking about regulations. Sometimes, refereeing doesn't get it right when it comes to sporting events, and it is disappointing today because I stand here as somebody who has worked with, supported, and been supported by many members of organized labor, my friends in the building trades and my friends the airline pilots and the air traffic controllers. I would use the rest of my time if I talked about all the men and women in organized labor whom we have worked with to try to come up with bipartisan solutions.

Despite my strong record of supporting Davis-Bacon, PLAs, and ensuring workers have the means to unionize, I have to oppose this bill.

The Democrat majority has brought to the floor another bill that has no chance of becoming law. It is a messaging bill, and it has a couple of provisions that I really have to highlight.

Last year, the Democrat majority proposed in H.R. 1 that every single

member of the Democratic majority who voted for that had public financing of their own congressional campaigns with corporate fines. The corporate fine provision in this bill could create a circumstance where a business commits an unfair labor practice and the civil penalties get directed to Members of Congress' campaigns, not to victims. This is irresponsible.

The joint employer standard that is codified in this law is wrong.

Mr. Chairman, reconsider this legislation. Let's work together to actually come up with solutions.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT), who is the co-chair of the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the PRO Act, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

The right to organize in this country has become a fundamental right. It is one of the core pillars of the American middle class.

Nowhere do we understand that better than in my home area of northeastern Pennsylvania, where we remember that, almost 100 years ago, anthracite coal miners went out on strike to protest unsafe working conditions, children in the mines, terrible wages, and bad conditions generally. They have made fair wages and safe workplaces. They wove them into the fabric of American law.

This is all because they had the right to organize, and that is what we are here to do. Today, we strengthen and preserve the right to organize through the Protecting the Right to Organize Act. Let's vote "yes" on it.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for the opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, if the majority believed its own rhetoric surrounding this legislation, it would have been a day one priority. Instead, they brought this legislation up in the shadow of impeachment to conceal the harm it would impose on working-class Americans.

This legislation explicitly eliminates the employer as a party in the election process determining whether the workplace is unionized, limiting the ability of workers to understand the full implications of any decision at hand.

Worse, it requires the employer to hand over the workers' private, personal information to organizers, including their home addresses, listed phone numbers, personal email addresses, et cetera, without the consent of the employee or the ability for employees to opt-out.

This information sharing subjects every single employee to the well-documented tactics of harassment, intimi-

dation, and deception by union organizers. Just consider the presentation in the recent Pennsylvania case that included The Helpful Union Guys. That is an acronym. Figure it out. There were charges of racketeering, assault, and arson.

Making matters worse, the bill vastly restricts the right to secret ballot elections in favor of the organization by card-check process, providing the union leaders with access to a list of all employees who did not support organization efforts and all of their contact information.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle held up the USMCA deal to ensure the right to secret ballot union elections for Mexican workers but, just weeks later, are voting to strip those same rights away from American workers. What is good for Mexican workers is not good for American workers, apparently.

This bill rewrites the definition of "employee" and "employer" so that they completely eliminate the gig economy, independent contractors, and the franchise model, and it will disproportionately impact small businesses.

The estimated combined cost of the provisions in this bill is \$47 billion annually on employers, necessarily resulting in loss of jobs, reduction of wages, and higher consumer costs.

Yet again, the majority is placing special interests of union bosses above the American people.

Mr. Chairman, as a person who went to vocational and technical school and worked manual labor jobs, I urge a "no" vote for this bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE). She is someone who has read the bill and knows that civil fines in the bill are paid to the U.S. Treasury, not to the unions victimized by unfair labor practices.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, first, let me thank Chairman SCOTT for yielding, but also for his tremendous leadership on behalf of American workers.

I rise in strong support today of the PRO Act. This bill protects the basic right to join a union by giving millions of workers protections to organize, negotiate better pay, and a strong voice on the job.

Unions are vital to the health of our economy and our community. They help reduce racial and economic inequality, boost pay, and increase benefits for workers.

Unfortunately, antiworker attacks have seriously weakened our unions and our middle class. Union membership is at an all-time low, and workers are scared even to organize or join a union. That is so shameful.

We must protect workers' rights to organize and improve the quality of life for themselves and their families. That is why this bill is so important. The PRO Act strengthens the power of

all workers to join a union and hold wealthy corporations accountable.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD two letters from labor groups in support of this PRO Act. These letters are from the Department for Professional Employees, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Equal Rights Advocates, National Employment Law Project, National Partnership for Women and Families, National Taskforce on Tradeswomen's Issues, National Women's Law Center, and UltraViolet.

DEPARTMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL
EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO,

Washington, DC, February 4, 2020.

Re H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 24 national unions in the Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO (DPE), I urge you to support H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, and to oppose any weakening amendments and any Motion to Recommit when the House of Representatives considers this bill. The PRO Act will ensure that professionals can exercise their right to join together in union and negotiate collectively with their employers by restoring the original intent of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

DPE knows from our 2016 national survey of nonunion professionals that a majority of professionals want to join together in union. Unfortunately, in too many instances, employers are able to violate the NLRA and deny professionals their right to form a union with their colleagues.

The PRO Act will help ensure all professionals can achieve their right to join together in union and negotiate collectively with their employers to improve their lives and their workplaces. The legislation modernizes the NLRA so that it has remedies consistent with other workplace laws, ending the perverse incentive that exists currently for employers to break the law. Companies and individual corporate officers will be subject to financial penalties if they violate the NLRA, and professionals will have the ability to bring their cases to federal court. Further, the PRO Act will provide for fair union elections. The bill will also stop employers from hiding behind a subcontractor or other intermediary, or deliberately misclassifying professional employees as supervisors or independent contractors to evade their employer responsibilities.

Recognizing that professionals can only fully realize the value of joining together in union when they have a written contract, the PRO Act will also put a stop to employers using tactics that prevent employees from achieving a union contract. The legislation establishes a process for mediation and arbitration to assist employers and their employees with reaching agreement on a first contract. A written contract—just like CEOs have—is how union professionals can guarantee pay and benefits, ensure a voice in decisions affecting them at work, and secure pathways to sustain their careers.

The PRO Act also recognizes that professionals must be able to picket or withhold their labor in order to have the power necessary to improve their workplaces. The legislation will prevent employers from hiring permanent replacement workers in instances when professionals decide they have no choice but to go on strike. In addition, non-union professionals will be able to engage in collective action to enforce basic workplace rights, instead of being required to pursue justice on their own through employer-favored arbitration proceedings.

Lastly, the PRO Act would eliminate state right to work laws. Secretive special interest groups and their billionaire funders push these laws in an effort to give corporations more power at the expense of everyday professionals. We must learn from the experience of the past seven decades, which has shown that people in states with right to work laws have lower wages and reduced access to quality health care and retirement security.

The experience of the more than four million professional, technical, and other highly skilled workers who make up DPE's 24 national unions demonstrates that working people do better when they can negotiate collectively for better pay and improved working conditions. That is why a majority of nonunion professionals want to join together with their colleagues and negotiate with their own employers. And it is why I urge you to support the PRO Act when it comes before you for a vote on the House floor.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER DORNING,
President.

FEBRUARY 6, 2020.

Re Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (H.R. 2474).

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned organizations write in support of the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (H.R. 2474) and in opposition to any amendment that would deny the bill's protections to the approximately 9.2 million working people in franchise employment in the United States. The PRO Act is an important measure that will improve the lives of millions of working people and their families by streamlining the process for forming a union, ensuring that new unions are able to negotiate a first collective bargaining agreement, and holding employers accountable when they violate workers' rights. These rights are especially critical for women, who not only disproportionately benefit from union representation, but who make up 6 out of 10 low-paid workers in the United States toiling in jobs that are in desperate need of union protections.

Of the 9.2 million people who work in franchise employment, the largest share by far works in the restaurant and fast food industry—approximately 5 million people. The consequences of shielding these corporate franchisors from taking responsibility for employees they jointly control would be felt by some of the most vulnerable and lowest-paid working people. Over half of employees in the U.S. fast food industry are women, and around one-quarter are raising children. The fast-food industry is notorious for workplace abuse: according to one recent survey, for example, over 40 percent of women in the fast-food industry face sexual harassment on the job, which can lead to negative physical and mental health impacts, job insecurity, and major life disruption. Carving franchise employment out of the protections of the PRO Act would allow franchisors to continue to shirk their responsibilities to these working people. For collective bargaining to be most meaningful and effective, every entity with control over workers' jobs must be at the bargaining table.

For instance, the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund, the ACLU, Fight for \$15 and others are supporting courageous McDonald's workers who are speaking out about the sexual harassment they face working at corporate and franchise-run stores. These allegations include vile verbal abuse, groping, stalking, and assault, including of teenagers, as well as swift retaliation for workers who speak out about harassment. In its public re-

sponses, McDonald's continues to distance itself from responsibility for the sexual harassment in its franchise-run stores. When announcing new policies to respond to sexual harassment, McDonald's has carefully noted that the new plans apply only to corporate-owned stores; franchise-run stores were encouraged, but not required, to have similar policies. At the same time, McDonald's sets policies for its franchise-run stores that determine so many details of the work—down to the kind of pickles on a hamburger—precisely so that any difference between corporate and franchise stores is undetectable. In fact, McDonald's corporate identity is so intertwined with franchise operations that many workers do not even realize they are working in a franchise-run store—just as customers do not notice any difference, either. McDonald's wants it both ways: to closely control the product and reap the benefits of its brand in franchise-run stores but not to have any of the liability when workers whose day-to-day work is dictated by this corporate control are harassed.

The McDonald's workers who have come forward to make their industry better for millions of other women deserve the chance to improve their lives using the tools that the PRO Act provides, and so do all working people employed at franchise establishments. Unions can help create a safe and healthy workplace for all working people. Working people with a union may be better able to raise harassment concerns because collective bargaining agreements can provide increased protection from firing and retaliation than are available to most non-union workers—and if harassment or retaliation does occur, individuals may have more mechanisms to challenge unjust employer actions.

The PRO Act is critical for women and their families because collective bargaining increases women's equality at work. Women in unions are more likely than their non-union counterparts to receive higher and more equal pay, better health care and pension benefits, and greater protections against discrimination on the job.

We urge you to support the PRO Act and reject attempts to weaken this bill by changing the joint employer standard to leave behind millions of franchise workers.

Sincerely,

Coalition of Labor Union Women, Equal Rights Advocates, National Employment Law Project, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Taskforce on Tradeswomen Issues, National Women's Law Center, UltraViolet.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I ask for a "yes" vote for our workers and a "yes" vote for this bill.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, among the PRO Act's most harmful provisions is the ABC test to determine employee status. Like many of the Democrats' worst ideas, the ABC test was enacted in California in a law known as AB5 and is already causing pain since going into effect on January 1 of this year.

Last week, hundreds rallied to repeal the law. One worker said: "I worked years to gain my skill as an American Sign Language interpreter. It was my goal since I was 9 years old. After AB5, I lost all three of my agencies. The dream I worked for is lost. I can't provide for my family, and thousands of California deaf won't be serviced."

One artistic director at last week's rally summed it up for the Chico Enterprise-Record: "We are not stupid. We do not need to be saved from ourselves. We can negotiate our own contracts. AB5 is insulting."

Mr. Chair, this is the reaction of California workers who are being harmed by a section that will be in this piece of legislation.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, can you advise how much time is remaining on each side?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 11¼ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH), who is a strong supporter of workers and who hails from one of the majority of States that have an ABC test.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act. As a former—well, I am still an ironworker. I still pay my dues every single month.

I strapped on a pair of work boots for about 20 years as an ironworker and eventually worked my way up to become president of Ironworkers Local 7 in Boston. So I guess that makes me a union boss, as I have been referred to previously. I am organized labor, I guess.

I have seen firsthand how employers have used intimidation and threats to punish and deter workers from the right to join a union, to seek safe conditions at work and fair wages, and to have a voice in the workplace.

This bill before us takes direct aim at the abusive employer practices by closing loopholes in existing law, establishing civil penalties for retaliation, and ensuring new unions get their first contract.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to vote in favor of this act.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I am going to address on this bill something that I assume has been addressed before but, nevertheless, of all the provisions of the bill I find most offensive.

Under this bill, the employers are required to give the telephone number, the email, and the address of each employee. I do believe in the importance of protecting people's privacy, and to say that, by wanting to have a union election, you have the right to find out where every possible person lives I think is offensive, not to mention I think it would be very scary to have somebody come home one night and they find somebody there waiting for them to talk about the union election.

You have to wonder what are these people doing here. And then you are: Oh, they are here to deal with this.

It is hard for me to believe that a party that purports to look out for women and that sort of thing is going to turn around and pass a bill saying we are going to hand out everybody's address.

□ 1645

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), who knows that Social Security numbers are not available under this bill, but the same information that the Trump NLRB currently provides is in the bill.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman SCOTT.

I am a proud supporter of the hard-working men and women of our Nation, and no one does more for American workers than organized labor. Workers standing together and bargaining collectively have been instrumental in building our country and our middle class for more than a century. Unions helped bring tens of millions of good-paying jobs to Americans by working for fair and safe workplaces and better wages and benefits.

In Chicagoland, we are fortunate to have many labor unions fighting every day to improve the lives of workers and their families. Across my district, thousands display a lawn sign created by Chicago Federation of Labor that reads, "Proud Union Home."

But, sadly, some are now trying to hinder collective bargaining and undermine the National Labor Relations Act just at a time when workers need greater protection.

Mr. Chair, today, I urge my colleagues to support American workers, support American prosperity, and vote to pass the PRO Act.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

Mr. RUIZ. As labor goes, so goes America.

When workers' rights are diminished, our middle class struggles.

This economy has made millions and billions for millionaires and billionaires, but middle-class families feel left behind. Their wages fail to keep pace with inflation, and workers struggle for better conditions.

That is why I urge the House to vote for H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, to strengthen and protect workers' right to organize so they can negotiate higher wages, fight for better benefits, and protect themselves from abuse.

It was labor that first stood up for workers' rights; it was labor that built America's middle class; and it is labor that continues to fight to bring fairness to our economy and improve the lives of hardworking middle-class families.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support workers across the Nation by voting "yes" on the PRO Act today.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD letters of support for the PRO Act from the TWU, ATU, and AFSCME.

TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO,

Washington, DC, February 3, 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of more than 151,000 members of the Transport Workers Union (TWU), I am writing to urge you to support the passage of Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (H.R. 2474), as well as to oppose any weakening amendments or motion to recommit. As written, his bill directly addresses the needs of the middle-class in the 21st century and will help ensure that our next generation economy is one that puts working families first.

Our labor laws are designed to provide access to the time-tested process of collective bargaining. Under the National Labor Relations Act, certain workers, through their elected representatives, negotiate directly with their employer over the terms of their labor. How often will they work? How much will they be paid? What benefits will they receive beyond their salary? Through collective bargaining, these questions are answered in a unique way for each work group and at each company. This is an incredibly flexible process that has allowed TWU to successfully negotiate contracts for everyone from flight attendants to mechanics to railroad inspectors to bus operators to bikeshare workers.

In the nearly 75 years since Congress last took action to substantially reform our labor laws, our economy has undergone significant changes. However, the central role that workers play in generating wealth for our nation has not changed. While Facebook bikeshare workers (TWU members since 2019) may be employed at a company and in a job that did not exist in 1947, they still deserve the right to collectively bargain to improve their compensation and benefits. The reforms in the PRO Act will ensure that gains in the 21st century economy include working families.

The proportion of unionized workers in the U.S. is at a 90-year low because of structural hurdles which make joining a new union very difficult. Companies misclassify workers as independent contractors, engage shell companies to hire employees, and ignore our labor laws on a daily basis in order to deny their workers the right to organize and collectively bargain. Tactics like these have driven down the percent of unionized workers in the U.S. along with salaries and benefits for the middle class. Our era of historic income inequality can only be fixed by reforming our outdated labor laws and empowering working families.

The PRO Act would directly address these issues and give workers across the entire economy equal access to the collective bargaining process. In order ensure workers' rights keep pace with the new economy, the Transport Workers Union strongly urges you to vote for final passage of H.R. 2474 and oppose any weakening amendments.

Sincerely,

JOHN SAMUELSEN,
International President.

AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION,
Silver Spring, MD, February 3, 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), the largest union representing transit workers in the U.S., I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019 (H.R. 2474).

Public transit employees work under difficult circumstances. Bus drivers work long shifts, refraining from drinking water because they don't get adequate time to use

the restroom. Operators frequently get assaulted by angry passengers who don't want to pay increased fares for reduced service. Transit maintenance employees do their jobs under dangerous conditions, from the garages they work in, to the tools they use, to the air they breathe.

Often times when low paid transit employees attempt to improve their standard of living by joining a union, they are thwarted by ruthless multinational companies which do everything they can to squash workers' dreams, and current U.S. Labor Laws authorize and enable them to do so.

Private transit employers regularly violate the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) with no consequences. Workers are forced to attend "captive audience" meetings whose sole purpose is to convince them to vote against the union. Companies place massive pressure on the shoulders of low income individuals with families and tell them lies about what it means to be in a union.

Sometimes, the companies hide behind definitions in the law to get their way. Last year, in the case of SuperShuttle DFW, Inc. v. Amalgamated Transit Union 1338, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled that a shuttle company's drivers were correctly classified as independent contractors, making it difficult for gig-workers to be classified as employees under the NLRA because protected bargaining is only granted to traditional employees.

Moreover, even when workers actually vote to join a union, the companies still fight, working ruthlessly to decertify bargaining units and bust unions even before they get a chance to negotiate a first contract. It never ends, and it is not a fair fight.

The PRO Act would modernize the NLRA by bringing its remedies in line with other workplace laws, imposing appropriate financial penalties on companies that violate the code. It would also establish a process for mediation and arbitration to help the parties achieve a first contract, making the freedom to negotiate a reality for countless workers who form unions but never get to enjoy the benefits of a collective bargaining agreement. It would generally provide a more level playing field so that an increased number of workers could join unions and have a better chance to successfully fight for their wages, benefits, and working conditions.

On behalf of the members and potential future members of the ATU living in your congressional district, we urge you to support H.R. 2474. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

AFSCME,

Washington, DC, January 27, 2020.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) strongly supports passage of the "Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act" (H.R. 2474). As the largest public-sector union, our members believe that all workers, both private and public sector workers, deserve the right to organize and bargain collectively to improve their working conditions.

At a time when the economy is strong and unemployment is low, there are still people who have to work two or three jobs to make ends meet. Some workers cannot take time off of work due to a cold or to take care of a sick family member because they will lose pay and won't be able to cover rent or buy food. When workers can form or join a union, they can negotiate a contract that provides livable wages, paid leave, health insurance and retirement benefits. Workers have protections if they are retaliated against by their employer. They can demand safe workplace environments. When workers have pro-

tections and good working conditions, the products and services that they provide are better. This is good for the company, consumers and the economy.

According to a study by David Madland at the Center for American Progress (CAP), there is a direct correlation between the strength of unions and the middle class. Union membership rates have fallen over the past 50 years, along with the share of income that goes to the middle 60 percent of American households. In 1968, this group of households brought home 53.2 percent of national income. That same year, 28.2 percent of American workers were union members. As union membership rates began to slide downward, so too did the share of income accruing to the middle class. In 2017, just less than 11 percent of American workers were unionized, and the middle 60 percent of households now earn just 45.5 percent of national income, barely up from 45.4 percent in 2016, a record low share.

For decades, abusive employers have been able to violate federal labor laws with relative impunity, making it more difficult for workers to organize and negotiate for fair pay, benefits and working conditions. The PRO Act builds upon collective bargaining rights for private sector workers by expanding coverage to more employees. It increases penalties for violations of workers' rights. It strengthens support for workers who suffer retaliation and it prohibits employers from interfering in union elections.

AFSCME strongly urges Congress to pass the PRO Act. This bill will improve the rights of workers, which will make our country stronger.

Sincerely,

SCOTT FREY,

Director of Federal Government Affairs.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the PRO Act to protect workers against an unprecedented tide of attacks on hardworking Americans.

Unions are the backbone of our economy, and, for too long, Congress has watched as unions are trampled on in the name of shareholder value. Well, no more.

For far too long, the Democratic Party has treated unions as if they were fully owned subsidiaries, talking to them only during times of elections. Well, with this Congress, we say that those days are no more.

For too long, the Democratic Party stood on the sidelines and watched nonunion members go to war with union members, all in the working class and the middle class, and we had forgotten that, when the union movement works well, when the union movement grows, the entire middle class prospers. Well, that ends today.

With this bill, we reaffirm workers' rights to organize a union and to negotiate higher wages and better benefits. By passing this bill, we uphold the bedrock values of this country.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the vice chair of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman SCOTT for his incredible leadership on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I am so proud to support the PRO Act. It is an essential

step to restoring the power of the American middle class, raising wages, improving benefits and working conditions, and tackling income inequality.

I have spent most of my career helping workers form unions and bargain collectively, so I know firsthand the power that comes with the ability to organize.

Union workers make, on average, 13 percent more than their nonunion counterparts; they are 27 percent more likely to be offered health insurance through their employers; and they are five times as likely as nonunion workers to have a real pension.

Working families across this country who are trying to make ends meet need bigger paychecks, better benefits, and a safe place to work where they are treated with respect. The PRO Act will get us there, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I have a couple of other speakers, but they are not here now, so we are prepared to close.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, for nearly 80 years, Federal labor law has struck a careful balance among the rights of employers, employees, and unions, resulting in a growing economy and greater prosperity. But the Democrats are seeking to upend that balance and radically tilt the playing field in favor of unions and against workers and small businesses.

We now have additional proof about the motivations of House Democrats for advancing this radical special interest legislation. It comes from Democrats' most feared, Big Labor union boss, Richard Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO, who said the following yesterday:

Those who would oppose, delay, or derail this legislation, do not ask us, do not ask the labor movement for a dollar or a door knock. We won't be coming.

That truly says it all. The PRO Act is all about serving the interests of union bosses at the expense of workers and business owners.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the PRO Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act is based on a simple idea that hard work should pay off. Strong labor unions and collective bargaining rights have long ensured that workers receive a fair share of the profits that they have produced.

Unfortunately, decades of antiunion attacks have slowly eroded workers' collective bargaining rights, weakened labor unions, and contributed to a dramatic rise in income inequality.

When workers have the power to stand together and form a union, they

have higher wages, better benefits, and safer working conditions. The protecting the Right to Organize Act is an opportunity for all of us to stand with workers and help build an economy where everyone can succeed.

Mr. Chair, I recognize the workers and advocates, both here today and across the country, who have been critical in bringing this legislation to the floor. In that regard, I include in the RECORD a letter from 138 unions and civil rights and faith-based organizations in support of H.R. 2474.

JANUARY 31, 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: The undersigned organizations support the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, as introduced by Senators Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Jacky Rosen (D-Nevada), Representatives Bobby Scott (D-Va.), Frederica Wilson (D-Fla.), Andy Levin (D-Mich.), Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), and Brendan Boyle (D-Penn.).

The ability of working people to join together to collectively bargain for fair pay and working conditions is a fundamental right. When working people join a union, they have a voice on the job and the ability to collectively bargain for wages, benefits, and working conditions. Unions are crucial in fostering a vibrant middle class and reducing income inequality. When unions are strong, they set wage standards for entire industries and occupations, they make wages more equal within occupations, and they help close racial and gender wage gaps.

For decades, however, that right has been eroding as employers exploit weaknesses in the current law to interfere with workers' rights—and face no real consequences for doing so. The result has been stagnant wages, unsafe workplaces, and rising inequality.

The PRO Act would go a long way toward restoring workers' right to organize and bargain collectively by streamlining the process for forming a union, ensuring that new unions are able to negotiate a first collective bargaining agreement, and holding employers accountable when they violate workers' rights.

This is important because by bringing workers' collective power to the bargaining table, unions are able to win better wages and benefits for working people. On average, a worker covered by a union contract earns 13.2 percent more in wages than a peer with similar education, occupation, and experience in a nonunionized workplace in the same sector. Moreover, when unions are strong, they set wage standards for entire industries and occupations, they make wages more equal within occupations, and they help close racial and gender wage gaps. Finally, there is a huge gap between the share of workers with union representation (11.9 percent) and the share of workers that would like to have a union and a voice on the job (48 percent). The PRO Act would take a major step forward in closing that gap.

The PRO Act protects the right to join a union by:

1. Imposing stronger remedies when employers interfere with workers' rights. Under current law, there are no penalties on employers nor any compensation awarded to workers when employers illegally fire or retaliate against workers who are trying to form a union. The PRO Act would institute civil penalties for violations of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and would also require the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to go to court and get an injunction to immediately reinstate workers if the NLRB believes the employer has illegally re-

taliated against workers for union activity. Finally, the PRO Act would give workers the right to go to court on their own to seek relief, bringing labor law in line with other workplace laws that allow for a private right of action.

2. Strengthening workers' right to join a union and collectively bargain over working conditions. Though current federal law requires employers to bargain in good faith with the union chosen by their employees to reach a collective bargaining agreement, employers often drag out the bargaining process to avoid reaching an agreement. The PRO Act establishes a process for reaching a first agreement when workers organize, employing mediation and then, if necessary, binding arbitration, to enable the parties to reach a first agreement. The PRO Act would also allow employers and unions to agree upon a "fair share" clause requiring all workers who are covered by the collective bargaining agreement to contribute a fair share fee towards the cost of bargaining and administering the agreement, even in so called "right-to-work" states. Furthermore, the PRO Act will help level the playing field for workers by repealing the prohibition on secondary boycotts and prohibiting employers from permanently replacing strikers.

3. Unrigging the rules that are tilted against workers. Too often, employers misclassify workers as independent contractors because only employees have the right to organize under the NLRA. Similarly, employers will misclassify workers as supervisors to deprive them of their NLRA rights. The PRO Act tightens the definitions of independent contractor and supervisor to crack down on misclassification and make sure that all eligible workers are able to unionize if they choose to do so. The PRO Act also makes clear that workers can have more than one employer, and that both employers need to engage in collective bargaining over the terms and conditions of employment that they control or influence. And in an effort to create transparency in labor-management relations, the PRO Act would require employers to post notices that inform workers of their NLRA rights and to disclose contracts with consultants hired to persuade workers on how to exercise their rights.

The time for the PRO Act is long overdue, and we cannot delay in working toward its passage. We call on Congress to enact this important piece of legislation as quickly as possible to ensure working people are paid fairly, treated with dignity, and have a voice on the job.

Sincerely,

Economic Policy Institute, National Employment Law Project, Iworker1vote, 350.org, 9 to 5, AFL-CIO, Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Inc., Alliance for Justice, Alliance for Retired Americans, American Association for Justice, American Family Voices, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, American Income Life (AIL), American Income Life: Michael Vasu Agency, Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO, Association of Flight Attendants—CWA, Autistic Women & Non-binary Network (AWN), Bend the Arc: Jewish Action.

BlueGreen Alliance, California Reinvestment Coalition, Campaign for America's Future, Catholic Labor Network, Center for American Progress, Center for Law and Social Policy, Center for Popular Democracy, Center for Public Policy Priorities, Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc., Child Labor Coalition, Claimant Advocacy Program, Metropolitan Washington Council AFL-CIO, Coalition of Labor Union Women,

Coalition on Human Needs, Colorado Fiscal Institute, Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces, CWA, Demos, Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, Economic Opportunity Institute.

Endangered Species Coalition, Equal Rights Advocates, Fair World Project, Family Values @Work, Farmworker Justice, Fiscal Policy Institute, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends of the Earth, Futures Without Violence, GoldenHours Consulting, Greenpeace, Human Rights Watch, Indiana Institute for Working Families, Invisible, Interfaith Worker Justice, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART), International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (FPTE), AFL-CIO, International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots.

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, IUE-CWA, Jobs With Justice, Justice in Motion, Kentucky Equal Justice Center, Labor Project for Working Families in partnership with FV@W, LAANE, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, League of Conservation Voters, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Legal Aid at Work, Legal Aid Society of MFS, Louisiana Budget Project, Main Street Alliance, MANA, A National Latina Organization, Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Michigan League for Public Policy, Milwaukee Area Service & Hospitality Workers Organization, NAACP.

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, National Consumers League, National Domestic Workers Alliance, National Education Association, National Employment Lawyers Association, National Equality Action Team, National Immigration Law Center, National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, National Nurses United, National Organization for Women, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Urban League, National Women's Law Center, National Workrights Institute, NC Justice Center, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, New Jersey Policy Perspective, New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice, Nonprofit Professional Employees Union.

OPEIU, Oxfam America, Patriotic Millionaires, People's Action, People For the American Way, PFLAG National, Policy Matters Ohio, PolicyLink, Pride at Work, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, Public Citizen, Public Justice Center, Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Sierra Club, SMART TD, South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice, Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice, Transport Workers Union.

UnidosUS Action Fund, Union Veterans Council, AFL-CIO, United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), United Food and Commercial Workers International Labor Union, United Steelworkers (USW), Verite, Voices for Progress, VoteVets, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy, Women Employed, Workers Defense Project, Workers' Rights Institute of Georgetown Law Center, Working America, Working Families Party, Working Partnerships USA, Workplace Fairness, WV Citizen Action Group.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I once again urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act. This bill will go a long way in restoring the right to organize for millions of hardworking Americans while holding employers accountable for practices that undermine collective efforts to improve the lives of their employees.

Over the past few decades, our country has seen profits for corporations and executive pay rise exponentially. Sadly, this prosperity has failed to trickle down to the average worker. This is due to practices like union busting used by employers and legislation such as right-to-work laws enacted by business-friendly state legislators. The lopsided employee—employer relationship that has been created thanks to these actions has led to the greatest level of income inequality in my lifetime.

As a dues-paying member of the American Federation of Government Employees Union, I understand how important unions are to ensure higher wages, better benefits, and safer work environments for hardworking Americans. Every worker across the country should have the opportunity to organize and fight for a bigger paycheck, not just those that are lucky enough to live in specific states or work in a certain industry.

The PRO Act gives workers the opportunity to hold fair union elections while also preventing employers from interfering and stacking the deck against workers. This bill also gives employees a fighting chance when negotiating collective bargaining agreements with employers. Loopholes that employers commonly use to exploit workers would be closed off. And finally, the bill also holds employers accountable by enacting meaningful penalties on employers that violate the rights of workers.

Mr. Chair, it is time we restore the middle class and give workers a fair shot when they fight for better pay and benefits. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Chair, I rise today to strongly support the passage of H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, and oppose any motion to Recommit or amendment that will weaken this very important piece of legislation.

In a letter to Members of Congress, Robert Martinez, Jr., the President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers writes:

“American workers approve of unions according to a Gallop poll conducted last year, and if they had the opportunity, they would choose to have labor representation. However, the right to freely form a union without the threat of company intimidation or interference is denied to workers today. The PRO act expands the enforcement powers of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and strengthens protections for employees that engage in collective action. The bill would level the playing field by prohibiting employers from requiring their employees to attend “captive audience” meetings whose sole purpose is to convince workers to vote against the union. In addition to imposing financial penalties on employers and individual corporate offices who violate the law, the bill would give workers the option of bringing their case to federal court.

The PRO Act is a crucially bold piece of legislation that modernizes federal laws and

establishes a process for mediation and arbitration to help the parties achieve a first contract. It protects workers’ rights to organize a union and bargain for higher wages and better benefits.

Finally, the PRO Act would eliminate state right to work laws. These laws are simply designed to give more power to corporations at the expense of workers and have had the effects of lowering wages and eroding pensions and healthcare coverage in states where they have been adopted.

For all the above reasons, I respectfully urge you to support the PRO Act and vote “Yes” when this long overdue legislation is considered.”

Labor unions are the backbone of our economy. They have played a vital role in securing worker protections by allowing workers to collectively bargain for better wages and work environments. We must ensure the rights of workers are protected, which I why I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of a isle to votes yes and pass the PRO Act.

I include in the RECORD a copy of Mr. Martinez’s letter.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
MACHINISTS AND AEROSPACE WORKERS,

Upper Marlboro, MD, January 30, 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, I strongly urge you to support the swift passage of the Protecting the Right to Organize (“PRO”) Act (H.R. 2474) and oppose any Motion to Recommit or amendments that will weaken this very important legislation.

American workers approve of unions according to a Gallop poll conducted last year, and if they had the opportunity, they would choose to have labor representation. However, the right to freely form a union without the threat of company intimidation or interference is denied to workers today. The PRO Act expands the enforcement powers of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and strengthens protections for employees that engage in collective action. The bill would level the playing field by prohibiting employers from requiring their employees to attend “captive audience” meetings whose sole purpose is to convince workers to vote against the union. In addition to imposing financial penalties on employers and individual corporate offices who violate the law, the bill would give workers the option of bringing their case to federal court.

The PRO Act is a crucially bold piece of legislation that modernizes federal laws and establishes a process for mediation and arbitration to help the parties achieve a first contract. It protects workers’ right to organize a union and bargain for higher wages and better benefits.

Finally, the PRO Act would eliminate state right to work laws. These laws are simply designed to give more power to corporations at the expense of workers, and have had the effect of lowering wages and eroding pensions and health care coverage in states where they have been adopted.

For all the above these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support the PRO Act and vote “YES” when this long overdue legislation is considered. For more information, please contact Hasan Solomon.

Thank you,

ROBERT MARTINEZ, Jr.,
International President

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2474, the next in the long line of job-killing legislation that we have considered this Congress.

Dubbed by the National Retail Federation as “the worst bill in Congress” and referred to by

the Chamber of Commerce as a “major threat” to American jobs, the bill’s faults are almost too numerous to count. Repealing state right-to-work laws, codifying harmful and burdensome Obama-era regulations, and violating employee privacy are truly just the tip of the iceberg.

Democrats are selling this legislation as pro-worker, but, in fact, it’s the opposite. This bill is anti-worker choice and freedom. They would like you to believe that while they need secret ballot elections to choose their own Party leadership, workers do not deserve that same fundamental American right when voting to unionize.

To see the potential effects of this legislation look no further than California. AB5 is already wreaking havoc on small business and independent contractors across the state. Workers are having to reevaluate their careers and livelihoods. The PRO Act includes all of AB5’s flaws but none of its numerous carveouts.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 2474.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Chair, I rise today to join my colleagues from the Education and Labor Committee in speaking in support of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act—the PRO Act.

The PRO Act is necessary for America’s workers because the economy is simply NOT working for millions of Americans who are struggling to get by while corporate profits are soaring.

We know now, thanks to a study from Princeton University, that unions have consistently provided workers with a 10- to 20-percent wage boost over their non-union counterparts. And the benefits pervade race and gender lines.

People of color in unions make five times more than people of color who are NOT in unions. Women union members see the gender pay gap nearly eliminated.

Unions across our country are fighting to secure better working conditions and better wages for their members.

In my hometown of Las Vegas, the Culinary Union represents 60,000—those are 60,000 people who already benefit immensely from fair wages, job security, and good health benefits.

But we can expand these benefits to ALL Americans.

We must protect the mission and legacy of organizations like the Culinary Union by passing the PRO Act, and strengthen workers’ power to stand together and negotiate for higher wages, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, today I will be opposing H.R. 2474, the PRO Act. Unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues are bringing legislation to the floor that will continue finding ways to pick winners and losers between special interests and businesses in America. Additionally, the legislation puts the heavy hand of government in between the contracts between workers, unions and their employers.

There are ways that we can build up working families in America, protect workers in their workplaces, and advance the growing gig economy in America, but this bill does none of that. Therefore, I cannot support this legislation.

But I want to be clear, I support America’s workers.

Yesterday, as Chairman of the Western Caucus I hosted a job forum focusing on the creation of hundreds of union jobs in Northern Minnesota. Union jobs that are strongly opposed by Democrat members from St. Paul. If you want to fight for more union jobs then join us in supporting the development of the Twin Metals mine and the hundreds of Project Labor Agreement Jobs that will be filled as a result of what could be the largest project in the history of Minnesota.

I support the development of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline which will bring 2,000 to 4,000 union construction jobs to West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina but is strongly opposed by Democrat representatives and governors up and down the path.

I support the construction of the Appalachia Petrochemical Complex; a \$6 billion ethylene cracking plant being built in Pennsylvania with union workers. A project made possible only by the development and advancements of hydraulic fracturing technology and the natural gas boom made possible by that technology. A technology that Sen. BERNIE SANDERS, Sen. ELIZABETH WARREN and a parade of other Democrat presidential candidates want to ban the minute they gain power.

I support the modernization of the ESA and NEPA because we need to get America back to building large projects in a timely fashion. Right now, in America, billions of dollars of investment is held up in long permitting times from Offshore wind in the Atlantic, to mines in Arizona, to pipelines in New York, Nebraska and Pennsylvania.

If we want to support American workers, we need to free our people to invest in American jobs and infrastructure. For too long my colleagues have attempted to promote heavy handed government intervention, like this legislation, rather than freeing Americans to build pipelines, mines, create jobs and build economic opportunity. Rather than siding with radical environmentalists for who no mine anywhere is acceptable or climate change activists who insist that not a single mile of new pipe be built. I am choosing to side with America's workers, union and private.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor, printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 116-392, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule, and shall be considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 2474

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) JOINT EMPLOYER.—Section 2(2) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Two or more persons shall be employers with respect to an employee if each such person co-determines or shares control over the employee's essential terms and conditions of employment. In determining whether such control exists, the Board or a court of competent jurisdiction shall consider as relevant direct control and indirect control over such terms and conditions, reserved authority to control such terms and conditions, and control over such terms and conditions exercised by a person in fact: Provided, That nothing herein precludes a finding that indirect or reserved control standing alone can be sufficient given specific facts and circumstances."

(2) EMPLOYEE.—Section 2(3) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "An individual performing any service shall be considered an employee (except as provided in the previous sentence) and not an independent contractor, unless—

(A) the individual is free from control and direction in connection with the performance of the service, both under the contract for the performance of service and in fact;

(B) the service is performed outside the usual course of the business of the employer; and

(C) the individual is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession, or business of the same nature as that involved in the service performed."

(3) SUPERVISOR.—Section 2(11) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152(11)) is amended—

(A) by inserting "and for a majority of the individual's worktime" after "interest of the employer";

(B) by striking "assign,"; and

(C) by striking "or responsibly to direct them,".

(b) REPORTS.—Section 3(c) of the National Labor Relations Act is amended—

(1) by striking "The Board" and inserting "(1) The Board"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) Effective January 1, 2021, section 3003 of the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 (Public Law 166-44; 31 U.S.C. 1113 note) shall not apply with respect to reports required under this subsection.

"(3) Each report issued under this subsection shall include no less detail than reports issued by the Board prior to the termination of such reports under section 3003 of the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 (Public Law 166-44; 31 U.S.C. 1113 note)."

(c) APPOINTMENT.—Section 4(a) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 154(a)) is amended by striking " , or for economic analysis".

(d) UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES.—Section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting " ;"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(6) to promise, threaten, or take any action—

(A) to permanently replace an employee who participates in a strike as defined by section 501(2) of the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947 (29 U.S.C. 142(2));

(B) to discriminate against an employee who is working or has unconditionally offered to return to work for the employer because the employee supported or participated in such a strike; or

(C) to lockout, suspend, or otherwise withhold employment from employees in order to influence the position of such employees or the representative of such employees in collective bargaining prior to a strike; and

"(7) to communicate or misrepresent to an employee under section 2(3) that such employee is excluded from the definition of employee under section 2(3).";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (4) and (7);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking "affected;" and inserting "affected; and"; and

(D) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by striking " ;" and inserting a period;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: " : Provided, That it shall be an unfair labor practice under subsection (a)(1) for any employer to require or coerce an employee to attend or participate in such employer's campaign activities unrelated to the employee's job duties, including activities that are subject to the requirements under section 203(b) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (29 U.S.C. 433(b)).";

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (4) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively;

(B) by striking "For the purposes of this section" and inserting "(1) For purposes of this section";

(C) by inserting "and to maintain current wages, hours, and working conditions pending an agreement" after "arising thereunder";

(D) by inserting " : Provided, That an employer's duty to collectively bargain shall continue absent decertification of the labor organization following an election conducted pursuant to section 9" after "making of a concession.";

(E) by inserting "further" before " , That where there is in effect";

(F) by striking "The duties imposed" and inserting "(2) The duties imposed";

(G) by striking "by paragraphs (2), (3), and (4)" and inserting "by subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (1)";

(H) by striking "section 8(d)(1)" and inserting "paragraph 1(A)";

(I) by striking "section 8(d)(3)" and inserting "paragraph 1(C)" in each place it appears;

(J) by striking "section 8(d)(4)" and inserting "paragraph 1(D)"; and

(K) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) Whenever collective bargaining is for the purpose of establishing an initial collective bargaining agreement following certification or recognition of a labor organization, the following shall apply:

"(A) Not later than 10 days after receiving a written request for collective bargaining from an individual or labor organization that has been newly recognized or certified as a representative as defined in section 9(a), or within such further period as the parties agree upon, the parties shall meet and commence to bargain collectively and shall make every reasonable effort to conclude and sign a collective bargaining agreement.

"(B) If after the expiration of the 90-day period beginning on the date on which bargaining is commenced, or such additional period as the parties may agree upon, the parties have failed to reach an agreement, either party may notify the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service of the existence of a dispute and request mediation. Whenever such a request is received, it shall be the duty of the Service promptly to put itself in communication with the parties and to use its best efforts, by mediation and conciliation, to bring them to agreement.

"(C) If after the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the request for mediation is made under subparagraph (B), or such additional period as the parties may agree upon, the Service is not able to bring the parties to agreement by conciliation, the Service shall refer the dispute to a tripartite arbitration panel established in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed by the Service, with one member selected by the labor organization, one member selected by the employer, and one neutral member mutually agreed to by the parties. The labor organization and employer must each select the members of the tripartite arbitration panel within 14 days of the Service's referral; if the labor organization or employer fail to

do so, the Service shall designate any members not selected by the labor organization or the employer. A majority of the tripartite arbitration panel shall render a decision settling the dispute and such decision shall be binding upon the parties for a period of two years, unless amended during such period by written consent of the parties. Such decision shall be based on—

“(i) the employer’s financial status and prospects;

“(ii) the size and type of the employer’s operations and business;

“(iii) the employees’ cost of living;

“(iv) the employees’ ability to sustain themselves, their families, and their dependents on the wages and benefits they earn from the employer; and

“(v) the wages and benefits other employers in the same business provide their employees.”;

(5) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

“(e) Notwithstanding chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Federal Arbitration Act’), or any other provision of law, it shall be an unfair labor practice under subsection (a)(1) for any employer—

“(1) to enter into or attempt to enforce any agreement, express or implied, whereby prior to a dispute to which the agreement applies, an employee undertakes or promises not to pursue, bring, join, litigate, or support any kind of joint, class, or collective claim arising from or relating to the employment of such employee in any forum that, but for such agreement, is of competent jurisdiction;

“(2) to coerce an employee into undertaking or promising not to pursue, bring, join, litigate, or support any kind of joint, class, or collective claim arising from or relating to the employment of such employee; or

“(3) to retaliate or threaten to retaliate against an employee for refusing to undertake or promise not to pursue, bring, join, litigate, or support any kind of joint, class, or collective claim arising from or relating to the employment of such employee: Provided, That any agreement that violates this subsection or results from a violation of this subsection shall be to such extent unenforceable and void: Provided further, That this subsection shall not apply to any agreement embodied in or expressly permitted by a contract between an employer and a labor organization.”;

(6) in subsection (g), by striking “clause (B) of the last sentence of section 8(d) of this Act” and inserting “subsection (d)(2)(B)”;

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(h)(1) The Board shall promulgate regulations requiring each employer to post and maintain, in conspicuous places where notices to employees and applicants for employment are customarily posted both physically and electronically, a notice setting forth the rights and protections afforded employees under this Act. The Board shall make available to the public the form and text of such notice. The Board shall promulgate regulations requiring employers to notify each new employee of the information contained in the notice described in the preceding two sentences.

“(2) Whenever the Board directs an election under section 9(c) or approves an election agreement, the employer of employees in the bargaining unit shall, not later than two business days after the Board directs such election or approves such election agreement, provide a voter list to a labor organization that has petitioned to represent such employees. Such voter list shall include the names of all employees in the bargaining unit and such employees’ home addresses, work locations, shifts, job classifications, and, if available to the employer, personal landline and mobile telephone numbers, and work and personal email addresses; the voter list must be provided in a searchable electronic format generally approved by the Board unless the employer certifies that the employer does not possess the capacity to produce the list in the

required form. Not later than nine months after the date of enactment of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019, the Board shall promulgate regulations implementing the requirements of this paragraph.

“(i) The rights of an employee under section 7 include the right to use electronic communication devices and systems (including computers, laptops, tablets, internet access, email, cellular telephones, or other company equipment) of the employer of such employee to engage in activities protected under section 7 if such employer has given such employee access to such devices and systems in the course of the work of such employee, absent a compelling business rationale.”.

(e) REPRESENTATIVES AND ELECTIONS.—Section 9 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 159) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

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

“(1) Whenever a petition shall have been filed, in accordance with such regulations as may be prescribed by the Board, by an employee or group of employees or any individual or labor organization acting in their behalf alleging that a substantial number of employees (i) wish to be represented for collective bargaining and that their employer declines to recognize their representative as the representative defined in section 9(a), or (ii) assert that the individual or labor organization, which has been certified or is being recognized by their employer as the bargaining representative, is no longer a representative as defined in section 9(a), the Board shall investigate such petition and if it has reasonable cause to believe that a question of representation affecting commerce exists shall provide for an appropriate hearing upon due notice. Such hearing may be conducted by an officer or employee of the regional office, who shall not make any recommendations with respect thereto. If the Board finds upon the record of such hearing that such a question of representation exists, it shall direct an election by secret ballot and shall certify the results thereof. The Board shall find the labor organization’s proposed unit to be appropriate if the employees in the proposed unit share a community of interest, and if the employees outside the unit do not share an overwhelming community of interest with employees inside. At the request of the labor organization, the Board shall direct that the election be conducted through certified mail, electronically, at the work location, or at a location other than one owned or controlled by the employer. No employer shall have standing as a party or to intervene in any representation proceeding under this section.”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “an economic strike who are not entitled to reinstatement” and inserting “a strike”;

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) If the Board finds that, in an election under paragraph (1), a majority of the valid votes cast in a unit appropriate for purposes of collective bargaining have been cast in favor of representation by the labor organization, the Board shall certify the labor organization as the representative of the employees in such unit and shall issue an order requiring the employer of such employees to collectively bargain with the labor organization in accordance with section 8(d). This order shall be deemed an order under section 10(c) of this Act, without need for a determination of an unfair labor practice.

“(5)(A) If the Board finds that, in an election under paragraph (1), a majority of the valid votes cast in a unit appropriate for purposes of collective bargaining have not been cast in favor of representation by the labor organization, the Board shall dismiss the petition, subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C).

“(B) In any case in which a majority of the valid votes cast in a unit appropriate for pur-

poses of collective bargaining have not been cast in favor of representation by the labor organization and the Board determines that the election should be set aside because the employer has committed a violation of this Act or otherwise interfered with a fair election, and the employer has not demonstrated that the violation or other interference is unlikely to have affected the outcome of the election, the Board shall, without ordering a new election, certify the labor organization as the representative of the employees in such unit and issue an order requiring the employer to bargain with the labor organization in accordance with section 8(d) if, at any time during the period beginning one year preceding the date of the commencement of the election and ending on the date upon which the Board makes the determination of a violation or other interference, a majority of the employees in the bargaining unit have signed authorizations designating the labor organization as their collective bargaining representative.

“(C) In any case where the Board determines that an election under this paragraph should be set aside, the Board shall direct a new election with appropriate additional safeguards necessary to ensure a fair election process, except in cases where the Board issues a bargaining order under subparagraph (B).”;

(E) by inserting after paragraph (7), as so redesignated, the following:

“(8) Except under extraordinary circumstances—

“(A) a pre-election hearing under this subsection shall begin not later than eight days after a notice of such hearing is served on the labor organization; and

“(B) a post-election hearing under this subsection shall begin not later than 14 days after the filing of objections, if any.”;

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “(e) or” and inserting “(d) or”.

(f) PREVENTION OF UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES.—Section 10(c) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 160(c)) is amended by striking “suffered by him” and inserting “suffered by such employee: Provided further, That if the Board finds that an employer has discriminated against an employee in violation of paragraph (3) or (4) of section 8(a) or has committed a violation of section 8(a) that results in the discharge of an employee or other serious economic harm to an employee, the Board shall award the employee back pay without any reduction (including any reduction based on the employee’s interim earnings or failure to earn interim earnings), front pay (when appropriate), consequential damages, and an additional amount as liquidated damages equal to two times the amount of damages awarded: Provided further, no relief under this subsection shall be denied on the basis that the employee is, or was during the time of relevant employment or during the back pay period, an unauthorized alien as defined in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3)) or any other provision of Federal law relating to the unlawful employment of aliens”.

(g) ENFORCING COMPLIANCE WITH ORDERS OF THE BOARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 10 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 160) is further amended—

(A) by striking subsection (e);

(B) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e);

(C) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d)(1) Each order of the Board shall take effect upon issuance of such order, unless otherwise directed by the Board, and shall remain in effect unless modified by the Board or unless a court of competent jurisdiction issues a superseding order.

“(2) Any person who fails or neglects to obey an order of the Board shall forfeit and pay to the Board a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation, which shall accrue to

the United States and may be recovered in a civil action brought by the Board to the district court of the United States in which the unfair labor practice or other subject of the order occurred, or in which such person or entity resides or transacts business. No action by the Board under this paragraph may be made until 30 days following the issuance of an order. Each separate violation of such an order shall be a separate offense, except that, in the case of a violation in which a person fails to obey or neglects to obey a final order of the Board, each day such failure or neglect continues shall be deemed a separate offense.

“(3) If, after having provided a person or entity with notice and an opportunity to be heard regarding a civil action under subparagraph (2) for the enforcement of an order, the court determines that the order was regularly made and duly served, and that the person or entity is in disobedience of the same, the court shall enforce obedience to such order by an injunction or other proper process, mandatory or otherwise, to—

“(A) restrain such person or entity or the officers, agents, or representatives of such person or entity, from further disobedience to such order; or

“(B) enjoin such person or entity, officers, agents, or representatives to obedience to the same.”;

(D) in subsection (f)—

(i) by striking “proceed in the same manner as in the case of an application by the Board under subsection (e) of this section,” and inserting “proceed as provided under paragraph (2) of this subsection”;

(ii) by striking “Any” and inserting the following: “

“(1) Within 30 days of the issuance of an order, any”;

and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) No objection that has not been urged before the Board, its member, agent, or agency shall be considered by a court, unless the failure or neglect to urge such objection shall be excused because of extraordinary circumstances. The findings of the Board with respect to questions of fact if supported by substantial evidence on the record considered as a whole shall be conclusive. If either party shall apply to the court for leave to adduce additional evidence and shall show to the satisfaction of the court that such additional evidence is material and that there were reasonable grounds for the failure to adduce such evidence in the hearing before the Board, its member, agent, or agency, the court may order such additional evidence to be taken before the Board, its member, agent, or agency, and to be made a part of the record. The Board may modify its findings as to the facts, or make new findings, by reason of additional evidence so taken and filed, and it shall file such modified or new findings, which findings with respect to questions of fact if supported by substantial evidence on the record considered as a whole shall be conclusive, and shall file its recommendations, if any, for the modification or setting aside of its original order. Upon the filing of the record with it the jurisdiction of the court shall be exclusive and its judgment and decree shall be final, except that the same shall be subject to review by the appropriate United States court of appeals if application was made to the district court, and by the Supreme Court of the United States upon writ of certiorari or certification as provided in section 1254 of title 28, United States Code.”; and

(E) in subsection (g), by striking “subsection (e) or (f) of this section” and inserting “subsection (d) or (f)”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 18 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 168) is amended by striking “section 10(e) or (f)” and inserting “subsection (d) or (f) of section 10”.

(h) INJUNCTIONS AGAINST UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES INVOLVING DISCHARGE OR OTHER SE-

RIOUS ECONOMIC HARM.—Section 10 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 160) is amended—

(1) in subsection (j)—

(A) by striking “The Board” and inserting “(1) The Board”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) Notwithstanding subsection (m), whenever it is charged that an employer has engaged in an unfair labor practice within the meaning of paragraph (1) or (3) of section 8(a) that significantly interferes with, restrains, or coerces employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed under section 7, or involves discharge or other serious economic harm to an employee, the preliminary investigation of such charge shall be made forthwith and given priority over all other cases except cases of like character in the office where it is filed or to which it is referred. If, after such investigation, the officer or regional attorney to whom the matter may be referred has reasonable cause to believe such charge is true and that a complaint should issue, such officer or attorney shall bring a petition for appropriate temporary relief or restraining order as set forth in paragraph (1). The district court shall grant the relief requested unless the court concludes that there is no reasonable likelihood that the Board will succeed on the merits of the Board’s claim.”; and

(2) by repealing subsections (k) and (l).

(i) PENALTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 12 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 162) is amended—

(A) by striking “SEC. 12. Any person” and inserting the following:

“SEC. 12. PENALTIES.

“(a) VIOLATIONS FOR INTERFERENCE WITH BOARD.—Any person”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) VIOLATIONS FOR POSTING REQUIREMENTS AND VOTER LIST.—If the Board, or any agent or agency designated by the Board for such purposes, determines that an employer has violated section 8(h) or regulations issued thereunder, the Board shall—

“(1) state the findings of fact supporting such determination;

“(2) issue and cause to be served on such employer an order requiring that such employer comply with section 8(h) or regulations issued thereunder; and

“(3) impose a civil penalty in an amount determined appropriate by the Board, except that in no case shall the amount of such penalty exceed \$500 for each such violation.

“(c) CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any employer who commits an unfair labor practice within the meaning of section 8(a) shall, in addition to any remedy ordered by the Board, be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for each violation, except that, with respect to an unfair labor practice within the meaning of paragraph (3) or (4) of section 8(a) or a violation of section 8(a) that results in the discharge of an employee or other serious economic harm to an employee, the Board shall double the amount of such penalty, to an amount not to exceed \$100,000, in any case where the employer has within the preceding five years committed another such violation.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the amount of any civil penalty under this subsection, the Board shall consider—

“(A) the gravity of the unfair labor practice;

“(B) the impact of the unfair labor practice on the charging party, on other persons seeking to exercise rights guaranteed by this Act, and on the public interest; and

“(C) the gross income of the employer.

“(3) DIRECTOR AND OFFICER LIABILITY.—If the Board determines, based on the particular facts and circumstances presented, that a director or officer’s personal liability is warranted, a civil penalty for a violation described in this sub-

section may also be assessed against any director or officer of the employer who directed or committed the violation, had established a policy that led to such a violation, or had actual or constructive knowledge of and the authority to prevent the violation and failed to prevent the violation.

“(d) RIGHT TO CIVIL ACTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who is injured by reason of a violation of paragraph (1) or (3) of section 8(a) may, after 60 days following the filing of a charge with the Board alleging an unfair labor practice, bring a civil action in the appropriate district court of the United States against the employer within 90 days after the expiration of the 60-day period or the date the Board notifies the person that no complaint shall issue, whichever occurs earlier, provided that the Board has not filed a petition under section 10(j) of this Act prior to the expiration of the 60-day period. No relief under this subsection shall be denied on the basis that the employee is, or was during the time of relevant employment or during the back pay period, an unauthorized alien as defined in section 274A(h)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(3)) or any other provision of Federal law relating to the unlawful employment of aliens.

“(2) AVAILABLE RELIEF.—Relief granted in an action under paragraph (1) may include—

“(A) back pay without any reduction, including any reduction based on the employee’s interim earnings or failure to earn interim earnings;

“(B) front pay (when appropriate);

“(C) consequential damages;

“(D) an additional amount as liquidated damages equal to two times the cumulative amount of damages awarded under subparagraphs (A) through (C);

“(E) in appropriate cases, punitive damages in accordance with paragraph (4); and

“(F) any other relief authorized by section 706(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–5(g)) or by section 1977A(b) of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1981a(b)).

“(3) ATTORNEY’S FEES.—In any civil action under this subsection, the court may allow the prevailing party a reasonable attorney’s fee (including expert fees) and other reasonable costs associated with maintaining the action.

“(4) PUNITIVE DAMAGES.—In awarding punitive damages under paragraph (2)(E), the court shall consider—

“(A) the gravity of the unfair labor practice;

“(B) the impact of the unfair labor practice on the charging party, on other persons seeking to exercise rights guaranteed by this Act, and on the public interest; and

“(C) the gross income of the employer.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 10(b) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 160(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking “six months” and inserting “180 days”; and

(B) by striking “the six-month period” and inserting “the 180-day period”.

(j) LIMITATIONS.—Section 13 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 163) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “: Provided, That the duration, scope, frequency, or intermittence of any strike or strikes shall not render such strike or strikes unprotected or prohibited.”.

(k) FAIR SHARE AGREEMENTS PERMITTED.—Section 14(b) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 164(b)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “: Provided, That collective bargaining agreements providing that all employees in a bargaining unit shall contribute fees to a labor organization for the cost of representation, collective bargaining, contract enforcement, and related expenditures as a condition of employment shall be valid and enforceable notwithstanding any State or Territorial law.”.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO THE LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS ACT, 1947.

The Labor Management Relations Act, 1947 is amended—

(1) in section 213(a) (29 U.S.C. 183(a)), by striking “clause (A) of the last sentence of section 8(d) (which is required by clause (3) of such section 8(d)), or within 10 days after the notice under clause (B)” and inserting “section 8(d)(2)(A) of the National Labor Relations Act (which is required by section 8(d)(1)(C) of such Act), or within 10 days after the notice under section 8(d)(2)(B) of such Act”; and

(2) by repealing section 303 (29 U.S.C. 187).

SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959.

Section 203(c) of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (29 U.S.C. 433(c)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following “: Provided, That this subsection shall not exempt from the requirements of this section any arrangement or part of an arrangement in which a party agrees, for an object described in subsection (b)(1), to plan or conduct employee meetings; train supervisors or employer representatives to conduct meetings; coordinate or direct activities of supervisors or employer representatives; establish or facilitate employee committees; identify employees for disciplinary action, reward, or other targeting; or draft or revise employer personnel policies, speeches, presentations, or other written, recorded, or electronic communications to be delivered or disseminated to employees.”.

SEC. 5 RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

The amendments made under this Act shall not be construed to amend section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a).

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, including any amendments made by this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 116-392. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. STEVENS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 116-392.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of Mr. MORELLE, and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

On page 32, line 8, redesignate section 5 as section 6.

On page 32, after line 7, insert the following:

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

The amendments made under this Act shall not be construed to affect the definitions of “employer” or “employee” under the laws of any State that govern the wages, work hours, workers’ compensation, or unemployment insurance of employees.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentlewoman

from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer a very simple and straightforward amendment. This amendment does not alter the critical provisions of this legislation, but it does provide clarity about what the PRO Act will and will not do, as well as recognizes State efforts when it comes to employee rights and standards.

The PRO Act does not govern in any way the definition of who is an employee for the workplace protections related to minimum wages, overtime, or unemployment insurance. Under the PRO Act, the definition of who is an employee only applies to who is eligible to join a union and collectively bargain.

If a worker is an employee under the PRO Act, they will have the right to join or refrain from union representation, engage in collective bargaining and bargain over the terms and conditions of their work.

As we know, employment status varies under Federal and State statutes. Thus, an individual can be an employee under one law and remain an independent contractor for the purposes of another.

I have a deep respect for State authority and believe that, as we address Federal NLRA standards, it is important to thoughtfully assess the 20 States that have taken differing actions currently relying on some version of the ABC test to determine their own worker protection eligibility.

This straightforward amendment I am offering today does not end the discussion on the ABC test but helps clarify the benefits of the PRO Act and sets our country on a path to support workers.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment as well as the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is little more than an attempt to protect the few well-connected interests that received a carveout from the California Democrats’ disastrous Assembly Bill 5, but it is a fig leaf meant to provide cover for vulnerable Democrat Members.

AB-5 redefined California’s wage and hour laws to expand the definition of “employee” using the same language found in the PRO Act, but with dozens of industries exempted from the onerous standard that has placed tens of thousands of jobs at risk.

If the PRO Act becomes law, workers could find themselves in a confusing

scenario where they are classified differently under State wage and hour law and Federal labor law.

Democrats will draw a distinction between Federal labor relations law and State wage and labor laws, but, in reality, the distinction means little to businesses that will be hit with costly new and confusing employment regulations and to the workers whose jobs are put at risk as a result.

□ 1700

Moreover, once all workers are deemed employees for collective bargaining purposes, as required by the PRO Act, they will become subject to union organizing. Once unionized, the collective bargaining agreement would govern their wages and benefits, even if State law still considers them an independent contractor.

Essentially, if unions have their way, this fig leaf amendment will accomplish nothing in the way of preserving a worker’s independent contractor status under State law.

The only winners in this scheme will be the unions and trial lawyers, whom Democrats always seem to find a way to benefit, no matter the issue.

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

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in favor of the amendment and also the underlying bill.

As a proud union member myself of Workers United, SEIU, I see the importance of sticking with my union. Even though I am no longer active on the job, I want to pay my dues.

Unions have brought us the middle class; they brought us the weekend; they brought us the benefits that ordinary people have in order to have a living wage and a successful life.

I also want to say that the amendment clarifies that the ABC test included in the PRO Act does not preempt any State law governing the wages, worker hours, et cetera, and so it is a very good amendment.

But I want to say, for three decades, we have seen corporations trying to undermine workers’ rights to gather together for their own benefit. Finally, today, we are going to pass a bill that gives workers those rights.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I would like to close out our debate, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

It is very interesting that our colleagues have talked about unions providing the middle class better jobs and benefits. It is very interesting to look at the declining rate of union membership and see the increasing salaries, number of jobs being created in the

country, benefits, and all positive things happening, record unemployment, record wage increases. That is going along with declining union participation.

Mr. Chairman, the PRO Act is one of the most antiworker, anti-small business bills to be considered by Congress in decades, and this amendment makes it worse.

The PRO Act is a liberal Democrat wish list designed to enrich and empower union bosses and trial lawyers at the expense of rank-and-file workers and small businesses.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to defeat this misleading, unworkable, and misguided amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. FOXX OF NORTH CAROLINA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 116-392.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Beginning on page 14, line 25, strike “the names of all employees” and all that follows through “personal email addresses” on page 15, line 4, and insert “the names of all employees in the bargaining unit and not more than one additional form of personal contact information for the employee, (such as a telephone number, an email address, or a mailing address) chosen by the employee in writing”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, Americans have a reasonable expectation of privacy. In the modern economy, this means deciding for themselves whether to share their personal information.

At an Education and Labor Committee hearing on this bill last year, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka testified that unions need workers' personal information so that they can solicit them anywhere you can get them, including at their home.

As we know from previous testimony, these are not always friendly visits. In

many instances, they are intended to exert pressure on workers to support the union.

The PRO Act requires that business owners provide employees' home addresses, home phone numbers, cell phone numbers, personal email address, and more to union bosses, which will promote union harassment of employees at home or in public. This is outrageous and unacceptable.

Moreover, there are no safeguards for how workers' personal information might be used or misused. For one, the information could be used by unions for unwanted political campaigning, solicitation, or worse. The PRO Act contains no protections or restrictions on how this information will be used and no repercussions if unions allow it to fall into the wrong hands.

We have seen countless examples of private companies and government agencies subjected to hacks and leaks that allow private, personal information to fall into the wrong hands. The last thing American workers need is for self-interested union bosses to have that information and for hackers and scammers to gain access as well.

Many Members of Congress know firsthand the risks associated with having their personal information distributed. My amendment provides basic privacy protections to the workers we represent so that, while they are free to organize together, they are just as free to protect their valuable personal information.

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlemen is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chairman, the rule this amendment seeks to gut dates all the way back to 1966, and it has been in operation ever since. It is the Excelsior Underwear case.

I have done hundreds and hundreds of house visits based on the information provided by these lists. Now, just because it has been in operation doesn't mean it has always worked well. For years, when I was organizing, I was given lists of names and incomplete information scribbled across scattered sheets of paper, and somehow this complied with the law.

I am not going to admit how long ago this was, Mr. Chairman, but it was decades ago.

The PRO Act simply codifies the rule regarding contact information to make it work better and modernizes it by ensuring that, among other things, contact information is provided in electronic, searchable format, this being the 21st century.

Now, my distinguished colleague across the aisle might attempt to scare you with nightmares about union boogymen coming to blow your house down; but, in reality, not one person has ever charged a union with abusing the voter information list since the

NLRB updated its election procedures to modernize them in 2014, 6 years ago. Not one charge; it is completely made up.

In fact, when the Trump NLRB, a body not exactly known for being on the side of workers, recently revamped their election procedure, they left this rule entirely intact, just as we are attempting to codify it in the PRO Act.

Ensuring that workers are fully informed about an organizing drive is paramount to effective labor relations.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, my amendment addresses just one radical component of the PRO Act by preserving workers' privacy, ensuring that they can protect their own personal information and decide for themselves whether they wish to share it with the union.

Importantly, the amendment does not restrict unions from receiving any information at all; rather, the workers can decide for themselves which one piece of contact information they wish to share. And the union is free to gather the rest directly from workers without the employer acting as a middleman.

Like with every other provision of the PRO Act, Democrats claim that invading workers' privacy is about leveling the playing field; but, time and again, polling has shown that workers prefer choice, privacy, and control within the unions that claim to represent them.

The PRO Act is an affront to all of these basic concepts, none of its provisions more so than the requirement that employers share employees' personal information with union organizers against the employees' will.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this commonsense amendment that will put workers, not union bosses, in control of their own private, personal information, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I want to emphasize that the gentlewoman's amendment is not about the PRO Act; it is about current law.

All the PRO Act does on the question of lists and how they are to be given from the company to the union is codifying current law. So this is not an argument against the PRO Act; it is an argument against the structure of our labor relations as they have been for decades.

Mr. Chair, I would offer to the gentlewoman that, if she would like to join me in writing the law that would allow workers to have access to union organizers in the workplace, I would be glad to do that with her, and then we wouldn't need a law that allows workers to gain access to unions the only way they can under our system, which is at home or on the phone.

Our country provides workers no right to have access to union staff in

their workplace. It is pretty unusual among countries. And if the gentlewoman is serious about feeling like it is better for workers to interact with the union at work rather than at home, that would be a wonderful discussion to have for another day.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. NORCROSS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 116–392.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

On page 19, line 15, insert “and shall continue from day to day until completed” after “organization”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer a simple amendment to protect the efficiency of the union representation election process by ensuring that preelection hearings before the NLRB are conducted on a day-to-day basis.

The PRO Act strengthens workers' rights to a free and fair union representation election. It does so by preventing unnecessary delays, which allow employers to engage more time against antiunion campaigns that are designed to erode support for the union.

In 2014, the NLRB updated its union election procedures by enacting reasonable deadlines and preventing employers from stalling elections through frivolous litigation. The PRO Act codifies many of these requirements, including the timeliness for pre- and post-election hearings.

One important change in the 2014 election rule was to require that, whenever the NLRB conducts a preelection hearing, the hearing must be held from day to day. Prior to 2014, hearings could either be held day to day or adjourned to a later date. Requiring these hearings to be held day to day provides more certainty in the preelection hearing process that codifies this best practice.

□ 1715

In those cases where the NLRB decides a pre-election hearing is nec-

essary; this amendment ensures efficiency in the NLRB pre-election process and prevents employers from seizing upon unnecessary delays.

Unnecessary delays leading up to a representation election enables employers to have more time to campaign against the union, through lawful, or many times unlawful means. Once the NLRB receives a petition for the union election, it must process the election expeditiously in order for the rights of the workers to be upheld.

Mr. Chairman, I urge this amendment be voted on in the affirmative, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment is designed to short-circuit the union election process drastically by micromanaging the National Labor Relations Board.

The goal of this amendment is to rush the election process in order to deprive workers of the opportunity to weigh the pros and cons of unionization, and employers of the adequate time to prepare for union election.

Rushing union elections simply tilts the playing field against both workers, who deserve the benefit of hearing both sides, and businessowners who should have the right to make their case to their workforce about unionization.

Unions often begin organizing campaigns weeks, or even months, before employers are made aware, creating a scenario in which workers are hearing only one side of the issue prior to a union election.

When an election petition is filed, employers, and particularly small employers, must seek counsel and attempt to understand complex matters of labor law within an unreasonably short time period. This amendment seeks to impose an unfair and unnecessary ambush election scheme through a change in the law.

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Back on December 18, the Trump NLRB issued a dramatic rewrite of the union election procedures, thus undermining the streamlining efficiency of the original 2014 election rule.

However, even in the NLRB by Trump, the new rule left this requirement for elections to proceed day by day. They believe in efficiency. They believe in doing things the correct way. This just codifies it.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, the PRO Act is one of the most antiworker and antismall

business bills to be considered by Congress in decades. It is a liberal Democrat wish list designed to enrich and empower union bosses and trial lawyers at the expense of rank-and-file workers and small businesses, and this amendment makes it worse.

The largest federation of unions in America spends more than three times as much money on politics as it does on its stated purpose of organizing and representing workers. And unions attempted to organize less than one-tenth of 1 percent of eligible workers in 2018, so it should come as no surprise that union membership in the United States is plummeting.

Yet, rather than correct their own wrongdoing and increase their ranks by serving workers better, unions are demanding that Congress enact this sweeping, radical bill that tilts the playing field aggressively in their favor, against workers and small businesses.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this antiworker, pro-union boss amendment.

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Fake news. Don't believe it.

Just ask the people what they want to do. Close to 80 percent of those in the workplace would vote today to join a union, if they were allowed to under a fair process. That doesn't happen.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. DAVID P. ROE OF TENNESSEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 116–392.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, line 22, strike “and”.

Page 8, line 14, strike “and”.

Page 8, line 18, strike the period and insert “; and”.

Page 8, after line 18, insert the following:

“(7) to recognize or bargain collectively with a labor organization that has not been selected by a majority of such employees in a secret ballot conducted by the board in accordance with section 9.”.

Page 9, beginning line 1, amend subparagraph (D) to read as follows:

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) to cause or attempt to cause an employer to recognize or bargain collectively with a representative of a labor organization that has not been selected by a majority of such employees in a secret ballot election conducted by the Board in accordance with section 9.”.

Page 18, line 3, strike “(A) If the Board” and insert “If the Board”.

Strike page 18, line 9, and all that follows through page 19, line 9.

Add at the end the following new section:
SEC. . SECRET BALLOT ELECTIONS.

(a) SECRET BALLOT ELECTION.—Section 9(a) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 159(a)) is amended by inserting after “designated or selected” the following: “by a secret ballot election conducted in accordance with this section”.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments described in paragraph (2) shall not apply to collective bargaining relationships in which a labor organization with majority support was lawfully recognized before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) AMENDMENTS LISTED.—The amendments described under this paragraph are the amendments—

(A) made under subsection (a) of this section;

(B) to subsection (a)(7) of section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158); and

(C) to subsection (b)(6) of such section of such Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, my commonsense amendment to the PRO Act is very simple. It would require union elections to be conducted by a secret ballot, like every election in the country is.

Look, anybody who wants to in this country has the right to belong to a union. I was raised in a union household. My dad, after World War II, worked for 30 years in a factory as a union member.

In fact, this is so simple that in April of 2019, over 80 House Democrats, including 12 on the Committee on Education and Labor, signed a letter to Ambassador Lighthizer demanding the same protections for workers in Mexico as part of the USMCA. I happen to agree with that. If I had been asked, I would have signed this letter.

If House Democrats believe a secret ballot is essential for Mexican workers, why don't they want the same rights for American workers?

Mr. Chair, 47 years ago I put on a uniform. I left my family, I left this country to serve in the United States Army in the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, about 11 miles south of the DMZ, to guarantee those rights for every American citizen to vote by a secret ballot.

My wife tells me she votes for me by secret ballot, but I don't know that for a fact because it is a secret ballot.

Secret ballots are the pillar of our democracy. It is a right that—I don't care if you are a billionaire or you don't have two wooden nickels to rub together; you have that power when you go in the voting booth because no one, no one has the right to intimidate you in a secret ballot. You are free from any threat of retribution.

Guaranteeing the right of a secret ballot for union representation is not

just the right thing to do, it is also wildly popular on the political spectrum. According to 2015 polling from Opinion Research Corporation, 79 percent of union households, 81 percent of Democrats, and 81 percent of Independents support the right to a secret ballot for union organizing campaigns.

This amendment eliminates the so-called “card-check” automatic certification in which a union can organize workers by potentially harassing, intimidating, or misleading them into signing authorization cards.

Over the years, in our committee, we have heard firsthand testimony in the Committee on Education and Labor from several witnesses about being pressured to sign a card check by union organizers. Under the card check system, the union organizers are free to harass a worker over email, the telephone, at their homes, in public, into signing the union authorization card. That is just not right.

Congress is elected, everybody in this body is elected by a secret ballot. House and Senate Democrats want a Mexican worker to have that right. I completely agree with that.

So why aren't American workers being granted the exact same freedoms that are being demanded and granted abroad?

Furthermore, you are going to hear supporters of card check say that a card check is needed because the election gives employers the ability to defeat a union organizing drive. That is nonsense. The most recent data we have from the Center for Union Facts say that unions were able to win almost 69 percent of the secret ballot elections that were held.

Our constituents deserve the same guarantee of privacy at the ballot box as Members of Congress. Union leaders are elected that way; and an opposition to this amendment makes it clear who is putting the interests of union bosses above the interest of workers.

We should all support the right to a secret ballot for all Americans. It is the most American thing I can think of, Mr. Chairman, is that right you have to go in that voting booth and press the button for whomever you wish to vote for.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, under current law, which has been in effect since 1935, an employer may voluntarily recognize the union if a majority of employees have demonstrated support through signed cards or a petition to organize.

If an employer decides not to recognize the union based on those signatures, then NLRB will direct a secret ballot election to determine whether the employees will be represented by

the union. The PRO Act does not alter these requirements which have been in effect since 1935.

This amendment would limit the workers' and employers' option to enter into voluntary recognition agreements. There is no reason why we should limit workers' options to an election if the workers and employers agree to forego it.

But let's be clear. The PRO Act does not require card check in lieu of elections. Instead, it strengthens current law by requiring an employer to bargain with a union if the union has demonstrated majority support and the employer's interference coerced employees into voting against the union.

The only time the NLRB can order an employer to bargain, absent a secret ballot, is when the employer interferes with the union election after a majority have already indicated support through signed authorization cards or a petition. Again, this is current law, set forth by the Supreme Court, and it has been in effect since 1969.

In fact, the PRO Act actually strengthens secret ballot elections by ensuring they are free and fair, both to the workers and to the employers.

Contrary to the argument that this legislation undermines secret ballots, the PRO Act does make a change because it expands the use of secret ballot elections because current law allows employers to withdraw recognition of a union without an election to decertify the union if the employer has evidence that the union has lost the majority support.

The PRO Act just says that union elections are required for decertification, by secret ballot, that must take place before the employer can withdraw recognition. So this actually expands secret ballot elections and, otherwise, pretty much maintains current law that has been in effect for decades.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a “no” vote on the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

For over 220 years since we have had a Constitution in the United States of America, one of the most precious rights we have is a secret ballot. And I wouldn't know why anybody would fear—if you have a great case to make for the union, fine. Make it.

I think we have a right to be unionized or not be unionized. As I said, I was raised in a union household.

But I think that is one of the most sacred rights that we have, as American citizens, as many people do not have. We ask that same right for our Mexican worker. I think we should treat an American worker the same way.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time, only to remind the House that the only time the NLRB can order an

employer to bargain with a union, absent a secret ballot, is when the employer interferes with the union election after the majority has already indicated support through signed cards or petitions.

If the employer wants to insist on a secret ballot, all they have to do is not violate the Labor Relations Act.

The other side of it is that if they want to decertify, they have to have an election. So that is a change. But that is more secret ballot elections, not fewer.

So I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

□ 1730

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. WILD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 116–392.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

On page 32, line 8, redesignate section 5 as section 6.

On page 32, after line 7, insert the following:

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

The amendments made under this Act shall not be construed to affect the privacy of employees with respect to voter lists provided to labor organizations by employers pursuant to elections directed by the Board.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to offer a very simple amendment that I am hopeful will assuage the concerns of my friend and colleague, Ms. FOXX, regarding privacy issues. This amendment very simply clarifies a provision in the PRO Act that deals with the list of voters that employers are to provide to a union before an election. My amendment provides that the requirements surrounding this list of voters shall not affect employee privacy.

For more than 60 years, the NLRB has required employers to provide a list of names and home addresses of employees who are part of a potential

bargaining unit and who will vote in a union election. This list has never conscripted workers into a union against their will, and workers are still free to vote in favor of unionization or against it. Rather, this procedure is designed to create a modicum of fairness during a union election because employers already have this information to reach their employees, whereas unions otherwise would not. It just puts the employer and the union on equal footing in the lead-up to an election.

In 2014, the NLRB updated what had to be included in that list, requiring employers also to include job classifications, telephone and cell phone numbers, and email contact information that was in the employer’s possession. The PRO Act simply codifies that 2014 election rule.

According to information the NLRB provided to the Education and Labor Committee in 2018, no person has ever charged a union with abusing the voter information list since the new 2014 election rule took effect. Even the Republican NLRB in December 2019 kept the voting list requirement as it overhauled other union representation procedures.

My amendment removes any ambiguity in the PRO Act by making it clear that nothing in the bill will be permitted to affect employee privacy.

I urge a “yes” vote on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. VARGAS). The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment is a weak attempt to lend lip service to employee privacy, but it fails to reduce the PRO Act’s invasion of workers’ personal lives. Simply because this amendment says the bill shall not be construed to affect employee privacy does not make it so.

This amendment will not affect the PRO Act’s mandate forcing employers to share employees’ home addresses, home phone numbers, cell phone numbers, personal email addresses, and more with union organizers without giving workers any say in the matter or ensuring that their personal information is protected.

The PRO Act’s provision is an invasion of privacy, and empty rhetoric in this fig leaf amendment does nothing to fix this harmful mandate.

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The argument of my friend and colleague is all well and good, but I am happy to report that current law already prohibits unions from engaging in harassment and coercion. The PRO Act doesn’t change that. The PRO Act simply codifies the 2014 election rule

and the NLRB rules about what had to be included in the list.

Harassment and coercion are prohibited today, will be prohibited tomorrow, and would still be prohibited if the PRO Act bill makes its way to the President’s desk for signature.

The truth is that this list is already narrowly designed to be used solely for union organizing campaigns before an election, and no union has ever been charged with using this list for any improper purpose or in violation of employee privacy.

If my friend’s fears of coercion or intimidation were legitimate, we would see labor charges against unions, but that hasn’t happened because the fear is unfounded.

My amendment merely memorializes and protects employees by clarifying that nothing in the PRO Act will affect employee privacy.

I am proud to support workers’ privacy and their right to organize.

I am proud of the PRO Act, a bill that recognizes that union participation is the fabric of our middle class; a bill that recognizes that strong union membership increases productivity, reduces turnover, and gives the middle class more purchasing power; a bill that recognizes that while union membership is at an all-time low, it is not the result of union apathy, and that 62 percent of workers want to unionize but cannot because workers are not on equal footing with management; a bill that ends unfair union election practices like employer-mandated captive audience speeches because the freedom to associate or not associate should also include the freedom not to listen. I urge a “yes” vote on this amendment and the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, the PRO Act is one of the most antiworker and anti-small business bills to be considered by Congress in decades. It is a liberal Democrat wish list designed to enrich and empower union bosses and trial lawyers at the expense of rank-and-file workers in small businesses, and this amendment does nothing to change that.

My colleagues keep saying that the Trump administration is supporting many bad rules put in place in 2014; however, that is misleading. The administration has not completed its work on modifying or changing some of those rules.

Unions attempted to organize less than one-tenth of 1 percent of eligible workers in 2018, so it should come as no surprise that union membership in the United States is plummeting. Yet, rather than correct their own wrongdoing and increase their ranks by serving workers better or going out and actually doing the job that unions are supposed to do, unions are demanding that Congress enact this sweeping, radical bill that tilts the playing field aggressively in their favor against workers and small businesses.

This amendment does nothing to lessen the harm this bill will inflict on American workers in the form of violating their privacy, providing their personal information to union organizers without allowing workers the choice to refuse.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to defeat this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. ALLEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 116-392.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike subsection (k) of section 2.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a small business owner, I came to Congress to put America back on a path to prosperity and create jobs. I am proud to say that as a result of pro-growth policies passed by the 115th Congress and enacted by President Trump, American workers are thriving under our strong economy. Unemployment is down and wages and jobs are up. I am particularly excited by the growth in my home State of Georgia.

For the seventh year in a row, Georgia has been named the best place to do business. A large part of that is because Georgia became a proud right-to-work State back in 1947. Ever since, families are flourishing; people are working; and business is booming.

But some of my colleagues in other States think they know what is best for Georgia. The PRO Act will outright ban right-to-work laws that have been so successful in States like Georgia. I can tell you right now that the folks of Georgia know what is best for them, not the Federal Government.

My amendment is simple. It strikes the ban on right-to-work States. The right to work is what fuels the American Dream, opening a door to upward mobility and the opportunity for workers to achieve their goals. No American should be forced to pay for representa-

tion and political activities that they do not agree with, and that is what will happen if we take away States' authority to enact right-to-work laws.

My amendment will protect States' right-to-work laws so that union dues are voluntary, giving power to workers, not union bosses, who pocket these benefits from mandatory dues. It should not even be up for debate. Workers should be in control of their earnings and how they spend it.

As Members of Congress our duty is to put our constituents first, so I encourage my colleagues to support my amendment, which prioritizes hard-working Americans' right to choose over the special interests of a union.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment and to commend the Chair for including in the PRO Act provisions that will end the free-rider problem caused by so-called right-to-work States.

Right-to-work provisions undermine the right to unionize because our basic labor law requires a union to represent all those in the bargaining unit, and everyone in the bargaining unit benefits from the union contract. If you tell people you don't have to join, you don't have to pay the union dues, you don't have to pay a fee and you still get all the benefits, then right-to-work is really code for right to free ride.

The result is that States with so-called right-to-work laws have half the private sector unionization rates as other States. It doesn't just hurt those who are in a union because it hurts every wage earner in the whole State. Average wages decline. That is why average wages in so-called right-to-work States are \$8,700 less than they are in other States, but it doesn't just affect that whole State. It drives other States to perhaps adopt so-called right-to-work laws in a race to the bottom as they fight for businesses. It even hurts us in California, where we have to compete with low-wage employers in antiunion States.

I have been working on this problem for decades. That is why I introduced the Nationwide Right to Unionize Act in the 110th Congress, the 111th Congress, the 112th Congress, the 113th Congress, the 114th Congress, the 115th Congress, and now the 116th Congress each time with dozens of cosponsors.

Last Congress I was joined by ELIZABETH WARREN in the Senate where we introduced our bills together. Last week Senator WARREN and I each introduced our bills in the House with 30 original cosponsors and the Senate with 16.

The PRO Act is to be commended because it solves this free-rider problem. We had the State Department testify before my subcommittee of Foreign Affairs that so-called right-to-work laws are a violation of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights because the right to organize is a human right, and right-to-work laws make a mockery of that right.

I also rise in opposition to the amendment we are going to be dealing with, No. 10 by Mr. MEADOWS, which is substantively identical to what we are considering now. The Rules Committee in an effort to be incredibly bipartisan has allowed two substantively identical amendments to be presented to this House. They are both substantively identical. They are both equally reprehensible.

Defeat this amendment. Pass the bill. End the race to the bottom and raise wages nationwide. A country which even last year saw wages rise just 1 percent more than inflation needs unions. We need the right to organize. Pass the bill.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, the fact of the matter is that right-to-work States are stronger, growing faster, and more prosperous. The Federal Government has no business outright banning right-to-work laws that are so successful in many States across the Nation.

Why would California tell Georgia how to run their State?

Democrats in this body have a radical agenda to erode the rights of States. It is just wrong.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to protect States' rights and vote "yes" on my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1745

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

First, I want to point out that, by every measure, unemployment, jobs per month, a Dow Jones industrial average, even the deficit were all better under President Obama than President Trump.

We also know that union members get better wages, better benefits, and safer workplaces than nonmembers. But unions have the duty to represent all workers in a bargaining unit, even those who are not members of the union.

In so-called right-to-work States, that means the union must equally represent those nonmembers who are free to avoid paying their fair share of the costs of representation. This obligation to represent everyone is known as the duty of fair representation.

Since all workers receive a benefit from union representation, it is only fair that everyone contribute their fair share. For example, if a worker files a grievance, the union must represent

that person with individualized representation, and that could cost thousands of dollars a day.

Likewise, when a union incurs expenses while bargaining for raises or benefits, everyone in the bargaining unit benefits, so it only makes sense that everyone help pay for that representation.

The PRO Act permits unions and employers to negotiate labor agreements, which include a service fee to cover the fair share of the cost of providing services mandated by law. That does not mean political activities or advocacy or holiday parties or Fourth of July celebrations, just those that are required by law. It just ensures that those who enjoy the benefits of union representation pay their fair share.

Mr. Chair, I urge a “no” vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MRS. HAYES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 116-392.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 19, line 18, strike “and” after the semicolon.

Page 19, line 20, striking the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 19, after line 20, insert the following: (3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) The Board shall dismiss any petition for an election with respect to a bargaining unit or any subdivision if, during the preceding 12-month period, the employer has recognized a labor organization without an election and in accordance with this Act.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer an amendment to preserve the ability for new, voluntarily recognized unions to collectively bargain for a reasonable period of time without the threat of an invited decertification campaign.

I include in the RECORD a letter from the National Education Association in support of the PRO Act.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2020.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 3 million members of the National Education Association who work in schools and on college campuses in 14,000 communities, we urge you to vote YES on the Protect the Right to Organize Act (H.R. 2474). Votes associated with this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

Collective bargaining is crucial in providing working people with a voice in the workplace and a means for improving their families' financial circumstances. The freedom to collectively bargain, in both the public and the private sectors, helps reduce income inequality and assists low- and middle-income workers in sharing in economic growth. However, according to Bureau of Labor statistics, only 6.2 percent of workers in the private sector were union members in 2019. Employers' hostility to union organizing is largely to blame for the declining number of private-sector union members. This negatively affects working families and our nation's economic viability. The PRO Act will take several steps to reduce the barriers to private-sector union organizing, including:

Revising the definition of “employee” and “supervisor” to prevent employers from classifying employees as exempt from labor law protections;

Expanding unfair labor practices to include prohibitions against replacement of or discrimination against workers who participate in strikes;

Making it an unfair labor practice to require or coerce employees to attend employer meetings designed to discourage union membership an unfair labor practice; and

Allowing injunctions against employers engaging in unfair labor practices involving discharge or serious economic harm to an employee.

All working families deserve financial stability and the ability to negotiate to improve their circumstances. The right to organize is essential to these, and to our nation's overall economic health. We urge you to vote YES on the PRO Act to help remove barriers to organizing in the private sector.

Sincerely,

MARC EGAN,
Director of Government Relations,
National Education Association.

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chair, as a union member, I have had the benefits of the organizing and collective bargaining power of WTA, CEA, NEA, and SEIU 1199. But not all people work in fields with a history of unionization. New unions need a chance to bargain with employers and prove they are productive and skilled advocates on behalf of their members.

For over 40 years, the National Labor Relations Board protected the voluntary recognition process by affording a reasonable amount of time for employers and unions to collectively bargain without fear of decertification challenges. That rule balanced the need for stability in labor relations with the right to have an election, while giving the unions a chance to demonstrate effectiveness to its members.

In 2007, the Bush administration's NLRB scrapped that policy by requiring employers to post a notice inviting a decertification election within a 45-

day window, fostering uncertainty among employees, undermining stability in collective bargaining, and encouraging employers to stall at the bargaining table. Although the NLRB rejected this policy in 2011, this administration has proposed to revive it.

Unions need our support now more than ever. In 2018, Connecticut saw a 3.5 percent decline in union membership from the previous year. Due to this administration's attacks following the Janus Supreme Court decision, national union membership is at 10.3 percent, down from 20.1 percent from the first year data was collected in 1983.

We should not be proposing new rules meant to antagonize and intimidate newly formed unions or new workers advocating for their constitutional right to organize. We should be giving new unions the tools they need to succeed.

A nonunionized workforce means lower wages, poorer working conditions, and reduced benefits. It means working at risk of exploitation. It means a workforce left with no tools to advocate for themselves in the workplace.

The PRO Act will strengthen unions formed over a century ago and those formed today. It will bolster the power of workers and the middle class by giving labor law teeth to prevent intimidation and retaliation. It will strengthen Connecticut workers' rights to collectively bargain on behalf of their members. And it will put a stop to the blatant attacks from employers and State legislatures.

Mr. Chair, I stand with my union brothers and sisters at all stages of the unionization process.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment ensuring new unions are given the chance to organize without a rushed threat of decertification.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The biggest problem with our Federal labor laws today is inadequate protection of workers' rights within the labor organizations that represent them. This amendment would make that problem worse. Workers should not be forced into a union with which they do not wish to associate.

The existing process for workers to remove a union is too limited and burdensome as it is. Workers face tremendous one-sided barriers to a decertification election that they do not face in a certification election.

Worse, more than 90 percent of workers represented by a union today have never voted for that union to represent them.

Let me repeat that. More than 90 percent of workers represented by a union

today have never voted for that union to represent them.

Democrats oppose legislation that would allow workers to vote periodically on the union in their workplace, and this amendment would make it even more difficult for workers to have an opportunity to vote, even after clearing all of the existing unnecessary hurdles.

This amendment would make the PRO Act even more antiworker than it already is.

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

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Chair, first, the PRO Act does not require employees to recognize unions without first having an election. Rather, the right of an employer to voluntarily recognize a union has been the law of this land since 1935, when the National Labor Relations Act was enacted.

Voluntary recognition happens with demonstrated majority support from members by petition or union authorization cards.

Again, voluntary recognition happens with demonstrated majority support from members by petition or union authorization cards.

The PRO Act simply strengthens employees' right to a free and fair election by establishing more effective remedies when an employer unlawfully interferes with an election.

Second, my amendment does not undermine the right to have an election. It codifies a period of time during which a union and an employer can focus on bargaining an agreement and allows workers to exercise their constitutional right to collectively bargain. It prevents wasteful delay tactics so both parties can get to the negotiating table.

If we are going to protect the practice of collective bargaining, we need to ensure there is a reasonable time period for the union to represent employees and bargain on their behalf without fighting over other challenges.

This time period only begins after the employees have demonstrated a majority want to have a union. It does not stop employees from seeking an election after a reasonable time of 1 year, provided it does not interfere with other existing NLRB policies.

The reality is union membership is declining because of the continued attacks on working-class Americans. Our workers are losing a seat at the table in their own workplaces. They need us to defend their rights and ensure they have a fair shot at negotiation.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to stand up for unions and support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, union membership is plummeting because American workers have realized that they don't need the unions. We are seeing such a prosperous economy. And as I said, union

membership declining is correlated with the fact that our economy is booming for the middle class.

The PRO Act, Mr. Chairman, is one of the most antiworker and anti-small business bills to be considered by Congress in decades. It is a liberal Democrat wish list designed to enrich and empower union bosses and trial lawyers at the expense of rank-and-file workers and small businesses.

The largest federation of unions in America spends more than three times as much money on politics as it does on its stated purpose of organizing and representing workers.

With this bill, the unions are trying to take a shortcut. They have decided it is better to just focus on getting Democrats to do their work for them.

Unions attempted to organize less than one-tenth of 1 percent of eligible workers in 2018, so it should come as no surprise that union membership in the United States is plummeting, along with the great economy that we have.

Yet, rather than correct their own wrongdoing and increase their ranks by serving workers better, unions are demanding their allies in Congress enact this sweeping, radical bill that includes over 50 harmful provisions, including those which eliminate workers' privacy, forces workers to pay a labor union against their will, subjects workers and small businesses to direct union harassment, and will kill thousands of small businesses and good-paying jobs.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this antiworker, pro-union boss amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. KELLER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 116-392.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 30, strike line 11 and all that follows through line 16.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 2474. This amendment would maintain current law, which protects the ability of employers to continue to do business and provide for their customers during a labor relations dispute.

One of the purposes of the National Labor Relations Act was to "eliminate

... substantial obstructions to the free flow of commerce." After the economic chaos of the 1930s, Congress passed the NLRA.

The NLRA struck a careful balance by protecting workers' ability to strike while outlawing intermittent strikes that create upheaval and uncertainty in the absence of a genuine commitment by the employees to abandon their work.

□ 1800

Similarly, the Supreme Court has upheld the right of employers to replace striking workers permanently in order to keep their business running.

H.R. 2474 discards more than 80 years of precedent by weaponizing the pain of economic conflict in order to empower union bosses. The bill aims to make it impossible for employers to continue to do business in the event of a labor dispute, a death sentence for thousands of small businesses.

In 1937, there were nearly 5,000 strikes in the United States, a nightmare for employers, customers, and the economy as a whole. H.R. 2474 seeks to resurrect this chaotic time in America's history. Imagine what a system that allows for intermittent strikes and bans on the replacement of striking workers would do to our economy, our global competitiveness, and the incentive to invest in American workers.

Allowing intermittent strikes and banning permanent replacements is great for union bosses, but a raw deal for workers, consumers, and small businesses.

Having worked in the manufacturing sector for over 25 years, I know it is critically important for the overall health of a business to be reliable and keep the doors open so employees can keep their jobs.

You cannot be pro-jobs and antibusiness. If a business cannot do its work, then its purpose no longer exists. Competition will inherently force businesses to close.

Allowing intermittent strikes and banning permanent replacements could force businesses to close their doors permanently. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment to protect small businesses and to prevent unnecessary disruptions of our economy.

Madam Chairwoman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chairwoman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting Chair (Ms. PINGREE). The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chairwoman, first I would like to enter into the RECORD letters of support for the PRO Act from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers and the United Auto Workers.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF TEAMSTERS,
February 4, 2020.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I am writing to state our strong support for H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act (PRO Act). I urge you to support this critical legislation and to oppose any weakening amendments and any motion to recommit when H.R. 2474 comes to the House floor this week.

Today, the economy is not working for working people. Wages have stagnated for workers across the economy, while income has skyrocketed for CEO's and the wealthiest one percent. This inequality is the result of a loss of bargaining power and the erosion of workers' ability to exercise their rights on the job.

Today, when workers make the decision to stand together and bargain with their employer for improved working conditions, the deck is stacked against them from day one. Under current law, unscrupulous employers, armed with limitless funds, routinely violate the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and block workers' ability to exercise their right to bargain for better wages and better working conditions. The Protecting the Right to Organize Act is an important step forward for workers' rights. It would restore and strengthen worker protections which have been eroded over the years.

The Protecting the Right to Organize Act addresses several major weaknesses in current law. H.R. 2474 enacts meaningful, enforceable penalties on employers who break the law and gives workers a private right of action if they've been terminated for union activity. The bill would make elections fairer by prohibiting employers from using coercive activities like captive audience meetings. H.R. 2474 establishes a process for mediation and arbitration to stop stalling tactics at the bargaining table and help parties achieve a first contract. Importantly, the bill also addresses rampant intentional misclassification and ensures that misclassified workers are not deprived of their right to form a union under the NLRA. These are among the many important provisions in the bill to help restore the middle class.

Research shows that workers want unions. However, there is a huge gap between the share of workers with union representation and the share of workers that would like to have a union and a voice on the job. The PRO Act would take a major step forward in closing that gap and ultimately growing a strong middle class.

I urge you to demonstrate to the American people that workers and their rights are a priority for this Congress. I hope I can tell our members that you stood with them and other workers in their efforts to achieve meaningful workers' rights and protections and better wages and working conditions. The Teamsters Union urges you to support H.R. 2474 and oppose all efforts to weaken this bill by amendment.

Sincerely,

JAMES P. HOFFA,
General President.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS,
Washington, DC, January 31, 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of 90,000 workers represented by the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), we urge you to vote for the H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019 (PRO Act), scheduled for a floor vote next week. As currently written,

the PRO Act would restore and protect workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain in their workplaces and we urge you to oppose any Motion to Recommit and any amendments that would weaken the language, intent, or purpose of the bill.

If enacted, the PRO Act would counter the all too common anti-union intimidation tactics that workers who are organizing a union are subjected to. For example, upwards of 800 highly trained professionals employed by Southern California Edison are currently engaged in an organizing effort with IFPTE Local 20 to address issues such as mandatory overtime and ever-shortening training for new hires. These designers, estimators, field planning technicians, and planners play an important role in ensuring safety and wild-fire mitigation to the more than 15 million people in Southern California. Unfortunately, Southern California Edison has decided to engage in some of the very anti-worker behavior that this bill seeks to correct. This include such activities as mandatory all-staff captive audience meetings, one on one meetings, and handing out anti-union literature filled with misinformation, all aimed at discouraging union activity.

The PRO Act would counter the all too common anti-union intimidation tactics that workers in union organizing campaigns and first contract negotiations are subjected to. This bill meaningfully restores workers' rights to determine for themselves if they want a union by providing a fair process for union recognition if the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) determines that the employer illegally interfered with the union representation election. Provisions in the bill also allow the union or the employer to request a mediation-arbitration process for first contract negotiations that take longer than 90 days. Language in this bill that prohibits captive audience meetings and reinstates the employer requirement to disclose any hiring of anti-union consultants will help workers make informed choices when they receive information from their employers. By clarifying and updating the National Labor Relations Act's definitions for employee, supervisor, and employer, the PRO Act closes loopholes that allow employers to misclassify workers and prevents employers from dodging joint employer liability. Furthermore, this bill gives the NLRB the authority to conduct economic analysis as it sets policies and regulations, increases penalties against employers who violate the National Labor Relations Act, requires employers to reinstate workers while the NLRB investigates the retaliatory firing, and gives unions the ability to collect fair-share fees.

For all the reasons above, IFPTE we request you vote for the PRO Act and opposed any weakening amendments that may be considered.

Sincerely,

PAUL SHEARON,
President.

MATTHEW BIGGS,
Secretary-Treasurer/Legislative Director.

INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED
AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS
OF AMERICA—UAW,

January 29, 2020.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the more than one million active and retired members of the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW, I urge you to vote Yes on the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act (H.R. 2474) and oppose any weakening amendments, including the motion to recommit.

The right to form unions paved the way for the creation of a strong middle class. Over

time, unions have vastly improved workplace rights, wages, benefits, and conditions for all workers. A worker with a union contract earns, on average, 13.2 percent more in wages than a peer with similar education, occupation, and experience in a nonunionized workplace in the same sector. Although unions are fundamental to rebuilding the middle class, the percentage of workers in unions has declined over the last several decades. Weak labor laws, anti-worker policies and court rulings have severely curtailed workers' rights to have a voice on the job. Aggressive employer anti-union campaigns and weak labor laws have taken a toll on workers as union membership has diminished from 33 percent in 1956 to 10 percent in 2019. The ramifications of anti-worker policies extend well beyond the workplace and impact our society at large. Our labor laws need to be strengthened significantly.

Over the past several decades, workers seeking to form their union at their workplace have faced aggressive opposition from unscrupulous corporations and other well financed anti-union special interest groups. According to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), in one out of every three campaigns, employers fire pro-union workers, and spend at least \$1 billion annually in opposition to organizing. EPI found that 90 percent of employers require captive-audience meetings to dissuade workers from joining a union.

Lower unionization rates harm our middle class, economy and democratic institutions. Collective bargaining raises wages for both union and non-union workers, lessens racial wage gaps, and increases wages for women.

The PRO Act directly addresses these and other problems by including provisions that could help ensure workers have a voice on the job and a fair opportunity to form a union if they so choose. Under the PRO Act, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) would be empowered to assess significant monetary penalties to deter or punish employers that unlawfully fire workers for exercising their rights to form a union or for speaking out to improve working conditions. The bill would also allow workers to enforce their labor rights in federal court and prohibit mandatory attendance in captive audience meetings. Should workers vote to form a union, the NLRB would be authorized to order immediate bargaining of a first contract, which would avoid common employer stall tactics and deliberate misclassification of workers. It would also ensure that unions can collect "fair-share fees" and eliminates so-called "right to work" laws in order for unions to have the necessary resources to effectively enforce collective bargaining agreements and other legally protected rights.

Furthermore, the PRO Act protects employees' right to strike by preventing employers from hiring permanent replacement workers. H.R. 2474 also permits unrepresented employees to engage in collective action or class action lawsuits to enforce basic workplace rights, rather than being forced to arbitrate such claims alone. It also reigns in offensive lockouts. In a lockout, a company expels its union-represented employees from the worksite, locks the gate, and refuses to permit them to return to work unless they accept the employer's proposal. Companies have all too often chosen to lock out workers rather than engage in good faith negotiations.

The PRO Act will strengthen the middle class and our national economy. We urge you to vote Yes on H.R. 2474.

Sincerely,

JOSH NASSAR,
UAW Legislative Director.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chairwoman, I would remind the gentleman that the strikes of 1937 were

precisely the result of the arrangement, the balance that was struck by the National Labor Relations Act, which was passed in 1935.

The National Labor Relations Act sets forth procedures so that workers and employers could both advocate for their rights in the economy. And so to ban intermittent strikes, as the gentleman would propose, puts at stake two core portions of our Constitution's First Amendment: the freedom to peaceably assemble and the freedom of speech.

This amendment would place speech- and content-based restrictions on workers only because they choose to gather and speak on behalf of a union or forming a union.

We freely allow civil rights protesters, animal welfare activists, anti-choice activists, and all others to gather and share their messages. Union members should be no different.

Understand, going on strike is an option of last resort. No worker wants to risk their job and their paycheck to walk a picket line in the cold, the rain, or anything in-between. I have stood with striking workers and seen their resolve and know the impact striking has on them and their families.

These workers strike because they must, because they have no other option but to say: "No more." We must respect this resolve by allowing workers the dignity to stand up for themselves and shout: "One day longer. One day stronger."

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Chairwoman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chairwoman, recently, members of the United Auto Workers went on strike at General Motors for 40 days. There was no leader who made them do this, and I have never seen a strike, in fact in my life, that was dictated by someone from on high. The workers voted, in that case way over 90 percent, to go on strike.

When I repeatedly visited picket lines at various workplaces throughout my district in Michigan, I was amazed that a lot of the veteran workers were out there striking; not for themselves. They were striking for workers forced to be temporary workers, and not having full-time status and regularized status for months and years at a time.

These veteran workers, some of whom had worked there 10, 20, 30 years said it just felt wrong to work side by side doing the same job with someone who was denied the pay and benefits due to workers at that workplace.

All of this talk about union bosses disgusts me, Madam Chairwoman. Unions are organizations that workers build themselves to advocate for their interests. They are nonprofits. They are not businesses. In an economy where the real bosses are making 300 and 400 times what the regular workers make, that is something that would be

an obscenity to the people in the manufacturing sector, to CEOs in the manufacturing sector, decades ago.

The CEO of General Motors, then the biggest company in the land, made 80 times or 50 times—I forget, something like that—what the workers made, which is nothing like what happens today. Those are the bosses that need to be brought under control.

The right to strike is basic to our labor relations and it must be preserved. We must pass the PRO Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. STEVENS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part B of House Report 116-392.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Chairwoman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Redesignate section 5 as section 6, and insert after section 4 the following:

SEC. 5. GAO REPORT ON SECTORAL BARGAINING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General, in consultation with the persons described in subsection (b), shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report, that—

(1) identifies and analyzes the laws, policies, and procedures in countries outside the United States governing collective bargaining at the level of an industry sector, including the laws, policies, and procedures involved in—

(A) the administrative system facilitating such bargaining;

(B) how collective bargaining agreements are rendered binding on all firms in an industry sector;

(C) defining an industry sector;

(D) the relationship between collective bargaining at the level of an individual employer or group of employers and at the level of an industry sector;

(E) the designation of representatives for collective bargaining at the level of an industry sector;

(F) the scope of collective bargaining and impasses at the level of an industry sector; and

(G) the provision or administration of benefits by labor organizations (such as unemployment insurance), or union security at the firm level or the level of an industry sector, to cover the costs of collective bargaining at the level of an industry sector;

(2) conducts a comparative analysis of the laws, policies, and procedures specified in paragraph (1) that have been enacted in countries outside the United States;

(3) to the extent practicable, identifies the effects of such laws, policies, and procedures on—

(A) the wages and compensation of employees;

(B) the number of employees, disaggregated by full-time and part-time employees;

(C) prices, sales, and revenues;

(D) employee turnover and retention;

(E) hiring and training costs;

(F) productivity and absenteeism; and

(G) the development of emerging industries, including those that engage their workforces through technology; and

(4) describes the methodology used to generate the information in the report.

(b) EXPERT CONSULTATION.—The persons described in this subsection are—

(1) workers and the labor organizations representing such workers;

(2) representatives of businesses;

(3) the National Labor Relations Board;

(4) the International Labor Organization; and

(5) the International Labor Affairs Bureau of the Department of Labor.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the report is submitted under subsection (a), the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate shall—

(1) assess the findings of such report; and

(2) make recommendations with respect to actions of Congress to address the findings of such report.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Chairwoman, today, as we consider the PRO Act, we think of how far the labor movement has come and how far we have yet to go. We think of all the important steps we need to take as a government and as a nation to rebuild our working class as productivity is dropping and inequality is rising, to ensure fundamental, basic protections are in place for a better work environment and a stronger economy for all, to secure workers' rights to collectively bargain.

The PRO Act represents the rights of the nearly 700,000 brothers and sisters in unions across my home State of Michigan where the steady humming of hard work and determination abounds. The PRO Act is in our bones.

Public approval of labor unions is near a 50-year high, but union membership is at its lowest level since just after the National Labor Relations Act was enacted in 1935. It is not a coincidence that as union membership has declined, income inequality has soared.

At the same time, new forms of work continue to emerge in our innovation economy, work that allows individuals the complete freedom to work whenever and for whomever they choose.

Many developed countries have sought to address the changing nature of work through sectoral bargaining, where representatives of workers and employers in a given industry bargain over wages and standards throughout that industry. By covering more workers under a collective bargaining agreement, workers and employers can bargain for industry-wide floors in wages and benefits.

This amendment asks the Government Accountability Office to look to the future by evaluating how laws and

policies on sectoral bargaining have been playing out in other countries, strengthening workers' ability to effectively bargain in the face of a rapidly changing economy.

Specifically, my amendment asks the GAO to assess the various forms of sectoral bargaining, including:

One, multiemployer bargaining, which permits unions to collectively bargain contracts for workers across a region or an industry;

Two, pattern bargaining, which involves union organizing and collective bargaining with all the companies in an industry. The United Auto Workers has used this model to bargain for common terms with the big three in Michigan; and

Three, wage standard boards where government, industry, and labor would be responsible for setting wages, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment across specific industries.

Madam Chairwoman, the Education and Labor Committee has held three hearings on the future of work where we have begun exploring alternative models to empower workers in the face of this rapidly changing economy.

While sectoral bargaining is no substitute for the essential reforms in the PRO Act, a number of emerging industries, think tanks, and other worker advocates have begun to explore this idea to complement the PRO Act.

We ask that the GAO also assess the economic impacts of sectoral bargaining, including the impact on wages, prices, productivity, and the development of emerging industries, including those who engage their workforces through technology.

As a co-chair of the Future of Work Task Force on the New Democrat Coalition, we, as Democrats, realize that there is an urgency to start to fix the problem that some of this legislation addresses. But this must not be the end of the conversation of what we need to do to support workers and allow our economy to thrive in the 21st century labor movement.

Another amendment I had introduced was not made in order, but it would have asked the GAO to explore the deployment of portable benefit systems and the feasibility of a new employee classification for this gig economy and their employees.

We will continue exploring these alternative work models that ensure a strong set of benefits and protections for workers, while allowing them to retain the independence and flexibility they want.

With a comprehensive assessment by the GAO on sectoral bargaining in other countries, Congress will be better informed on the next steps after the PRO Act is enacted into law.

I urge a "yes" vote on my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chairwoman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting Chair. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chairwoman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment will open Pandora's box. Sectoral bargaining which would apply a single one-size-fits-all contract to every employee in every business across a particular industry in the United States would be an unmitigated disaster for American small businesses. It would rob small business owners and workers alike of the freedom to negotiate their own contracts.

Every business is different. One-size-fits-all union contracts applied across an entire industry throughout the United States would saddle small businesses with labor and employment costs that do not work for their particular business and that they may not be able to afford.

Similarly, employees would be forced to accept wages, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment that they had no say in determining, and that may not work for their individual situations.

□ 1815

Collective bargaining agreements already force workers into one-size-fits-all contracts, but currently, in the United States, they are at least confined within the walls of one business at a time.

Sectoral bargaining is a flawed and economically stifling policy used in other countries, and one we should not be importing into the United States. It would likely expand union contracts to hundreds of thousands of additional employees, to the detriment of every worker hoping for more individualized wages and benefits.

The absence of sectoral bargaining has allowed America's spirit of freedom and innovation to drive unrivaled economic growth and prosperity. Congress should not entertain importing the socialist method of collective bargaining from other countries. Look at our economy, especially compared to socialist European economies. It is booming; they are stagnant.

The United States Congress does not need to import the worst economic ideas from other countries with weaker economies, but socialist Democrats insist on doing so. Sectoral bargaining is one such proposal that we should not entertain.

Madam Chairman, I have seen some interesting amendments in my time in the Congress, in this Chamber, but I have to say, this is the most bizarre amendment that I believe I have ever seen. I urge my colleagues to defeat the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. MEADOWS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part B of House Report 116-392.

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike page 30, line 17, and all that follows through page 31, line 2.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Chairman, my amendment strikes the language in the PRO Act that would, in effect, repeal right-to-work laws nationwide.

Currently, 27 States have adopted right-to-work laws that protect workers in their States from forced unionization. Eight of these States further protect their workers by enshrining right to work in their State constitutions.

At their root, right-to-work laws let workers choose whether or not to join a union. Right-to-work laws do not ban union membership. Instead, they let workers, not their employer and not the government, make the choice for them.

My colleagues opposite want to make the government the answer to everything. Yet, here we are today, and we should be protecting American values, American freedoms, that freedom of speech and that freedom to associate as a worker chooses.

The Supreme Court already recognized these rights in the union context when it ruled that government workers cannot be forced to pay union dues. Taking away this freedom in the private sector would reverse decades of protections that the States have given their workers.

I might add that some of the best growing economies are States where we have this ability, and my colleagues opposite want to, indeed, come in and reach into States and tell them how to operate when we have growing economies?

If California wants to make sure that everybody has to be in a union, let them move to California.

But do you know what? The verdict is already in. They are leaving California for States like Texas and other places where workers truly have the ability to choose for themselves.

I believe that we ought to adopt this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chairwoman, this amendment is a naked attempt to undermine unions by making it harder to collect reasonable fees for the services that they are required by law to perform.

Unions have a legal obligation to represent and advocate for all members of

a bargaining unit, even if those people choose to remain nonunion. As a result, the law has created a perverse incentive for workers to receive the benefits of unions' labor without paying a reasonable fee for these services—in fact, without paying anything at all.

For years, so-called right-to-work laws have been wildly misnamed. They don't actually provide any right to a job. Instead, they allow States to interfere with the freedom of contract, solely for the purposes of pitting workers against one another and threatening a union's ability to exist at all.

Let me be clear, the PRO Act does not allow the employer and union to agree that employees must be a member of the union as a condition of employment. Despite the rhetoric, that has not been possible since the late 1940s when the Supreme Court decided that no worker can be required to be a member of a union. It is simply false. Nor does it allow fair share dues to go toward political activity or advocacy.

It covers only the cost of representation and contract administration, what the union is required by law to provide for everybody in the bargaining unit.

The PRO Act simply restores fairness to the system.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Chair, it is interesting to hear this debate because the very State that the gentleman is from is a right-to-work State. I find it just amazing. He comes down here and suggests that somehow Washington, D.C., knows better than his own home State.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman.

The gentleman over there used the word "perverse." There is something perverse here, all right. I will say that I support the amendment by Mr. MEADOWS.

Among the numerous perverse power grabs in this bill offered today, H.R. 2474 seeks to eliminate right-to-work protections nationwide, superseding laws passed in those 27 States my good friend talked about, including my home State of Texas, which as he alluded to, by the way, its economy is so successful and our economy so big that if we were a country, we would be the 10th largest country in the world. That is how good our economy is.

Right-to-work laws prohibit the termination of employees for refusal to join or pay dues or fees to an organization they may or may not even support.

Let's protect families, not organizations. Let's protect families' incomes, not unions'.

My friend Mr. MEADOWS' amendment strikes the provision of this bill so that States may continue to protect workers from forced unionization and ensure Americans keep their hard-earned money.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chairwoman, the real motives are revealed in the rhetoric. This is an attack on unions themselves.

The way that our labor relations have been organized since the 1930s when the Wagner Act was passed is that private-sector labor relations are governed by Federal law. Everything about our National Labor Relations Act and the way workers can form unions in the private sector and the rules for how elections happen, all these things are Federal.

This carve-out for States to be able to try to starve workers' organizations by allowing this free-riding to go on is something that happened over President Truman's veto, and, yes, we have been against it for the last 70 years. The proof is in the pudding. The right-to-freeload States have lower incomes; they have lower percentages of workers who have benefits; and they have shorter life expectancy.

Over and over, the statistics show that workers and families are better off. The old saw about letting people keep their hard-earned money, unions are something that workers form voluntarily to advance their interests. Union members make more money than nonunion members. They make a great investment by coming together and bargaining together to form a union.

Our labor relations are set up for workers to make a democratic choice as a group in a workplace about whether or not to form a union. If workers come together and make that choice, it is only fair that everybody pays their fair share to administer the contract that benefits all of them.

Madam Chairwoman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Chair, I just find it amazing that somehow we are here debating this issue, and he is suggesting that the numbers prove his point, and they do exactly the opposite.

The fact of the matter is that the reason why unions are failing is because the workers are going other places because they get a better benefit.

It is what it is because of what we are seeing on the ground not only in North Carolina and Texas but in 27 other States. It is more than half of the country. Yet the gentleman from Michigan over here somehow says: Well, it is the freeloaders.

I can tell you, Madam Chair, based on his assumption, there are a few people who pay dues into the Freedom Caucus. Some of the things that we have supported he has actually benefited from. So should he pay dues to the Freedom Caucus, based on his assumption?

I think that he would have a problem with that, just like everyone over here has a problem with forcing people to pay union dues when they don't want to join the union, and this is the protection for that.

I suggest that we support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chairwoman, I challenge the gentleman to point out a Chamber of Commerce in this country that allows people to receive the benefits of the chamber without paying dues. They have members and nonmembers. Health clubs, any kind of organization in this country, people pay their fair share for the benefits that it creates.

The purpose of right-to-freeload laws has been nakedly obvious from the beginning in the 1940s when they were pushed by far rightwing foundations like the Olin Foundation and the Scaife Foundation, whose sole purpose was to destroy collective bargaining in this country.

The other side is trying to destroy the solidarity of American workers, to benefit the bosses and the employers that want to have a union-free environment.

The facts are so obvious. When workers come together and form unions, they make more money; they make better wages; they are five times more likely to have a pension; and they are much more likely to have employer-provided health insurance. This is the truth.

Employers and their enablers simply want to destroy collective bargaining in this country, and I don't care if it is State by State or any other way.

Right is right, and wrong is wrong. These laws have been wrong since they came into existence, and they are still wrong today.

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina has 45 seconds remaining.

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Chair, at least we have found something that the gentleman from Michigan and I can agree on. What is wrong is wrong, and that is wrong.

When you look at what the gentleman is trying to propose with his legislation, and the fact that he is trying to put the will of Washington, D.C., on States all across this great country, that is wrong.

Why do we not allow the status quo to continue? Why? Because it is good for workers. It is good for my State. It is good for South Carolina. It is good for Texas. It is good for all kinds of States. I would even say it is good for his State because he is a right-to-work State.

But do you know what? We have talking points that are prepared by people who will benefit from this legislation and nothing more. This does not help the worker.

Madam Chair, I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina will be postponed.

□ 1830

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in part B of House Report 116-392.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

On page 31, line 18, strike "Section 203(c)" and insert "(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203(c)". On page 32, after line 7, insert the following:

(b) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.—The Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (29 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) is further amended—

(1) by redesignating section 611 (29 U.S.C. 531) as section 612; and

(2) by inserting after section 610 (29 U.S.C. 530), the following new section:

"WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

"SEC. 611.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—No employer or labor organization shall terminate or in any other way discriminate against, or cause to be terminated or discriminated against, any applicant, covered employee, or former covered employee, of the employer or the labor organization by reason of the fact that such applicant, covered employee, or former covered employee does, or the employer or labor organization perceives the employee to do, any of the following:

"(1) Provide, cause to be provided, or is about to provide or cause to be provided, information to the labor organization, the Department of Labor, or any other State, local, or Federal Government authority or law enforcement agency relating to any violation of, or any act or omission that such employee reasonably believes to be a violation of, any provision of this Act.

"(2) Testify or plan to testify or otherwise participate in any proceeding resulting from the administration or enforcement of any provision of this Act.

"(3) File, institute, or cause to be filed or instituted, any proceeding under this Act.

"(4) Assist in any activity described in paragraphs (1) through (3).

"(5) Object to, or refuse to participate in, any activity, policy, practice, or assigned task that such covered employee reasonably believes to be in violation of any provision of this Act.

"(b) DEFINITION OF COVERED EMPLOYEE.—For the purposes of this section, the term 'covered employee' means any employee or agent of an employer or labor organization, including any person with management responsibilities on behalf of the employer or labor organization.

"(c) PROCEDURES AND TIMETABLES.—

"(1) COMPLAINT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An applicant, covered employee, or former covered employee who

believes that he or she has been terminated or in any other way discriminated against by any person in violation of subsection (a) may file (or have any person file on his or her behalf) a complaint with the Secretary of Labor alleging such violation. Such a complaint must be filed not later than either—

"(i) 180 days after the date on which such alleged violation occurs; or

"(ii) 180 days after the date upon which the employee knows or should reasonably have known that such alleged violation in subsection (a) occurred.

"(B) ACTIONS OF SECRETARY OF LABOR.—Upon receipt of such a complaint, the Secretary of Labor shall notify, in writing, the person named in the complaint who is alleged to have committed the violation, of—

"(i) the filing of the complaint;

"(ii) the allegations contained in the complaint;

"(iii) the substance of evidence supporting the complaint; and

"(iv) opportunities that will be afforded to such person under paragraph (2).

"(2) INVESTIGATION BY SECRETARY OF LABOR.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of receipt of a complaint filed under paragraph (1), and after affording the complainant and the person named in the complaint who is alleged to have committed the violation that is the basis for the complaint an opportunity to submit to the Secretary of Labor a written response to the complaint and an opportunity to meet with a representative of the Secretary of Labor to present statements from witnesses, the Secretary of Labor shall—

"(i) initiate an investigation and determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe that the complaint has merit; and

"(ii) notify the complainant and the person alleged to have committed the violation of subsection (a), in writing, of such determination.

"(B) GROUNDS FOR DETERMINATION OF COMPLAINTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall dismiss a complaint filed under this subsection, and shall not conduct an investigation otherwise required under paragraph (2), unless the complainant makes a prima facie showing that any behavior described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection (a) was a contributing factor in the unfavorable personnel action alleged in the complaint.

"(3) BURDENS OF PROOF.—

"(A) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION.—In making a determination or adjudicating a complaint pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary, an administrative law judge or a court may determine that a violation of subsection (a) has occurred only if the complainant demonstrates that any conduct described in subsection (a) with respect to the complainant was a contributing factor in the adverse action alleged in the complaint.

"(B) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a decision or order that is favorable to the complainant shall not be issued in any administrative or judicial action pursuant to this subsection if the respondent demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent would have taken the same adverse action in the absence of such conduct.

"(C) NOTICE OF RELIEF AVAILABLE.—If the Secretary of Labor concludes that there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation of subsection (a) has occurred, the Secretary of Labor shall, together with the notice under subparagraph (A)(ii), issue a preliminary order providing the relief prescribed by paragraph (4)(B).

"(D) REQUEST FOR HEARING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of receipt of notification of a determination of the Secretary of Labor under this paragraph, either the

person alleged to have committed the violation or the complainant may file objections to the findings or preliminary order, or both, and request a hearing on the record. The filing of such objections shall not operate to stay any reinstatement remedy contained in the preliminary order. Any such hearing shall be conducted expeditiously, and if a hearing is not requested in such 30-day period, the preliminary order shall be deemed a final order that is not subject to judicial review.

"(E) PROCEDURES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—A hearing requested under this paragraph shall be conducted expeditiously and in accordance with rules established by the Secretary for hearings conducted by administrative law judges.

"(ii) SUBPOENAS; PRODUCTION OF EVIDENCE.—In conducting any such hearing, the administrative law judge may issue subpoenas. The respondent or complainant may request the issuance of subpoenas that require the deposition of, or the attendance and testimony of, witnesses and the production of any evidence (including any books, papers, documents, or recordings) relating to the matter under consideration.

"(4) ISSUANCE OF FINAL ORDERS; REVIEW PROCEDURES.—

"(A) TIMING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of conclusion of any hearing under paragraph (2), the Secretary of Labor shall issue a final order providing the relief prescribed by this paragraph or denying the complaint. At any time before issuance of a final order, a proceeding under this subsection may be terminated on the basis of a settlement agreement entered into by the Secretary of Labor, the complainant, and the person alleged to have committed the violation.

"(B) AVAILABLE RELIEF.—

"(i) ORDER OF SECRETARY OF LABOR.—If, in response to a complaint filed under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Labor determines that a violation of subsection (a) has occurred, the Secretary of Labor shall order the person who committed such violation—

"(I) to take affirmative action to abate the violation;

"(II) to reinstate the complainant to his or her former position, together with compensation (including back pay with interest) and restore the terms, conditions, and privileges associated with his or her employment;

"(III) to provide compensatory damages to the complainant; and

"(IV) expungement of all warnings, reprimands, or derogatory references that have been placed in paper or electronic records or databases of any type relating to the actions by the complainant that gave rise to the unfavorable personnel action, and, at the complainant's direction, transmission of a copy of the decision on the complaint to any person whom the complainant reasonably believes may have received such unfavorable information.

"(ii) COSTS AND EXPENSES.—If an order is issued under clause (i), the Secretary of Labor, at the request of the complainant, shall assess against the person against whom the order is issued, a sum equal to the aggregate amount of all costs and expenses (including attorney fees and expert witness fees) reasonably incurred, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, by the complainant for, or in connection with, the bringing of the complaint upon which the order was issued.

"(C) FRIVOLOUS CLAIMS.—If the Secretary of Labor finds that a complaint under paragraph (1) is frivolous or has been brought in bad faith, the Secretary of Labor may award to the prevailing employer or labor organization a reasonable attorney fee, not exceeding \$1,000, to be paid by the complainant.

“(D) DE NOVO REVIEW.—

“(i) FAILURE OF THE SECRETARY TO ACT.—If the Secretary of Labor has not issued a final order within 270 days after the date of filing of a complaint under this subsection, or within 90 days after the date of receipt of a written determination, the complainant may bring an action at law or equity for de novo review in the appropriate district court of the United States having jurisdiction, which shall have jurisdiction over such an action without regard to the amount in controversy, and which action shall, at the request of either party to such action, be tried by the court with a jury.

“(ii) PROCEDURES.—A proceeding under clause (i) shall be governed by the same legal burdens of proof specified in paragraph (3). The court shall have jurisdiction to grant all relief necessary to make the employee whole, including injunctive relief and compensatory damages, including—

“(I) reinstatement with the same seniority status that the employee would have had, but for the discharge or discrimination;

“(II) the amount of back pay, with interest;

“(III) compensation for any special damages sustained as a result of the discharge or discrimination, including litigation costs, expert witness fees, and reasonable attorney fees; and

“(IV) expungement of all warnings, reprimands, or derogatory references that have been placed in paper or electronic records or databases of any type relating to the actions by the complainant that gave rise to the unfavorable personnel action, and, at the complainant's direction, transmission of a copy of the decision on the complaint to any person whom the complainant reasonably believes may have received such unfavorable information.

“(E) OTHER APPEALS.—Unless the complainant brings an action under subparagraph (D), any person adversely affected or aggrieved by a final order issued under subparagraph (A) may file a petition for review of the order in the United States Court of Appeals for the circuit in which the violation with respect to which the order was issued, allegedly occurred or the circuit in which the complainant resided on the date of such violation, not later than 60 days after the date of the issuance of the final order of the Secretary of Labor under subparagraph (A). Review shall conform to chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code. The commencement of proceedings under this subparagraph shall not, unless ordered by the court, operate as a stay of the order. An order of the Secretary of Labor with respect to which review could have been obtained under this subparagraph shall not be subject to judicial review in any criminal or other civil proceeding.

“(5) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ORDER.—

“(A) ACTIONS BY THE SECRETARY.—If any person has failed to comply with a final order issued under paragraph (4), the Secretary of Labor may file a civil action in the United States district court for the district in which the violation was found to have occurred, or in the United States district court for the District of Columbia, to enforce such order. In actions brought under this paragraph, the district courts shall have jurisdiction to grant all appropriate relief including injunctive relief, compensatory and punitive damages.

“(B) CIVIL ACTIONS TO COMPEL COMPLIANCE.—A person on whose behalf an order was issued under paragraph (4) may commence a civil action against the person to whom such order was issued to require compliance with such order. The appropriate United States district court shall have jurisdiction, without regard to the amount in

controversy or the citizenship of the parties, to enforce such order.

“(C) AWARD OF COSTS AUTHORIZED.—The court, in issuing any final order under this paragraph, may award costs of litigation (including reasonable attorney and expert witness fees) to any party, whenever the court determines such award is appropriate.

“(D) MANDAMUS PROCEEDINGS.—Any non-discretionary duty imposed by this section shall be enforceable in a mandamus proceeding brought under section 1361 of title 28, United States Code.

“(d) UNENFORCEABILITY OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the rights and remedies provided for in this section may not be waived by any agreement, policy, form, or condition of employment, including by any predispute arbitration agreement.

“(e) SAVINGS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to diminish the rights, privileges, or remedies of any employee who exercises rights under any Federal or State law or common law, or under any collective bargaining agreement.”

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I rise with enthusiasm and support for H.R. 2474, the PRO Act.

I would indicate that in America we would ask the question, When will we have a 40-hour week or the weekend? All brought about by union organizing and union leadership.

We need the PRO Act to ensure that Americans across the land have the ability legally to organize and to be able to operate under the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act.

Let me also say that it is imperative that we begin to recognize that the American people like unions. Over 64 percent of Americans and millennials appreciate the idea of having representation for better quality of life and work.

So I rise to add to this very important legislation an amendment that extends whistleblower protections to employees of both employers and unions under the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act. This is a fair and balanced amendment. We remember Supreme Court decisions like the Janus Act, and many others, who undermine the ability for unions to be able to organize or to engage. This protects the people who are trying to organize.

But the whistleblower protections allow employees of employers and employees of unions to be protected if they see something wrong and they want to make sure that it is right.

Let me give you an example:

Today, I met Kimberly Lawson, who is part of the Fight for \$15. She also came to share the problems she has had with sexual harassment on the job. It happens to be in one of the fast-food operations. She said, on the record, that if we could pass the PRO Act, she wouldn't be alone trying to raise our hourly wage or face sexual harassment without a union to help her.

This is important legislation. The whistleblower protection is important because Ms. Lawson would have the ability to be able to report what is happening to her without losing her job as a single mother with a young child.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I plan to vote in favor of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, this amendment is little more than a recognition from the Democrats that the PRO Act is truly a union boss wish list that strips rights away from workers, increases the coercive power of union bosses, and will make union corruption like we are seeing at the United Auto Workers Union even likelier.

It is ironic that Democrats have chosen to offer whistleblower protection for illegal union activities as an amendment to the PRO Act after years of opposing more transparency and accountability for union leaders when the Republicans were in the majority.

Last Congress, Congressman FRANCIS ROONEY offered not one, but two bills with whistleblower protections for union corruption. Both bills had zero Democrat cosponsors. This attempt to provide Democrat Members with a talking point is too little too late and does nothing to address the PRO Act's overwhelming problems.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 3 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 4 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, let me, first of all, thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), ranking member, for her support.

Let me also thank the chairman of this committee for his leadership and support, and the staff for working with my staff so very ably.

But let me add that, as I have seen, committee Democrats on this particular committee strongly agree that allegations of corruption should be fully investigated. They have not ignored it, and those who are charged should be prosecuted and held accountable. They have not ignored it. That is why we have robust criminal and civil penalties for unions and companies.

This is about whistleblower protection, and I would say that no union is against this. That is why this amendment particularly reinforces that the employees of employers and employees of unions have the right to bring to the attention anything that undermines

their workplace or their quality of work.

I believe this is an amendment that all of us can support and that it focuses on whistleblowers, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, Democrats bemoan that plummeting union membership does not reflect workers' actual opinion of unions. But NLRB decisions and so-called conservative attacks are not the reason workers have voluntarily chosen to leave unions behind.

Democrats and their friends in Big Labor refuse to acknowledge that millions of workers are simply disenchanted with union representation and that union leaders have lost the trust of their members.

We need not look any further than the ongoing corruption scandal at United Auto Workers in which several high-ranking union officials have already been convicted of a litany of crimes, including embezzlement, misuse of workers' union dues on lavish personal expenses, money laundering, tax fraud, and accepting bribes in violation of Federal labor law.

Two former UAW vice presidents have been charged. The last two UAW presidents have been formally implicated in a racketeering scheme of more than \$1.5 million, and the current UAW president is under investigation for receiving bribes and kickbacks.

The UAW is now at risk of being placed under Federal oversight under the Racketeering Influence and Corruption Organization Act, or RICO. That is why I have sent not one, not two, but three letters requesting a public hearing by the Committee on Education and Labor to examine this widening corruption scandal.

It should come as no surprise that the UAW, long one of the largest unions in the country and a major benefactor of the Democrat party, lost 35,000 members in 2018, and the overall union membership fell again in 2019 to just 6.2 percent.

Rather than increase transparency and accountability to serve workers better, over the past decade unions successfully lobbied the Obama administration to roll back transparency requirements and are now calling on their political allies in Congress to pass the radical, coercive H.R. 2474 as a bailout.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, may I inquire how much time is remaining for both sides?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, let me be very clear. It is an important point to make that Democrats—the committee Democrats, in particular—recognize that a few bad actors are not

going to deter or dissuade us from taking this historic step towards strengthening workers' rights to organize and restoring balance to the economy.

As I said earlier, the growing support for unions is phenomenal. Millions of Americans look for a better quality of life because unions are negotiating on their behalf. If this particular employee at the fast-food organization had a union, she would be able to organize and ensure that she got \$15 an hour, or to be able to make sure she had better healthcare for her young 5-year-old.

Madam Chair, this is legislation that is long in coming. And my amendment adds to the importance of it by protecting whistleblowers who work for employers and work for unions. I also want to say that the Government Accountability Project that protects whistleblowers is supporting this legislation. I would ask that my colleagues support it because we are standing up to corruption, but we are also standing up for workers—workers who need opportunities and the ability to get a better quality of life.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Democrats believe one-size-fits-all union contracts are good for workers in the modern economy and that forcing these workers to pay hundreds of dollars per year to left-wing political organizations is the only way to guarantee wage growth, combat inequality, and strengthen the middle class. But the last 3 years and beyond have made clear that nothing could be further from the truth.

Wages are not stagnant, and to claim they are is a blatant lie. Wages have grown by 3 percent each of the last 2 years. Moreover, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta reported the pay for the bottom 25 percent of workers rose 4.5 percent from a year earlier, compared to 2.9 percent for the top 25 percent, meaning wages are rising faster for rank-and-file workers than for their bosses.

Over the first 3 years of the Trump presidency, wages for the bottom 10 percent of earners over age 25 rose an average of 5.9 percent per year compared to 2.4 percent during President Obama's second term. Wages for the middle two quartiles have also grown faster under President Trump than during President Obama's second term.

Overall, the typical American household earns over \$1,000 more per month today, adjusted for inflation, than it did in 1975. The union membership rate today is less than half of what it was in 1975.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, do I have the right to close as the proponent of the amendment?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has the right to close.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I believe that I am in opposition, do I not have the right to close?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina indicated her support for the amendment.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 30 seconds remaining.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, the PRO Act is one of the most antiworker and anti-small business bills to be considered by Congress in decades, and this amendment does not change that.

The PRO Act is a liberal Democrat wish list designed to enrich and empower union bosses and trial lawyers at the expense of rank-and-file workers and small businesses.

While I will support the amendment by the gentlewoman from Texas, we will still oppose the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for us being able to come together around a very vital amendment that gives protection to employees of employers and employees of unions to be able to indicate when matters are wrong, incorrect, or violate the law, or impact negatively on employees of any organization.

But what I would say is that it is important that this particular legislation go forward because of the historic nature of ensuring the ability to organize for willing individuals.

And let me cite Kimberly Lawson again. She is fighting for \$15. A union would help her provide for her family and organize for those dollars. Maybe we don't know about those particular workers who are living below the poverty line or living with wages that are below an hourly wage or decent wage. Unions would help that.

We cannot talk about individuals already in the higher, upper brow of work in this Nation. Their salaries may be going up. Hers is not.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to support and vote for the Jackson Lee amendment and support the PRO Act.

Madam Chair, I would like to offer an amendment today that would provide whistleblower protections to employees who report violations of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA). This amendment covers BOTH employees of employers as well as employees of labor unions.

The LMRDA is an important labor law passed in 1959 that protects union members' through a "bill of rights" for members of labor organizations, requires extensive reporting and

public disclosure of labor union finances, guards against the failure to observe high standards of responsibility and ethical conduct by providing civil and criminal remedies against employers and unions who engage in misconduct, and mandates transparency regarding arrangements between employers and anti-labor consultants.

I am pleased that the PRO Act includes reforms to the LMRDA that further clarify the original intent of the law by ensuring that employers not only disclose arrangements they enter into with antiunion consultants to directly persuade employees on how to exercise their rights under the NLRA, but also to disclose arrangements where the consultants are hired to engage in indirect persuasion activities.

Examples of indirect persuasion include planning employee meetings, drafting speeches or presentations to employees, training employer representatives, identifying employees for disciplinary action or targeting, or drafting employer personnel policies.

The DOL has narrowly construed the law for too long and excludes up to 75% of the arrangements with union busting consultants. To remedy this, the PRO Act reinstates requirements of the Persuader Rule adopted by the Obama Administration in 2016 but was unfortunately repealed by the Trump Administration. That repeal, coupled with the Trump Administration's refusal to defend the rule in court, ensures workers remain in the dark about the activities of consultants hired to bust union organizing drives.

Another way to strengthen the LMRDA is to provide whistleblower protections; which is exactly what this amendment does. All workers deserve whistleblower protections for reporting potential violations of law, no matter their place of employment or the type of employer. This amendment covers reporting alleged violations by an employee, regardless of whether their employer is a business or a labor organization.

This amendment allows employees to file complaints with the Department of Labor and provides for a prompt investigation of allegations of unlawful retaliation. It ensures employees have a right to a hearing, and effective remedies including reinstatement, back pay and attorney fees. And if the DOL fails to act in a timely manner, employees have the right to bring suit in federal court to secure a remedy. I urge all members to support this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. ROONEY OF FLORIDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in part B of House Report 116-392.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 16, beginning line 1, strike subparagraph (A) and insert the following:

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding “or” at the end; and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) by an employee or a group of employees or any individual or labor organization acting in their behalf, or an employer, alleging that the labor organization that has been certified or is currently recognized by the employer as the bargaining representative is no longer a representative as defined in subsection (a), if—

“(i) fewer than 50 percent of the members of the bargaining unit in question had an opportunity to vote in the certification election that resulted in certifying the labor organization then recognized as the bargaining representative for such unit; or

“(ii) no certification election was conducted regarding such unit;”;

Page 17, after line 8, insert the following:

(B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following: “When a petition is filed under paragraph (1)(C), a question of representation affecting commerce exists if the petitioner establishes the existence of the circumstances described in paragraph (1)(C)(i) or paragraph (1)(C)(ii).”;

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

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

Madam Chair, I am proud to offer this pro-worker amendment. Current employees are locked into old, obsolete, and outdated union contracts that were approved long before they ever came to work there.

Employees deserve a voice that is reflective of today's rapidly modernizing workforce and workplace. Baby boomers are retiring, and countless existing employees are locked into collective bargaining agreements made decades ago.

In 2016 alone, NLRB data showed that only 6 percent of union members voted to be represented by their union in those agreements that they were bound to. This simple amendment would allow employees to petition for a union certification election whenever fewer than 50 percent of the current union members were members during the last election. It also empowers employees who might deem unions unnecessary. It will allow them the right to decertify and to represent themselves.

This proposal gives new and current employees a seat at the table. They get their own voice and it provides for more accountability. With the recent news of embezzlement and corruption by United Auto Worker Union bosses, we must go further to empower all employees who are forced to pay dues to

their unions that they haven't voted on or wanted.

All employees deserve honest representation and the ability to decertify a collective bargaining agreement if they no longer need union representation. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the current and future workforce by supporting this amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. I rise in opposition to this amendment, Madam Chairwoman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chairwoman, there are no workers in America who are “locked into collective bargaining agreements negotiated decades ago”—zero.

What happens in our country is that workers vote to form a union in a workplace, and then they periodically negotiate contracts.

Usually, contracts last 2 or 3 years, 4 or 5 years. It is usually employers who want them to last longer. And the two parties, in freedom of contract, agree on those terms.

What the gentleman's amendment seeks to do is not for workers to have any rights whatsoever. Workers already have the right to decertify a union through an election. What this amendment seeks to do is to give a right to employers to destroy unions by not recognizing a union anymore under very strange circumstances.

The point of the National Labor Relations Act is to protect employees' freedom to choose a union or refrain from forming a union. This amendment, however, undermines that right by allowing an employer to step in and demand a new election without any objective showing that the union no longer enjoys majority support, no objective showing whatsoever.

As I said, employees already have the right to petition for another election if that is what they want. That is an existing law. It is in the PRO Act.

This amendment is a backdoor to providing an employer the ability to conduct another antiunion campaign designed to sow fear and discord amongst its employees. Under this amendment, a union with majority support could be challenged by an employer simply by virtue of the passage of time and the natural turnover that exists in all workplaces.

My colleagues across the aisle often speak about the need to protect employees' rights to choose a union, and yet here they are seeking to undermine that very right. This amendment is about promoting decertification, not protecting the rights of workers.

Madam Chairwoman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Chairwoman, I would like to reemphasize a couple of facts here that are at

variance from what the gentleman from over there said.

Six percent of union members have voted to be represented by their union under current collective bargaining agreements. This amendment would say, if 50 percent or more of the people in a collective bargaining agreement never voted on it, they get the right to vote on it.

We all know people in business who have dealt with unions—and I have decertified unions all over Oklahoma and Texas and other States. These contracts are not as easy to decertify, given the existing impediments as might be seen. This law would enable those workers to have the freedom to do it themselves and not be subjugated to agreements that they never voted on in the first place.

When I decertified the unions in Oklahoma and Texas back in the eighties, thousands of our building trades employees flocked to vote yes to get rid of the unions because they weren't adding value and they wanted to keep those fees for themselves. Since that time, we know how the construction industry has developed in Oklahoma and Texas.

So I speak from real, personal experience, having been a member of the carpenters union, that it is good to give employees the right to decertify their union and to make it easier for them to do that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chairwoman, I reiterate that workers have the right to decertify a union if they want to under existing law and under the PRO Act. It doesn't change that. What we do is say that employers may not stop recognizing a union simply because of turnover.

If workers negotiated a contract with an employer through their union several years ago and now there has been some turnover, that doesn't mean the workers are against the collective bargaining agreement that benefits them. The contract will expire, and then the workers will negotiate another one, whichever workers are there at that time. At that time, if a majority of the workers want to decertify the union, they are fully free to do that.

What the gentleman is trying to defend is the employer's role in destroying unions. That is what is really going on here.

Madam Chairwoman, in my 30-some years of being involved in the labor movement, the biggest problem in workers' freedom to form unions is the idea that the employers are a party, and you have to try to create a union or keep a union by going up against your boss, the person who decides your wages, decides your assignment. This is just another tactic to allow employers to pressure workers out of having collective bargaining.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Chairwoman, how much time do I have?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Chairwoman, maybe I ought to do this in Spanish or Italian, because we are not communicating effectively.

There is nothing in this amendment that has anything to do with employers determining who is or is not decertified. It is when a certain number of employees have not voted on that collective bargaining agreement because of turnover in the rapidly evolving, modernizing workforce—which I appreciate the gentleman recognizing—it makes it easier for them to do it.

Employers don't have a role in this. This is about employees deciding if they want to keep their collective bargaining agreement or not.

We have all seen the difficult institutional impediments to the ability to decertify the way it is right now. This will help that and recognize that we are in an era of high volatility, workers going to many more jobs than they used to throughout their career, and making the NLRB get with the program on adapting to the current workforce that we live in.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chairwoman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Madam Chairwoman, one more time, I would like to say that the NLRB was a very important piece of legislation 70 years ago. These little tweaks like this to update the NLRB for the modern workforce, the volatility, the digital era, are perfectly legitimate and logical responses to the conditions that we find ourselves in now.

We don't have carpenters who would spend their entire career at one company anymore. They come and go at different places. It happens in manufacturing as well. This bill would recognize that volatility and institutionalize it in a constructive manner.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. How much time do I have, Madam Chairwoman?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Chairwoman, I would point out that the gentleman's amendment says that an employer alleging that a labor organization no longer has majority status because of turnover may seek a decertification election. The gentleman's amendment empowers the employer to decertify the union.

What we are doing in the PRO Act is overturning the Johnson Controls decision of the Trump NLRB from July 3 of last year that allowed an employer to announce it was withdrawing recognition of a union because of this turnover, because simply more than half the people weren't there the last time they negotiated a contract or when the union was formed.

This is an attempt to allow employers to determine that they want an-

other election and to go all, again, through the captive audience meetings where they force workers to attend on pain of termination, meetings whose sole purpose is to scare workers out of forming a union, to show movies or other propaganda that doesn't have to be truthful at all to scare workers out of forming a union.

It is time to stop having employers prevent workers from forming a union. That was the purpose of this amendment. That is why I oppose it. I urge all my colleagues to oppose it.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. VARGAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in part B of House Report 116-392.

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

On page 19, line 15, strike "and".

On page 19, after line 15, insert the following:

"(B) a regional director shall transmit the notice of election at the same time as the direction of election, and shall transmit such notice and such direction electronically (including transmission by email or facsimile) or by overnight mail if electronic transmission is unavailable; and"

On page 19, line 16, strike "(B)" and insert "(C)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Chair, I rise to offer an amendment to improve the efficiency of the union election process. This amendment will reverse an antiworker rule adopted by the National Labor Relations Board several months after the PRO Act was marked up in the Education and Labor Committee.

The PRO Act strengthens workers' rights to a free and fair union representation election. It does so by preventing unnecessary delays. If we allow these delays to occur, then we are allowing employers more time to engage in antiunion campaigns designed to erode support for the union.

Democracy in the workplace should be a right, not a fight, and the workers who request a union representation election should not be denied their right to vote through unnecessary delay.

In 2014, the National Labor Relations Board, the NLRB, updated its union election procedures by enacting reasonable deadlines and preventing employers from stalling elections through frivolous litigation. The PRO Act codifies many of those requirements, including the timelines for pre- and post-election hearings.

The 2014 election rule protected the integrity of the union representation process and was upheld in every court where it was challenged. However, on December 18, 2019, the Trump NLRB rescinded parts of the 2014 rule, burdening the employees with unnecessary delays and giving employers more opportunity to stall a timely election with frivolous litigation.

One important change in the 2014 election rule was that, once the NLRB's regional director decides that a representation election should be held, the director must ordinarily issue the notice of election at the same time as that decision. The notice of election must be posted in the workplace. It is crucial to informing employees of the time and details of the voting process.

However, the Trump NLRB changed this policy to allow delay before the regional director issues a notice which details the election. This amendment removes the delay by requiring the decision directing an election and the notice of an election to be issued at the same time, unless extraordinary circumstances warrant otherwise.

In doing so, my amendment provides clarity to employees so that they may know the details of their election as soon as possible.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, despite my affection for the gentleman offering it.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, while this amendment appears to make arbitrary changes to union election procedures, make no mistake: It is part of Democrats' and union bosses' ongoing efforts to rush the union election process at the expense of American workers by requiring that National Labor Relation Board, NLRB, regional directors transmit the notice of election at the same time as the direction of election.

This amendment should actually be called the ambush elections amendment, as it would worsen the already harmful impacts of the Obama NLRB's ambush election rule, which shortened the timeline for union elections from a median of 38 days to as few as 11 days.

This amendment would reduce the timeline even more, increasing the unfair advantage for labor unions that the Obama NLRB created and which the PRO Act makes Federal law.

The unfairly condensed timeline required by this amendment—in which employers are expected to obtain counsel, understand complex matters of labor law, and effectively communicate with their employees—infringes on an employer's right to due process and is antithetical to the NLRB's promise of a fair and robust election process.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. VARGAS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Unnecessary delays in union representation elections enable employers to have more time to campaign against unions through lawful or unlawful means.

Once the NLRB determines that an election should go forward, the details of the election must be settled expeditiously so employees understand their rights as quickly as possible.

Employers engage in all kinds of tactics designed to scare employees out of supporting the union, from holding captive audience meetings, to issuing threats to specific employees.

Unnecessary delays only provide more time for employers to undermine employees' free choice. The choice of whether to join a union belongs to the employee. The PRO Act prevents employers from interfering with employees' freedom of association.

Moreover, the provisions of my amendment apply except under extraordinary circumstances.

When the NLRB created this rule initially in 2014, it found the details of the election, included in the notice, would often be resolved either in a pre-election hearing or in an agreement between the union and the employer.

If there is still an issue with the details of the election after the pre-election hearing, and at the time the regional director issues the direction of election, these would count as "extraordinary circumstances."

Minimizing these delays preserves employee free choice by ensuring that their vote is untainted by employer interference.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Americans continue to enjoy substantial economic mobility, despite Democrat claims that the decline in union membership has led to a permanent upper class. Millions of poor Americans continue to move into the middle class and millions in the middle class are moving into the ranks of the wealthy, a group heavily criticized by the Democrats' class-warfare politics.

In inflation-adjusted 2018 dollars, from 1967 to 2018, the portion of U.S. households earning less than \$35,000 a year fell by 25 percent.

The portion earning between \$35,000 and \$100,000, the middle class, fell by 22 percent, from 53.8 percent to 41 percent of the country. But it did not fall because the middle class is worse off.

The ranks of the poor and middle class are shrinking as the ranks of the wealthy and upper middle class are growing. From 1967 to 2018, the portion of U.S. households making more than \$100,000 rose from 9 percent to more than 30 percent of the country.

In 1967, nearly 25 percent of workers belonged to a union. In 2018, that number was just 10.5 percent. That means

that while the union membership rate fell by more than half, the share of American households earning six-figure incomes—that is more than 100,000—more than tripled.

And, yes, contrary to another popular Democrat claim, throughout most of the country, these wage gains are outpacing the cost of living.

No one can argue with this good news, yet, in an attempt to score political points and bail out their allies in Big Labor, Democrats claim that the economy isn't working for the poor and the middle class.

As lawmakers, we can always do more to increase opportunities for people to achieve the American Dream. But to suggest the economy isn't working for average Americans, and the way to fix it is to expand forced unionism through coercive socialist schemes like H.R. 2474, is flatly untrue.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Unions created the middle class in our country. And all of the things that we enjoy, the safety that we have in our manufacturing, the 5-day work week, all the opportunities that women have, and people of color, all those came because unions stood up for these rights.

My amendment strengthens the opportunity for people to choose to become a union.

I ask for an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, again, I really respect my colleague from California, and he knows that.

However, it is not the unions who have created the middle class in this country. What has created the middle class in this country is freedom, the capitalistic society, the rule of law, our Judeo-Christian beliefs. We are the most prosperous, most successful country in the world, and it is because of those things.

Did unions help at one time? Yes, they did. But they have outgrown their usefulness. We don't need to force unionism on the American people. We need to preserve their freedom and do everything that we can. That is what grows this country and makes it great.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MS. TLAIB

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in part B of House Report 116-392.

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

On page 19, line 15, strike “and”.

On page 19, after line 15, insert the following:

“(B) not later than 2 days after the service of the notice of hearing, the employer shall—

“(i) post the Notice of Petition for Election in conspicuous places, including all places where notices to employees are customarily posted;

“(ii) if the employer customarily communicates with employees electronically, distribute such Notice electronically; and

“(iii) maintain such posting until the petition is dismissed or withdrawn or the Notice of Petition for Election is replaced by the Notice of Election; and”.

On page 19, line 16, strike “(B)” and insert “(C)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAI B) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. TLAI B. Madam Chair, I rise to offer an amendment that protects union elections by ensuring timely notices of union representation elections. This amendment overturns a recent National Labor Relations Board regulation that undermines workers’ rights to organize in their workplace.

I would like to begin by thanking Chairman SCOTT and his exceptional staff for working with me on this amendment, and for their tireless efforts to strengthen unions and protect our country’s workers.

The PRO Act strengthens workers’ rights to a free and fair union representation election. It does so by fostering transparency in the workplace about the right to organize and removing barriers that were solely created to undercut labor organizing at the workplace.

In 2014, Madam Chair, the Board updated its union election procedures by streamlining the union representation process. The PRO Act codifies many of the 2004 requirements, including the timelines for pre- and post-election hearings.

The 2014 Election Rule protected the integrity of the union representation process, which is critical, and it was upheld in every court where it was challenged.

You see, corporate greed is what is driving this administration’s attack on workers. In December of 2019, the Board rescinded many parts of that 2014 rule, burdening our workers with unnecessary delays and giving corporations more opportunity to stall workplace rights and organizing with frivolous litigation.

The Republican Chairman of the Board, John Ring, pushed these changes without providing any notice to the public, ambushing workers with new procedures, solely designed to undermine the rights for our folks, for our neighbors and workers to organize.

One important change in that 2014 Election Rule required corporations to post a notice when workers file a petition for an election. This notice is critical to informing workers about the details of the petition, and their rights,

while the board processes their petition.

Notably, the 2014 rule required corporations to post this notice within two business days, 2 business days after the board issues notice of a pre-election hearing. This requirement was fair, and it was just.

However, once again, the agents of corporate greed are trying to cheat us out of our rights. Chairman Ring and the other Republican members of the board nearly tripled the amount of time corporations have to post that notice to 5 days after being notified about the pre-election hearing. This delay enables the corporations to take advantage of a crucial time period where workers may not know their rights or the details of the board process governing their petition for a fair election.

We should be doing all we can do, Madam Chair, to ensure workers’ collective bargaining rights are protected. Enough of the antiworker mentality driven by those who want to avoid paying fair wages and offering strong workplace protections for our neighbors.

This amendment restores fairness and democracy into our process, Madam Chair, and it brings back the 2014 election rule by requiring the corporations to post the notice of petition for election within 2 days after the board notifies the corporations and the union about the pre-election hearing.

It is pretty simple. In doing so, this amendment will foster more transparency, and will prevent unnecessary delays that undermine the right to organize in our country.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, this amendment imposes yet another unnecessary and harmful requirement on employers as they prepare for a union election; and this new mandate will be imposed on business owners who will have already lost numerous employer rights because of other provisions in the PRO Act.

During the Obama administration, the National Labor Relations Board drastically changed its union election procedures, adding dozens of new requirements and restrictions on employers in an effort to short-circuit the union election process and increase union membership.

On top of this, the PRO Act makes over 50 changes to existing labor law, adding a litany of burdensome constraints that will harm employers, particularly small employers who do not have infinite time and resources to respond to a union organizing drive.

Unions often begin organizing campaigns weeks, or even months before employers are made aware; creating a scenario in which workers are only hearing one side of the issue prior to a union election.

When an election petition is filed, employers have only a few days to prepare their case, depriving them of their rights to due process and all parties of their right to a fair and robust election process. This amendment would further burden employers and tilt the playing field in favor of union bosses.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TLAI B. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Look, unnecessary delays in union representation elections provide corporations with more time to wage anti-union campaigns using illegal and legal tactics. That is why folks are going to be against this.

When workers file a petition for union representation elections, corporations must properly notify them of their rights under the law. It is pretty clear. It is pretty transparent, and allows, again, information to get to workers, our neighbors that are there that want to organize for better wages, for protection at the workplace.

I urge my colleagues to please vote “yes” on this amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL).

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Chair, because of the force of labor unions, American workers have higher wages and workplaces that are fairer and safer. And we can thank labor unions for things like employee health coverage, the end of child labor, and a 40-hour work week.

To counter the power of collective bargaining, some in corporate America have struck back by harassing union organizers, denying information to employees, and using independent contractors.

That is why I am voting for the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019, to defend and secure our labor unions, the champions of the American workers. I urge support of this amendment and the bill.

Ms. TLAI B. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Democrats insist that the PRO Act expands workers’ rights. But, in reality, this bill coerces workers and undermines their rights in order to increase the wealth and power of union bosses. Unions have a long and sordid history of harassing and intimidating workers into supporting them, and this bill makes it worse.

For example, in 2013, Ms. Marlene Felter, a medical records coder in California, testified that union organizers “were calling them on their cell phones, coming to their homes, stalking them, harassing them . . . to convince them to sign union cards.”

In 2017, one Minnesota personal care attendant, who chose not to provide her full name, described her experience with an SEIU union organizer for a Forbes.com piece: “The woman identified herself as a SEIU representative,

and asked if they could talk for a few minutes. Holly said she didn't have time right now, but the woman persisted, placing herself between Holly and the front of the door and repeatedly asking her how she intended to vote in the upcoming union election.

"Holly became frightened; arms full of groceries, she could hear her patient becoming agitated and distressed inside, and here was this strange woman blocking her way and demanding to know how she would 'vote.' Holly finally extricated herself and entered her home, slamming the door behind her. But that wasn't the end of things. Over the next weeks and months, she received multiple calls and visits from the union."

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The author of the piece asked Holly how she would characterize the nature of these calls and visits. "Stalking, absolutely," said Holly. "They wouldn't leave me alone."

Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO, testified before our committee in May 2019 that unions need workers' personal information because "it is essential in order to be able to communicate with them. . . . You may have to meet with them at a grocery store, anyplace else where you can get them. The most efficient place and the best place for them to be able to talk is in their home setting, at their home, so that you can have a real conversation with them."

The PRO Act's own supporters admit unions will harass workers at their own homes, at work, and at the grocery store, yet Democrats claim this bill expands and protects workers' rights.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment and "no" on the underlying bill.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MRS. LAWRENCE
The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in part B of House Report 116-392.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

On page 19, line 15, strike "and".

On page 19, after line 15, insert the following:

"(B) regional directors shall schedule elections for the earliest date practicable, but not later than the 20th business day after the direction of election; and"

On page 19, line 16, strike "(B)" and insert "(C)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Chair, I thank Chairman SCOTT and the committee for working so hard to bring this historic legislation to the floor.

As Members may know, my district, which includes the city of Detroit, was built on the backs of unions and standing up for worker rights. Thanks to our unions, our communities receive respectful benefits, fair pay, and great representation. However—this comes as no surprise—this administration has weakened workers' rights and labor authority.

The PRO Act and my amendment look to shed some light on these recent attacks by strengthening workers' rights to a free and fair union representation election. My amendment accomplishes this by preventing unnecessary delays between the filing of a petition and the holding of an election. When such delays ensue, this gives employers the opportunity to launch antiunion campaigns designed to erode union support.

Madam Chair, we need to protect workers' rights to a timely election, not dismiss it. My amendment does just that, as it looks to eliminate an unnecessary delay relating to union elections recently imposed by the NLRB. This amendment addresses the mandatory 20-day wait period between the filing of the petition and holding the election. There has been no justification for establishing this wait period.

In 2014, under the Obama administration, the NLRB updated its union election processes by enacting reasonable deadlines and preventing employers from stalling elections through frivolous litigation. The PRO Act codifies many of these requirements, including the timelines for pre- and post-election hearings.

One of the most notable changes in the 2014 election rule was that once the NLRB regional director concludes that an election should happen, the regional director must schedule the election for the earliest date practicable. The NLRB changed this by requiring regional directors to impose a random 20-day waiting period.

My amendment eliminates this arbitrary waiting period and returns to the requirement that an election shall be scheduled as soon as practicable, unless extraordinary circumstances apply.

Workers who request a union representation election should not be impeded in their right to vote with frivolous delays. Democracy in the workplace should be a right, not a fight.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, again, I have respect for the gentlewoman on this, but I have to respectfully oppose this amendment,

which is intended to tilt the playing field even further against workers and in favor of union bosses, more so than the underlying bill already does.

By requiring union elections to be held as early as practicable, union bosses will have an unfair advantage because it deprives workers of adequate opportunity to hear from their employer about potential risks of unionization.

The PRO Act codifies the Obama NLRB's ambush election rule, which shortened the time before a union election takes place from a median of 38 days to as few as 11 days. This amendment would further reduce that time, increasing union bosses' advantage.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Chair, unnecessary delays only serve one purpose, and that is to enable antiunion employers to have more time to expose employees to their campaign against the union.

I have so much respect for my colleague on the other side, but to say that we should not protect our workers because of a union boss? They are not bosses. They are elected by the membership.

We should be promoting employee free choice by ensuring that their vote is untainted by an employer delay or interference. Once the NLRB determines that an election should go forward, it should happen as soon as possible.

I urge a "yes" vote on my amendment and this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleague and I agree that workers should be protected. There is absolutely no disagreement between Democrats and Republicans on that, but we believe that the existing law is sufficient both for protecting the right to organize as well as protecting workers.

Democrats bemoan attacks on the right to organize, but the right to organize has not changed in more than 70 years. Unions have simply abandoned their stated purpose of organizing workers and are trying to take a shortcut through the Congress.

NLRB data shows that the number of representation petitions filed by unions with the NLRB fell from 5,000 in 1997 to fewer than 1,600 in fiscal year 2018, the fewest in over 75 years. Let me repeat that. The number of representation petitions filed by unions with the NLRB fell from 5,000 in 1997 to fewer than 1,600 in fiscal year 2018, the fewest in over 75 years.

In fiscal year 2018, there were more than 110 million private-sector employees available for organizing under the National Labor Relations Act, but the number of employees who actually petitioned for union representation was just 73,000. That means that unions sought to represent less than one one-tenth of 1 percent of potential new

members in this country in fiscal year 2018, yet Democrats blame falling unionization on conservatives.

This lack of attention to organizing is reflected in unions' financial priorities, as well, and not just by UAW leaders spending workers' dues on cigar parties and golf. The AFL-CIO's 2018–2019 budget dedicated less than one-tenth of the budget to organizing efforts. The largest portion of the budget, more than 35 percent, was dedicated to political activities.

In addition to spending massive sums on political activities, unions also generously spent workers' dues, money intended for collective bargaining representation, to advance political causes. From 2010 through 2018, unions sent more than \$1.6 billion in union dues to hundreds of leftwing advocacy organizations, including Planned Parenthood, the Progressive Democrats of America, and the Center for American Progress.

Much of this spending came amidst a Presidential cycle in which more than 40 percent of union households voted for the Republican Donald J. Trump for President, yet Democrats blame conservatives for plummeting union membership. That is not the problem.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Chair, I want to be clear that we should be promoting employee free choice. This is not about the election process.

When we are standing here on the floor, we are talking about the American people and their rights. I stand here representing the city of Detroit, the city that put the country on wheels by strong union workers.

I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment and a "yes" vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. ROUDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in part B of House Report 116–392.

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Redesignate section 5 as section 6.

After section 4, insert the following:

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

The amendments made by this Act shall not be construed to affect the jurisdictional standards of the National Labor Relations Board, including any standards that measure the size of a business with respect to revenues, that are used to determine whether an industry is affecting commerce for purposes of determining coverage under the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 151 et seq.).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 833, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a businessman, I know firsthand the power of small businesses as a driver of economic growth, not just for the owners but for the 60 million small business employees in the United States.

While the underlying bill makes the playing field fairer for American workers, my amendment clarifies that the National Labor Relations Board jurisdictional standards for small businesses remain consistent, ensuring small businesses have the stability they need to develop long-term business plans.

The NLRB uses businesses' gross annual volume to determine whether a company is subject to its standards, with different thresholds for different types of businesses. My amendment ensures existing thresholds do not change.

Madam Chair, we cannot keep shifting the goalposts for millions of Americans. Small businesses need stability to strategize and consistency to create jobs.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support small businesses across America and adopt this amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment changes nothing about the underlying bill and the pain it will inflict on American workers and businesses. It is simply another weak attempt to pay lip service to address one of the many glaring flaws in the PRO Act.

The National Labor Relations Act, NLRA, already applies to nearly every business in the country, and the PRO Act's harmful provisions will also. This amendment does nothing to protect small business entrepreneurs and independent contractors.

If adopted, small businesses will still be saddled with new costs and mandates. They will still be forced to turn their employees' private information over to union organizers. They will still be subject to completely unrestricted union harassment even if they aren't the subject of a union organizing campaign. They will still have their rights throughout that process completely obliterated.

Independent contractors will still be at risk of being classified as employees under the bill's onerous ABC test. The NLRA's existing jurisdictional standards do not change that reality. The ABC test is not about whether independent contractors are businesses cov-

ered by the NLRA but, rather, whether they are employees covered by the act.

This amendment does nothing to change the fact that millions of independent contractors will be classified as employees against their will and, as a result, will have their livelihoods put at risk by socialist Democrats in Washington.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. ROUDA. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership in bringing this important amendment to the floor, and I rise in support of it. It clarifies that nothing in this act shall be construed to affect the jurisdictional standards of the National Labor Relations Board with respect to small businesses. I thank the gentleman, Mr. ROUDA, for his leadership in that regard. I urge passage of the amendment.

Madam Chair, I proudly rise on this historic day as the Democratic House takes bold action to restore fundamental fairness to America's workers by passing the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, the PRO Act.

Madam Chair, I salute our distinguished chairman, BOBBY SCOTT, for his lifetime of leadership to tilt back the playing field to the side of the American worker. I thank the members of the Education and Labor Committee and all who have worked to make this legislation go over the finish line.

Some people always say to us: Your Caucus is so very diverse. What unifies them?

I say it is diverse in every way. Sixty percent of our Caucus are women, people of color, LGBTQ. We have generational differences, geographical, gender, gender identity, ethnicity, opinion—the beautiful diversity of opinion.

But what does unify us is our commitment to America's working families, and that is what brings us to the floor today. It is a commitment to salute working families, to raise paychecks, and to do so by enabling workers to bargain collectively.

I always say that the middle class is the backbone of America's democracy. The middle class has a union label on it.

So many things that have come into the workforce, whether it is the 40-hour workweek, safer working conditions, fair pay for family leave, collective bargaining for secure retirement—the list goes on and on—the labor unions have been responsible for that.

Yesterday, several Members and I were honored to meet with Jennifer Womack, a worker who had been prevented from joining a union, and I want to share her story with my colleagues.

She told us about the unfair working conditions that she has faced: how she

was illegally denied pay after missing work to undergo serious surgery, even after spending her entire recovery period on the phone with the benefits department to help her pay her bills; how one of her managers engaged in offensive and bigoted behavior but was never disciplined, in fact, was given a company award.

When Jennifer and her coworkers tried to form a union to improve working conditions, she was subjected to humiliating retaliation and forced to attend antiunion trainings designed to scare her off.

She told us: “I believe that the decision of whether to join a union should be up to me and other workers without having to face threats and retaliation. And Democrats agree.

Sadly, her story is shared every day by millions of Americans who face a grim reality of reprisal, of retaliation, of denial of their rights to join or trying to join a union.

Democrats offered our Better Deal for Workers, pledging to tilt the playing field, with Mr. Chairman so much in the lead, to tilt the playing field back to the side of workers.

Since day one, our majority has worked to build an economy that works for workers’ interests, not the special interests: passing the \$15 minimum wage, securing paycheck fairness for women.

Madam Chair, I thank the unions for their leadership in our country for equal pay for equal work. No institution has done more in that regard. We are trying to make that the case for all workers that you would have equal pay for equal work.

We are also protecting the pensions of millions and lowering healthcare costs and increasing paychecks, to name a few.

Today, we are building on that progress by passing the cornerstone of our pro-worker agenda, the PRO Act.

With this legislation, Democrats are holding companies that violate workers’ rights accountable. We are strengthening workers’ sacred collective bargaining rights, and we are protecting workers’ access to fair union elections.

The PRO Act secures justice for workers and advances progress for all.

As Richard Trumka, the President of the AFL-CIO, which represents 12.5 million Americans and 55 unions, testified last year: “A happier, healthier, more upwardly mobile workforce is good for our economy as consumers have additional money to spend. Local tax revenues increase, and education funding is bolstered. Inequality shrinks. It is a virtuous cycle.

“The union movement and all working people are hungry for pro-worker reforms to our existing labor laws. . . . It is time for our laws to catch up. It is time to make the PRO Act the law of the land.”

I quite agree.

Democrats call on Republicans to join us to pass the PRO Act and to rebalance the scales toward workers.

I always say, whether it is an election or a debate or a negotiation: Who has the leverage?

Well, right now there is too much leverage used against America’s workers, and that is harmful to America’s working families.

We want to again tilt that playing field back into the direction of workers so their leverage is increased, so their opportunities are improved, and then we can move closer to ending the inequality, the disparity in income in our country.

Madam Chair, I urge our colleagues to vote “aye” on this important PRO Act.

Madam Chair, I commend the chairman, the distinguished chairman, for his leadership again, Mr. SCOTT, and members of his committee.

And I again thank Mr. ROUDA for his amendment that clarifies that nothing in this act shall be construed to affect the jurisdictional standards of the NLRB with respect to small businesses. I thank the gentleman, Mr. ROUDA, for his leadership.

Madam Chair, I urge an “aye” vote on both the underlying bill and this amendment.

Mr. ROUDA, Madam Chair, once again, I reiterate the previous comments that this bill and the supporting amendments deserve the bipartisan support that we have already seen. I encourage Members across the aisle to reconsider those ideas and support the passage of this bill.

Madam Chair, if the gentlewoman is ready to close, I am as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I enter into the RECORD the Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 2474.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 2474—PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE ACT—REP. SCOTT, D-VA, AND 218 COSPONSORS

The Administration opposes H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act. The Administration supports the rights of workers to freely join a union. In fact, under President Trump, on average over 250,000 more Americans are members of a private-sector union than under President Obama. This growth has been driven, in part, by the tremendous strength of the Trump economy. The Administration is willing to work with Congress to strengthen protections for union members. Unfortunately, H.R. 2474 contains provisions that would kill jobs, violate workers’ privacy, restrict freedom of association, and roll back the Administration’s successful deregulatory agenda.

H.R. 2474 would hurt workers in several ways. First, the bill would kill jobs and destroy the gig economy. It appears to cut and paste the core provisions of California’s controversial AB 5, which severely restricts self-employment. AB 5 is actively threatening the existence of both the franchise business sector and the gig economy in California. It would be a serious mistake for Congress to impose this flawed job-killing policy on the entire country. Additionally, H.R. 2474’s job-killing effects could be even greater, as it would empower third-party arbitrators to impose collective bargaining agreements. Involuntary contracts that do not work for employees or their employers could force

layoffs or even bankruptcies—ultimately, harming workers.

Second, H.R. 2474 would violate workers’ privacy. It would require companies to give union organizers their employees’ home addresses, personal phone numbers, and personal e-mail addresses, and it also would allow unions to bypass secret-ballot elections. Secret ballots protect workers from both employer and union coercion, and the Administration believes voting privacy should be protected.

Third, H.R. 2474 would also restrict workers’ freedom of association. It abolishes State right-to-work laws, and would thereby make union dues compulsory nationwide. Additionally, the bill would legalize “secondary boycotts,” which Congress previously banned because they pressure workers to join a particular union. And it would rush union elections, depriving employees of time to make a considered choice. The Administration is willing to discuss legislation clarifying that unions do not need to represent workers who do not pay dues. But it believes that workers’ decisions to join and support a union should be the product of choice, not compulsion.

Finally, by imposing unnecessary and costly burdens on American businesses, this bill would take the country in precisely the opposite direction from the President’s successful deregulatory agenda, which has produced rising blue-collar wages and record low unemployment. For example, by expansively defining joint employer liability, the bill would discourage investment and job creation and reduce opportunities for workers.

If H.R. 2474 were presented to the President in its current form, his advisors would recommend that he veto it.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I would like to quote from a part of the Statement of Administration Policy.

“The administration opposes H.R. 2474, the Protecting the Right to Organize Act. The administration supports the rights of workers to freely join a union. In fact, under President Trump, on average, over 250,000 more Americans are members of a private-sector union than under President Obama. This growth has been driven, in part, by the tremendous strength of the Trump economy. The administration is willing to work with Congress to strengthen protections for union members. Unfortunately, H.R. 2474 contains provisions that would kill jobs, violate workers’ privacy, restrict freedom of association, and roll back the administration’s successful deregulatory agenda.”

“Finally, by imposing unnecessary and costly burdens on American businesses, this bill would take the country in precisely the opposite direction from the President’s successful deregulatory agenda, which has produced rising blue-collar wages and record low unemployment.”

Madam Chair, I oppose this amendment, I oppose the underlying bill. We need to keep this economy doing very well, and we need not to support this piece of legislation which is unfair to American workers, unfair to businesses, unfair to the American taxpayers.

Madam Chair, I urge a “no” vote on the amendment and a “no” vote on the

underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 116-392 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Ms. STEVENS of Michigan.

Amendment No. 2 by Ms. FOXX of North Carolina.

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.

Amendment No. 5 by Ms. WILD of Pennsylvania.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. ALLEN of Georgia.

Amendment No. 10 by Mr. MEADOWS of North Carolina.

Amendment No. 11 by Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

Amendment No. 16 by Mr. ROUDA of California.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. STEVENS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 241, noes 178, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 41]

AYES—241

Adams	Brindisi	Clay
Aguiar	Brown (MD)	Clyburn
Allred	Brownley (CA)	Cohen
Amash	Bustos	Cannolly
Axne	Butterfield	Cooper
Bacon	Carbajal	Correa
Barragán	Cárdenas	Costa
Bass	Carson (IN)	Courtney
Beatty	Cartwright	Cox (CA)
Bera	Case	Craig
Bergman	Casten (IL)	Crist
Beyer	Castor (FL)	Crow
Bishop (GA)	Castro (TX)	Cuellar
Blumenauer	Chu, Judy	Cunningham
Blunt Rochester	Cicilline	Daivs (KS)
Bonomici	Cisneros	Davis (CA)
Boyle, Brendan	Clark (MA)	Davis, Danny K.
F.	Clarke (NY)	Dean

DeFazio	Langevin	Rouda	Lamborn
DeGette	Larsen (WA)	Roy	Latta
DeLauro	Larsen (CT)	Roybal-Allard	Lesko
DelBene	Lawrence	Ruiz	Long
Delgado	Lawson (FL)	Ruppersberger	Loudermilk
Demings	Lee (CA)	Rush	Lucas
DeSaulnier	Lee (NV)	Ryan	Luetkemeyer
Deutch	Levin (CA)	Sablan	Marchant
Dingell	Levin (MI)	Sánchez	Marshall
Doggett	Lieu, Ted	Sarbanes	Massie
Doyle, Michael	Lipinski	Scanlon	Mast
F.	Loeb sack	Schakowsky	McCarthy
Emmer	Lofgren	Schiff	McClintock
Engel	Lowenthal	Schneider	McHenry
Escobar	Lowey	Schrader	McKinley
Eshoo	Luján	Schrier	Meadows
Españalat	Luria	Scott (VA)	Meuser
Evans	Lynch	Scott, David	Miller
Finkenauer	Malinowski	Serrano	Mitchell
Fitzpatrick	Maloney,	Shalala	Moolenaar
Fletcher	Carolyn B.	Sherman	Mooney (WV)
Fortenberry	Maloney, Sean	Sherrill	Mullin
Foster	Patrick	Sires	Murphy (NC)
Frankel	Matsui	Sires	Newhouse
Fudge	McAdams	Slotkin	Norman
Gallego	McBath	Smith (NJ)	Nunes
Garamendi	McCollum	Smith (WA)	Nunes
Garcia (IL)	McEachin	Soto	Olson
Garcia (TX)	McGovern	Spanberger	Palazzo
Golden	McNerney	Speier	
Gomez	Meeks	Stanton	Arrington
Gonzalez (TX)	Meng	Staubert	Byrne
Gottheimer	Moore	Stevens	Cleaver
Green, Al (TX)	Moulton	Stivers	Gabbard
Grijalva	Mucarsel-Powell	Suozi	Gaetz
Grijalva	Nadler	Swalwell (CA)	Holding
Haaland	Napolitano	Takano	
Harder (CA)	Neal	Thompson (CA)	
Hastings	Neguse	Thompson (MS)	
Hayes	Norcross	Titus	
Heck	Norton	Tlaib	
Higgins (NY)	O'Halleran	Tonko	
Himes	Ocasio-Cortez	Torres (CA)	
Horn, Kendra S.	Omar	Torres Small	
Horsford	Pallone	(NM)	
Houlahan	Panetta	Trahan	
Hoyer	Pappas	Trone	
Huffman	Pascrell	Underwood	
Jackson Lee	Payne	Upton	
Jayapal	Perlmutter	Vargas	
Jeffries	Peters	Veasey	
Johnson (GA)	Peterson	Vela	
Johnson (TX)	Phillips	Velázquez	
Kaptur	Pingree	Visclosky	
Katko	Plaskett	Wasserman	
Keating	Pocan	Schultz	
Kelly (IL)	Porter	Waters	
Kennedy	Posey	Watson Coleman	
Khanna	Pressley	Welch	
Kildee	Price (NC)	Wexton	
Kilmer	Quigley	Wild	
Kim	Raskin	Wilson (FL)	
Kind	Rice (NY)	Yarmuth	
Krishnamoorthi	Richmond	Young	
Kuster (NH)	Rose (NY)		
Lamb			

NOES—178

Abraham	Collins (GA)	Green (TN)
Aderholt	Comer	Griffith
Allen	Conaway	Grothman
Amodei	Cook	Guest
Armstrong	Crawford	Guthrie
Babin	Crenshaw	Hagedorn
Baird	Curtis	Harris
Balderson	Davidson (OH)	Hartzler
Banks	Davis, Rodney	Hern, Kevin
Barr	DesJarlais	Herrera Beutler
Biggs	Diaz-Balart	Hice (GA)
Bilirakis	Duncan	Higgins (LA)
Bishop (NC)	Dunn	Hill (AR)
Bishop (UT)	Estes	Hollingsworth
Bost	Ferguson	Hudson
Brady	Fleischmann	Huizenga
Brooks (AL)	Flores	Hurd (TX)
Brooks (IN)	Foxx (NC)	Johnson (LA)
Buchanan	Fulcher	Johnson (OH)
Buck	Gallagher	Johnson (SD)
Bucshon	Gianforte	Jordan
Budd	Gibbs	Joyce (OH)
Burchett	Gohmert	Joyce (PA)
Burgess	Gonzalez (OH)	Keller
Calvert	González-Colón	Kelly (MS)
Carter (GA)	(PR)	Kelly (PA)
Carter (TX)	Gooden	King (IA)
Chabot	Gosar	King (NY)
Cheney	Granger	Kinzinger
Cline	Graves (GA)	Kustoff (TN)
Cloud	Graves (LA)	LaHood
Cole	Graves (MO)	LaMalfa

Palmer	Steupe
Pence	Stewart
Perry	Taylor
Ratcliffe	Thompson (PA)
Reed	Thornberry
Reschenthaler	Timmons
Rice (SC)	Tipton
Riggleman	Turner
Rodgers (WA)	Van Drew
Roe, David P.	Wagner
Rogers (AL)	Walberg
Rogers (KY)	Walden
Rooney (FL)	Walker
Rose, John W.	Walorski
Rouzer	Waltz
Rutherford	Watkins
Scalise	Weber (TX)
Schweikert	Wenstrup
Scott, Austin	Westerman
Sensenbrenner	Williams
Shimkus	Wilson (SC)
Simpson	Wittman
Smith (MO)	Womack
Smith (NE)	Woodall
Smucker	Wright
Spano	Yoho
Stefanik	Zeldin
Stell	

NOT VOTING—16

Kirkpatrick	Roby
Lewis	San Nicolas
McCaul	Sewell (AL)
Morelle	Webster (FL)
Murphy (FL)	
Radewagen	

□ 2006

Mr. LAMALFA changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. CARBAJAL, BUTTERFIELD, POSEY, and ROY changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. FOXX OF NORTH CAROLINA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 190, noes 229, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 42]

AYES—190

Abraham	Bost	Collins (GA)
Aderholt	Brady	Comer
Allen	Brooks (AL)	Conaway
Amash	Brooks (IN)	Cook
Amodei	Buchanan	Crawford
Armstrong	Buck	Crenshaw
Arrington	Bucshon	Cuellar
Babin	Budd	Cunningham
Bacon	Burchett	Curtis
Baird	Burgess	Davidson (OH)
Balderson	Calvert	Davis, Rodney
Banks	Carter (GA)	DesJarlais
Barr	Carter (TX)	Diaz-Balart
Bergman	Chabot	Duncan
Biggs	Cheney	Dunn
Bilirakis	Cline	Emmer
Bishop (NC)	Cloud	Estes
Bishop (UT)	Cole	Ferguson

Fleischmann Kustoff (TN)
 Flores LaHood
 Fortenberry LaMalfa
 Foxx (NC) Lamborn
 Fulcher Latta
 Gallagher Lesko
 Gianforte Long
 Gibbs Loudermilk
 Gohmert Lucas
 Gonzalez (OH) Luetkemeyer
 González-Colón Marchant
 (PR) Marshall
 Gooden Massie
 Gosar Mast
 Granger McCarthy
 Graves (GA) McCaul
 Graves (LA) McHenry
 Graves (MO) Meadows
 Green (TN) Miller
 Griffith Mitchell
 Grothman Moolenaar
 Guest Mooney (WV)
 Guthrie Mullin
 Hagedorn Murphy (FL)
 Harris Murphy (NC)
 Hartzler Newhouse
 Hern, Kevin Norman
 Herrera Beutler Nunes
 Hice (GA) Olson
 Higgins (LA) Palazzo
 Hill (AR) Palmer
 Hollingsworth Pence
 Hudson Perry
 Hurd (TX) Posey
 Johnson (LA) Ratcliffe
 Johnson (OH) Reed
 Johnson (SD) Reschenthaler
 Jordan Rice (SC)
 Joyce (OH) Rigglesman
 Joyce (PA) Rodgers (WA)
 Katko Roe, David P.
 Keller Rogers (AL)
 Kelly (MS) Rogers (KY)
 Kelly (PA) Rooney (FL)
 King (IA) Rose, John W.
 Kinzinger Rouzer

NOES—229

Adams DelBene
 Aguilar Delgado
 Allred Demings
 Axne DeSaulnier
 Barragán Deutch
 Bass Dingell
 Beatty Doggett
 Bera Doyle, Michael
 Beyer F.
 Bishop (GA) Engel
 Blumenauer Escobar
 Blunt Rochester Espaillat
 Bonamici Evans
 Boyle, Brendan Finkenauer
 F. Fitzpatrick
 Brindisi Fletcher
 Brown (MD) Foster
 Brownley (CA) Frankel
 Bustos Fudge
 Butterfield Gallego
 Carbajal Garamendi
 Carson (IN) Garcia (IL)
 Cartwright Garcia (TX)
 Case Golden
 Casten (IL) Gomez
 Castor (FL) Gonzalez (TX)
 Castro (TX) Gottheimer
 Chu, Judy Green, Al (TX)
 Cicilline Grijalva
 Cisneros Haaland
 Clark (MA) Harder (CA)
 Clarke (NY) Hastings
 Clay Hayes
 Clyburn Heck
 Cohen Higgins (NY)
 Connolly Himes
 Cooper Horn, Kendra S.
 Correa Horsford
 Costa Houlahan
 Courtney Hoyer
 Cox (CA) Huffman
 Craig Huizenga
 Crist Jackson Lee
 Crow Jayapal
 Davids (KS) Jeffries
 Davis (CA) Johnson (GA)
 Davis, Danny K. Johnson (TX)
 Dean Kaptur
 DeFazio Keating
 DeGette Kelly (IL)
 DeLauro Kennedy

Roy Rutherford
 O'Halleran Scalise
 Ocasio-Cortez Schrader
 Omar Sarbanes
 Pallone Scanlon
 Peters Sarbanes
 Pappas Schakowsky
 Pascarell Schiff
 Payne Schneider
 Perlmutter Schrier
 Peters Scott (VA)
 Phillips Scott, David
 Pingree Serrano
 Plaskett Shalala
 Pocan Sherman
 Porter Sherrill
 Pressley Sires
 Price (NC) Slotkin
 Quigley Smith (NJ)
 Raskin Smith (WA)
 Rice (NY) Soto
 Richmond Speier
 Rose (NY) Stanton
 Rouda Stevens
 Roybal-Allard Suozzi
 Ruiz Swalwell (CA)
 Ruppertsberger Takano

NOT VOTING—16

Byrne Holding
 Cárdenas Kirkpatrick
 Cleaver Lewis
 Eshoo Meuser
 Gabbard Morelle
 Gaetz Radewagen

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2011

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. DAVID P.
 ROE OF TENNESSEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
 business is the demand for a recorded
 vote on the amendment offered by the
 gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID
 P. ROE) on which further proceedings
 were postponed and on which the noes
 prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
 ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
 has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
 minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
 vice, and there were—ayes 187, noes 235,
 not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 43]

AYES—187

Abraham Buck
 Aderholt Bucschon
 Allen Budd
 Amodei Burchett
 Armstrong Burgess
 Arrington Calvert
 Babin Carter (GA)
 Bacon Carter (TX)
 Baird Chabot
 Balderson Cheney
 Banks Cline
 Barr Cloud
 Bergman Cole
 Biggs Collins (GA)
 Bilirakis Comer
 Bishop (NC) Conaway
 Bishop (UT) Cook
 Brady Crawford
 Brooks (AL) Crenshaw
 Brooks (IN) Cuellar
 Buchanan Cunningham

Thompson (CA) Gooden
 Thompson (MS) Gosar
 Titus Granger
 Tlaib Graves (GA)
 Tonko Graves (LA)
 Torres (CA) Graves (MO)
 Torres Small Green (TN)
 (NM) Griffith
 Trahan Grothman
 Trone Guest
 Underwood Guthrie
 Van Drew Hagedorn
 Vargas Harris
 Veasey Hartzler
 Vela Hern, Kevin
 Velázquez Herrera Beutler
 Visclosky Hice (GA)
 Walberg Higgins (LA)
 Wasserman Hill (AR)
 Schultz Hollingsworth
 Waters Hudson
 Watson Coleman Huizenga
 Welch Hurd (TX)
 Wexton Johnson (LA)
 Wild Johnson (OH)
 Wilson (FL) Johnson (SD)
 Yarmuth Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Keller
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kinzinger
 Kustoff (TN)
 LaHood
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Latta
 Lesko
 Long

DelBene Kim
 Delgado Kind
 Demings Krishnamoorthi
 DeSaulnier Kuster (NH)
 Deutch Lamb
 Dingell Langevin
 Doggett Larsen (WA)
 Doyle, Michael Larson (CT)
 F. Lawrence
 Engel Lawson (FL)
 Escobar Lee (CA)
 Eshoo Lee (NV)
 Espaillat Levin (CA)
 Evans Levin (MI)
 Finkenauer Lieu, Ted
 Fitzpatrick Lipinski
 Fletcher Loeb sack
 Foster Lofgren
 Frankel Lowenthal
 Fudge Lowey
 Gallego Luján
 Garamendi Luria
 Garcia (IL) Lynch
 Garcia (TX) Malinowski
 Golden Maloney
 Gomez Carolyn B.
 Gonzalez (TX) Maloney, Sean
 Gottheimer Matsui
 Green, Al (TX) McAdams
 Grijalva McBath
 Haaland McCollum
 Harder (CA) McEachin
 Cisneros Hastings McGovern
 Clark (MA) Hayes Mc Nerney
 Clarke (NY) Heck Meeks
 Clay Higgins (NY) Meng
 Clyburn Himes Moore
 Cohen Horn, Kendra S. Moulton
 Connolly Horsford Mucarsel-Powell
 Cooper Houlahan Murphy (FL)
 Correa Hoyer Nadler
 Costa Huffman Napolitano
 Courtney Jackson Lee Neal
 Cox (CA) Jayapal Neguse
 Craig Jeffries Norcross
 Crist Johnson (GA) Norton
 Crow Johnson (TX) O'Halleran
 Davids (KS) Kaptur Ocasio-Cortez
 Davis (CA) Katko Omar
 Davis, Danny K. Keating Pallone
 Davis, Rodney Kelly (IL) Panetta
 Dean Kennedy Pappas
 DeFazio Khanna Pascarell
 DeGette Kildee Payne
 DeLauro Kilmer Perlmutter

NOES—235

Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sablan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky

NOT VOTING—13

Byrne
Cleaver
Gabbard
Gaetz
Holding

□ 2015

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. WILD

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 242, noes 178, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 44]

AYES—242

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amash
Axne
Bacon
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)

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

Kirkpatrick
Lewis
Morelle
Radewagen
Roby
San Nicolas
Sewell (AL)
Webster (FL)

Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlihan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Norton
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (NY)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Lujan
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.

NOES—178

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan

Maloney, Sean
Patrick
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeke s
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Norton
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sablan
Sánchez

Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto

Byrne
Cleaver
Gabbard
Gaetz
Holding

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2019

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

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. ALLEN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 187, noes 232, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 45]

AYES—187

Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole

Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Cunningham
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Ferguson
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
González-Colón
(PR)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)

Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk

Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McAdams
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey

Ratcliffe
Reed
Rice (SC)
Rigglesman
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Spano
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers

Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Van Drew
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOES—232

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans
Finkenauer

Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlihan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
King
King (NY)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Luján
Luria
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McBath

McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Norton
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Ruiz
Roybal-Allard
Ryan
Sablan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton

Stauber
Stevens
Suozzi
Swailwell (CA)
Takano
Trahan
Trone
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko

Torres (CA)
Torres Small
(NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez

Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Rice (SC)
Rigglesman
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer

NOT VOTING—16

Byrne
Cisneros
Cleaver
Gabbard
Gaetz
Holding

Kirkpatrick
Lewis
Lynch
Morelle
Price (NC)
Radewagen

Roby
San Nicolas
Sewell (AL)
Webster (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2023

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. MEADOWS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendment offered by the
gentleman from North Carolina (Mr.
MEADOWS) on which further pro-
ceedings were postponed and on which
the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 186, noes 235,
not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 46]

AYES—186

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford

Crenshaw
Cuellar
Cunningham
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Estes
Ferguson
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Fox (NC)
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
González-Colón
(PR)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)

Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kingzer
Kustoff (TN)

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Craig
Crist
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans
Finkenauer
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar

Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Rice (SC)
Rigglesman
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer

Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Spano
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner

NOES—235

Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlihan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (NY)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe y
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore

Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Norton
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sablan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stevens
Suozzi
Swailwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)

Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey

Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman

Welch
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
García (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
González-Colón (PR)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlihan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
King
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long

Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean Patrick
Marchant
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Norton
Nunes
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Olson
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Piscakett
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Riggleman
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush

Rutherford
Ryan
Sablan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Staubert
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clark (NY)
Clay
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess

Gooden
Gosar
Griffith
Harris

Byrne
Cleaver
Gabbard
Gaetz
Holding

Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Marshall
Massie

Kirkpatrick
Lewis
Morelle
Radewagen
Roby

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2030

Mr. RICHMOND changed his vote from "no" to "aye."
So the amendment was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. ROUDA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.
The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.
The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.
A recorded vote was ordered.
The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 249, noes 173, not voting 13, as follows:
[Roll No. 48]
AYES—249

Adams
Aguilar
Alfred
Amash
Axne
Bacon
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess

Ratcliffe
Roy
Waltz
Yoho

San Nicolas
Sewell (AL)
Webster (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2030

Mr. RICHMOND changed his vote from "no" to "aye."
So the amendment was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. ROUDA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.
The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.
The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.
A recorded vote was ordered.
The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 249, noes 173, not voting 13, as follows:
[Roll No. 48]
AYES—249

Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Español
Evans
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
King (NY)
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
García (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer

NOT VOTING—14

Byrne
Cleaver
Gabbard
Gaetz
Holding

Hollingsworth
Kirkpatrick
Lewis
Morelle
Radewagen

Roby
San Nicolas
Sewell (AL)
Webster (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2026

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 404, noes 18, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 47]
AYES—404

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Alfred
Amodi
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess

Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clark (NY)
Clay
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess

Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Español
Estes
Evans
Pinkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Gallagher

NOES—18

Abraham
Amash

Biggs
Brooks (AL)

Ferguson
Fulcher

Graves (LA)
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlihan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
King
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)

Levin (MI) Payne
 Lieu, Ted Perlmutter
 Lipinski Peters
 Loeb sack Peterson
 Lofgren Phillips
 Lowenthal Pingree
 Lowey Plaskett
 Lujan Pocan
 Luria Porter
 Lynch Pressley
 Malinowski Price (NC)
 Maloney, Quigley
 Carolyn B. Raskin
 Maloney, Sean Rice (NY)
 Matsui Richmond
 McAdams Rose (NY)
 McBath Rouda
 McCollum Roybal-Allard
 McEachin Ruiz
 McGovern Ruppertsberger
 McKinley Rush
 McNerney Ryan
 Meeks Sablan
 Meng Sánchez
 Moore Sarbanes
 Moulton Scanlon
 Mucarsel-Powell Schakowsky
 Murphy (FL) Schiff
 Nadler Schneider
 Napolitano Schrader
 Neal Schrier
 Neguse Scott (VA)
 Norcross Scott, David
 Norton Sensenbrenner
 O'Halleran Serrano
 Ocasio-Cortez Shalala
 Omar Sherman
 Pallone Sherrill
 Panetta Sires
 Pappas Slotkin
 Pascrell Smith (NJ)

NOES—173

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

González-Colón (PR)
 Gooden
 Gosar
 Granger
 Graves (GA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green (TN)
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Harriss
 Hartzler
 Hagedorn
 Harris
 Hern, Kevin
 Herrera Beutler
 Hice (GA)
 Higgins (LA)
 Hill (AR)
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Hurd (TX)
 Johnson (LA)
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson (SD)
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Keller
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 King (IA)
 Kustoff (TN)
 LaHood
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Latta
 Lesko
 Long
 Loudermilk
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Marchant
 Marshall
 Mast
 McCarthy
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McHenry
 Meadows
 Meuser
 Miller
 Mitchell
 Moolenaar

Mooney (WV)
 Mullin
 Murphy (NC)
 Newhouse
 Norman
 Nunes
 Olson
 Palazzo
 Palmer
 Pence
 Perry
 Posey
 Ratcliffe
 Reed
 Reschenthaler
 Rice (SC)
 Riggleman
 Rodgers (WA)
 Roe, David P.
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rooney (FL)
 Rose, John W.
 Rouzer
 Roy
 Rutherford
 Scallise
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Shimkus
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smucker
 Spano
 Steil
 Steube
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Taylor
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Timmons
 Tipton
 Turner
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walker
 Walorski
 Waltz
 Watkins
 Weber (TX)
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Williams

Wilson (SC) Womack
 Wittman Woodall
 Smith (WA) Soto
 Spanberger
 Speier
 Stanton
 Stauber
 Stefanik
 Stevens
 Suozzi
 Swalwell (CA)
 Takano
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Tonko
 Torres (CA)
 Torres Small (NM)
 Trahan
 Trone
 Underwood
 Upton
 Van Drew
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watson Coleman
 Welch
 Wexton
 Wild
 Wilson (FL)
 Yarmuth
 Young
 Zeldin

□ 2038

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. RASKIN). There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. PINGREE) having assumed the chair, Mr. RASKIN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2474) to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 833, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I am in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Kevin Hern of Oklahoma moves to recommit the bill H.R. 2474 to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Page 15, line 21, strike the closed quotation marks and the second period.

Page 15, after line 21, insert the following: "(j) A labor organization shall not communicate with an employee regarding joining or supporting the labor organization if the employee is not authorized to work in the United States."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, this motion is the

final opportunity to amend the legislation and would do so without any delay in passage.

This amendment ensures that labor unions are not using illegal foreign labor to expand their region to the American workplaces and collect more union dues.

Under current law, an employee can sign a union authorization card to count toward the showing of interest in union elections regardless of whether that worker is authorized to work in the United States. Illegal immigrants should not be working at American companies, let alone used by labor unions to organize workplaces.

This motion to recommit ensures that unions cannot communicate with employees for organizing purposes if the employee is not legally authorized to work in the United States.

Because of the success I have worked for in life, not many people know that my life began very differently.

My family was dependant on food stamps for most of my youth. My stepdad never worked, and my siblings and I paid the price for it.

I knew from a young age that I would not let that be my life. From the moment I could start working, I did whatever it took to earn financial security: hog farming, welding, computer programming, and the list goes on.

If it weren't for the McDonald's Franchisee program, I wouldn't be here today. After 11 years working in the restaurants, I was able to work my way into the franchisee program and purchase my first franchise location, then build a successful company with over 20 locations; a program that allowed a person that came from a place like I did to achieve the American Dream.

I have lived a true American story. And my mission in life is to help every child who grew up like me, wondering where their next meal would come from, unsure if their lights would be on when they got home from school; I want those kids to know that our country is a place of opportunity and a place of hope for those who will work for it.

We shouldn't be here discussing this bill today. It is not worthy of this Chamber. But since we are, I must do everything I can to show my disapproval in the strongest terms.

The change we are proposing here is simple. We are asking that unions be barred from contacting individuals who are not eligible to work in this country.

If an employer cannot hire someone in our country illegally, a union should not be allowed to organize those individuals. Believe it or not, this is not currently outlawed.

If my colleagues insist on moving forward with legislation that empowers union bosses and strips independence from our workers, they should not do it in a way that encourages illegal immigration.

This motion to recommit would make the PRO Act pro-American worker, rather than just pro-union bosses.

I have been doing my research a long time. I spent 34 years as a business owner before coming to Congress. I have dealt with union issues for longer than some of my colleagues have been alive.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, who will financially benefit from the passage of this bill, said:

Those who will oppose, delay, or derail this legislation, do not ask us for a single dollar or a door knock. We won't be coming.

Well, I am standing here today to let Mr. Trumka know that I proudly oppose this legislation.

One of the biggest glaring failures of this legislation is taking away employee choice; effectively repealing right-to-work laws all across this country, like in my home State, where we choose to empower employers and employees alike.

Decades of legal precedent will be pushed aside. Where workers have previously had the freedom to choose whether or not to pay fees and join a union, they will now be forced to pay membership fees or lose their job. This will put immeasurable power in the hands of union bosses.

Privacy provisions—that have been in place for decades—barring unions from accessing private information about employees, will be eradicated under this bill. You heard that right. Unions will be able to access employees' private information, even those that are not members of the union. They can use that information for anything; sell it to the highest bidder, all without the knowledge or the consent of the individuals.

The same franchises that gave me the opportunity to achieve the American Dream are under attack with this legislation. Over 750,000 franchise locations that employ more than 8 million people are at risk because of the joint employer provisions in the bill.

The expanded joint employer standard has cost franchise businesses \$33.3 billion per year; resulting in 376,000 lost job opportunities and 93 percent more lawsuits.

Many of the ideas in this bill have already been rejected in the court system and are currently opposed by a bipartisan coalition in Congress.

I urge my friends across the aisle to support the motion to recommit on behalf of the American worker and their right to choose.

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, the PRO Act is about tackling income inequality and remedying laws that have failed to protect workers' rights.

The PRO Act expressly says it shall not be construed to amend any laws regarding hiring undocumented workers. It also prevents employers from being

able to bust a union organizing drive simply by firing undocumented workers they had hired previously.

The real-world effect of this MTR is to create a perverse incentive to go ahead and hire undocumented workers, because they could never receive information from a union about organizing.

Moreover, carving out undocumented workers from organizing deters all workers from exercising their rights. Employees who witness employers violating labor laws without repercussions will be afraid to rely on the National Labor Relations Act.

Finally, our immigration laws require employers to find out about whether workers are documented or not. There is no provision in our laws that allow unions to find that out.

This MTR is truly bad policy. It will encourage more hiring of undocumented workers; exactly the opposite of what the authors intend. But the main thing is it will undermine the freedom to form unions and bargain collectively for all workers.

Republicans offered this MTR to score political points. But we are focused on rebuilding the American middle class.

I have spent most of my career helping workers form unions and bargain collectively. The power of workers to unite and demand fair wages, better benefits, and safer working conditions is truly inspiring, and it is essential for working families simply trying to get by.

Right now, corporate profits are skyrocketing, while the share of healthcare costs paid by employers is falling. Worker productivity is at a peak, yet wages are stagnant. The gap between the rich and poor is the highest ever recorded.

One of the main causes of these problems is declining union membership, which is at its lowest point in decades. The PRO Act is about reversing these trends so workers can enjoy their fair share in the economy that they help create.

Recent studies have shown that in cities where union membership is strong, children in low-income families go on to ascend to higher income levels than their parents. Isn't that what every parent wants?

Creating a pathway to a better life, that is the American Dream, and that is the power of a union.

Fifty-eight million Americans say they would join a union if given the opportunity; 58 million, 48 percent of non-union workers.

Just think of the impact we could have simply by making it easier for Americans to exercise the rights they already supposedly have under the law; rights that have been undermined systematically by special interests that want to keep the economy working for the very wealthiest, at the expense of the vast majority of Americans.

The PRO Act is about that most American of ideals, freedom. All we are doing today is allowing workers to de-

cide on their own, free of harassment and intimidation, whether or not they wish to form a union and bargain collectively, and to access their other rights under the NLRA.

When we pass the PRO Act today, we say loud and clear that we are not on the side of special interests. We stand proudly on the side of working families.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this motion to recommit, and to vote "yes" on the PRO Act.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, this is the last step before we can pass the PRO Act. We know that union members make higher salaries, get better benefits, work in safer workplaces. Nonunion members benefit from the high salaries.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

Passage of H.R. 2474, if ordered; and Agreeing to H. Res. 826.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 195, noes 223, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 49]

AYES—195

Abraham	Chabot	Gibbs
Aderholt	Chenev	Gohmert
Allen	Cline	Gonzalez (OH)
Amodei	Cloud	Gooden
Armstrong	Cole	Gosar
Arrington	Collins (GA)	Granger
Babin	Comer	Graves (GA)
Bacon	Conaway	Graves (LA)
Baird	Cook	Graves (MO)
Balderson	Crawford	Green (TN)
Banks	Crenshaw	Griffith
Barr	Cunningham	Grothman
Bergman	Curtis	Guest
Biggs	Davidson (OH)	Guthrie
Bilirakis	Davis, Rodney	Hagedorn
Bishop (NC)	DesJarlais	Harris
Bishop (UT)	Diaz-Balart	Hartzler
Bost	Duncan	Hern, Kevin
Brady	Dunn	Herrera Beutler
Brooks (AL)	Emmer	Hice (GA)
Brooks (IN)	Estes	Higgins (LA)
Buchanan	Ferguson	Hill (AR)
Buck	Fitzpatrick	Hollingsworth
Bucshon	Fleischmann	Hudson
Budd	Flores	Huizenga
Burchett	Fortenberry	Hurd (TX)
Burgess	Fox (NC)	Johnson (LA)
Calvert	Fulcher	Johnson (OH)
Carter (GA)	Gallagher	Johnson (SD)
Carter (TX)	Gianforte	Jordan

Joyce (OH) Murphy (NC)
 Joyce (PA) Newhouse
 Katko Norman
 Keller Nunes
 Kelly (MS) Olson
 Kelly (PA) Palazzo
 King (IA) Palmer
 King (NY) Pence
 Kinzinger Perry
 Kustoff (TN) Peterson
 LaHood Posey
 LaMalfa Ratcliffe
 Lamborn Reed
 Latta Reschenthaler
 Lesko Rice (SC)
 Long Rigglesman
 Loudermilk Rodgers (WA)
 Lucas Roe, David P.
 Luetkemeyer Rogers (AL)
 Marchant Rogers (KY)
 Marshall Rooney (FL)
 Massie Rose, John W.
 Mast Rouzer
 McCarthy Roy
 McCaul Rutherford
 McClintock Scalise
 McHenry Schweikert
 McKinley Scott, Austin
 Meadows Sensenbrenner
 Meuser Shimkus
 Miller Simpson
 Mitchell Smith (MO)
 Moolenaar Smith (NE)
 Mooney (WV) Smith (NJ)
 Mullin Smucker

NOES—223

Adams Doyle, Michael
 Aguilar F.
 Allred Engel
 Amash Escobar
 Axne Eshoo
 Barragán Espaillat
 Bass Evans
 Beatty Finkenauer
 Bera Fletcher
 Beyer Foster
 Bishop (GA) Frankel
 Blumenauer Fudge
 Blunt Rochester Gallego
 Bonamici Garamendi
 Boyle, Brendan Garcia (IL)
 F. Garcia (TX)
 Brindisi Golden
 Brown (MD) Gomez
 Brownley (CA) Gonzalez (TX)
 Bustos Gottheimer
 Butterfield Green, Al (TX)
 Carbajal Grijalva
 Cárdenas Haaland
 Carson (IN) Harder (CA)
 Cartwright Hastings
 Case Hayes
 Heck Napolitano
 Casten (IL) Neal
 Castor (FL) Neguse
 Himes Norcross
 Castro (TX) O'Halleran
 Chu, Judy Horsford
 Cicilline Houlahan
 Cisneros Omar
 Clark (MA) Hoyer
 Clarke (NY) Huffman
 Clay Jackson Lee
 Clyburn Jayapal
 Cohen Jeffries
 Connolly Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (TX)
 Cooper Kaptur
 Correa Keating
 Costa Kelly (IL)
 Courtney Porter
 Cox (CA) Kennedy
 Craig Khanna
 Crist Kildee
 Crow Kilmer
 Cuellar Kim
 Davids (KS) Kind
 Davis (CA) Krishnamoorthi
 Kuster (NH)
 Davis, Danny K. Lamb
 Dean Langevin
 DeFazio Larsen (WA)
 DeGette Larson (CT)
 DeLauro Lawrence
 DelBene Lawson (FL)
 Demings Lee (CA)
 DeSaulnier Lee (NV)
 Deutch Levin (CA)
 Dingell Levin (MI)
 Doggett Lieu, Ted
 Lipinski

Schraeder
 Schrier
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Shalala
 Sherman
 Sherrill
 Sires
 Slotkin
 Smith (WA)
 Soto
 Speier
 Stanton
 Stevens

NOT VOTING—11

Byrne Holding
 Cleaver Kirkpatrick
 Gabbard Lewis
 Gaetz Morelle

□ 2100

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 224, noes 194, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 50]

AYES—224

Adams DeFazio
 Aguilar DeGette
 Allred DeLauro
 Axne DelBene
 Barragán Delgado
 Bass Demings
 Beatty DeSaulnier
 Bera Deutch
 Beyer Dingell
 Bishop (GA) Doggett
 Blumenauer Doyle, Michael
 Blunt Rochester F.
 Bonamici Engel
 Boyle, Brendan Escobar
 F. Españat
 Brindisi Brown (MD)
 Brown (MD) Brownley (CA)
 Bustos Brownley (CA)
 Butterfield Bustos
 Carbajal Finkenauer
 Cárdenas Cardenas (IN)
 Carson (IN) Fudge
 Cartwright Gallego
 Case Garamendi
 Heck Garcia (IL)
 Casten (IL) Lofgren
 Castor (FL) Garcia (TX)
 Himes Golden
 Castro (TX) Brown (MD)
 Chu, Judy Brownley (CA)
 Cicilline Evans
 Cisneros Finkenaue
 Clark (MA) Porter
 Clarke (NY) Price (NC)
 Clay Quigley
 Clyburn Raskin
 Cohen Rice (NY)
 Connolly Richmond
 Cooper Rose (NY)
 Correa Rouda
 Costa Roybal-Allard
 Courtney Ruiz
 Cox (CA) Ruppertsberger
 Craig Courtney
 Crist Housford
 Crow Houlahan
 Cuellar Hoyer
 Davids (KS) Huffman
 Davis (CA) Jackson Lee
 Davis, Danny K. Jayapal
 Dean Jeffries
 DeFazio Johnson (GA)
 DeGette Johnson (TX)
 DeLauro Johnson (TX)
 Lawrence Johnson (TX)
 DelBene Johnson (TX)
 Demings Johnson (TX)
 DeSaulnier Johnson (TX)
 Deutch Johnson (TX)
 Dingell Johnson (TX)
 Doggett Johnson (TX)

Norcross
 O'Halleran
 Ocasio-Cortez
 Omar
 Pallone
 Panetta
 Pappas
 Pascrell
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Peters
 Peterson
 Phillips
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Porter
 Pressley
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Raskin
 Rice (NY)
 Richmond
 Rose (NY)
 Rouda
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppertsberger

NOES—194

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

NOT VOTING—12

Byrne Holding
 Cleaver Kirkpatrick

Byrne Holding
 Cleaver Kirkpatrick

Gabbard
 Gaetz

LaHood
Lewis

Morelle
Roby

Sewell (AL)
Webster (FL)

□ 2107

So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S HARMFUL ACTIONS TOWARDS MEDICAID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 826) expressing disapproval of the Trump administration's harmful actions towards Medicaid, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 223, nays 190, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 51]
YEAS—223

Adams	Craig	Harder (CA)
Aguilar	Crist	Hastings
Allred	Crow	Hayes
Axne	Cuellar	Heck
Barragán	Cunningham	Higgins (NY)
Bass	Davids (KS)	Himes
Beatty	Davis (CA)	Horn, Kendra S.
Bera	Davis, Danny K.	Horsford
Beyer	Dean	Houlahan
Bishop (GA)	DeFazio	Hoyer
Blumenauer	DeGette	Huffman
Blunt Rochester	DeLauro	Jackson Lee
Bonamici	DelBene	Jayapal
Boyle, Brendan F.	Delgado	Jeffries
Brindisi	Demings	Johnson (GA)
Brown (MD)	DeSaulnier	Johnson (TX)
Brownley (CA)	Deutch	Kaptur
Bustos	Dingell	Keating
Butterfield	Doggett	Kelly (IL)
Carbajal	Doyle, Michael F.	Kennedy
Cárdenas	Engel	Khanna
Carson (IN)	Escobar	Kildee
Cartwright	Eshoo	Kilmer
Case	Españillat	Kim
Casten (IL)	Evans	Kind
Castor (FL)	Finkenauer	Krishnamoorthi
Castro (TX)	Fletcher	Kuster (NH)
Chu, Judy	Foster	Lamb
Cicilline	Frankel	Langevin
Cisneros	Fudge	Larsen (WA)
Clark (MA)	Gallego	Larson (CT)
Clarke (NY)	Garamendi	Lawrence
Clay	Garcia (IL)	Lawson (FL)
Clyburn	Garcia (TX)	Lee (CA)
Cohen	Golden	Lee (NV)
Cornollos	Gomez	Levin (CA)
Cooper	Gonzalez (TX)	Levin (MI)
Correa	Gottheimer	Lieu, Ted
Costa	Green, Al (TX)	Lipinski
Courtney	Grijalva	Loebsack
Cox (CA)	Haaland	Lofgren
		Lowenthal

Lowey	Peters	Smith (WA)
Lujan	Peterson	Soto
Luria	Phillips	Spanberger
Lynch	Pingree	Speier
Malinowski	Pocan	Stanton
Maloney,	Porter	Stevens
Carolyn B.	Pressley	Suozzi
Maloney, Sean	Price (NC)	Swalwell (CA)
Matsui	Quigley	Takano
McAdams	Raskin	Thompson (CA)
McBath	Rice (NY)	Thompson (MS)
McCollum	Richmond	Titus
McEachin	Rose (NY)	Tlaib
McGovern	Rouda	Tonko
McNerney	Roybal-Allard	Torres (CA)
Meeks	Ruiz	Torres Small (NM)
Meng	Ruppersberger	Trahan
Moore	Rush	Trone
Moulton	Ryan	Underwood
Mucarsel-Powell	Sánchez	Vargas
Murphy (FL)	Sarbanes	Veasey
Nadler	Scanlon	Vela
Napolitano	Schakowsky	Velázquez
Neal	Schiff	Visclosky
Neguse	Schneider	Wasserman
O'Halleran	Schrier	Schultz
Ocasio-Cortez	Scott (VA)	Waters
Omar	Scott, David	Watson Coleman
Pallone	Serrano	Welch
Panetta	Shalala	Wexton
Pappas	Sherman	Wild
Pascarella	Sherrill	Wilson (FL)
Payne	Sires	Yarmuth
Perlmutter	Slotkin	

NAYS—190

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

NOT VOTING—186

Armstrong	Holding	Roby
Barr	Kirkpatrick	Sewell (AL)
Byrne	Lewis	Webster (FL)
Cleaver	Marchant	Yoho
Gabbard	Morelle	
Gaetz	Norcross	

□ 2114

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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I was absent today due to a medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 38, "yea" on rollcall No. 39, "yea" on rollcall No. 40, "yea" on rollcall No. 41, "no" on rollcall No. 42, "no" on rollcall No. 43, "yea" on rollcall No. 44, "no" on rollcall No. 45, "no" on rollcall No. 46, "yea" on rollcall No. 47, "yea" on rollcall No. 48, "no" on rollcall No. 49, "yea" on rollcall No. 50, and "yea" on rollcall No. 51.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING REPRESENTATIVE FORTNEY "PETE" STARK

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, we rise to honor the legacy of Representative Fortney "Pete" Stark, who passed away on January 24.

With his passing, the country, California, and the East Bay community lost a champion of the people and a leader of great courage and compassion who served in the House of Representatives for 40 years.

Those of us who had the honor of serving with Pete in our California congressional delegation have all lost a dear friend.

Pete was a relentless champion for universal healthcare. He had an unrivaled understanding of the challenges of America's health system.

Whether it was fighting for COBRA to help working families maintain their coverage during times of financial insecurity or taking a leading role in writing the Affordable Care Act, Pete always seized opportunities to expand access to quality, affordable healthcare for all.

Pete will rightly be remembered and celebrated for his commitment to fighting for those in need, particularly America's children.

He fought relentlessly to improve our children's access to quality education, to protect clean air for them to breathe and clean water for them to drink, and to leave them a more peaceful world.

Pete leaves behind a legacy that will inspire generations of future law-makers, and he leaves behind a wonderful family, whom he adored, who are with us tonight.

May it give comfort to his wife, Deborah; his children, Jeffrey, Beatrice, Thekla, Sarah, Fish, also known

as Fortney, Hannah, and Andrew; his eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and the entire Stark family that so many mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members and guests in the gallery to rise for a moment of silence.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

At a field hearing in my district last November, we heard from Pastor Brenda Mitchell, who lost both her brother and a son to gun violence. After her son's death, Pastor Mitchell experienced hypertension, and the trauma forced her to leave a successful career behind.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, which tracks gun violence statistics, there have been 862 deaths in my district since 2013, 862 families who have experienced the trauma of losing a loved one to gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to stand up to the empty minds, the empty hearts, and the empty suits of the gun lobby and send H.R. 8 to the President's desk.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY RICHARD WHITTEN

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Liberty County Sheriff's Deputy Richard Whitten, who succumbed to complications of a gunshot wound.

On May 29, 2019, Deputy Whitten was off duty when he heard a "shots fired" call over the dispatch. Responding without hesitation, he drove to the scene. After a brief pursuit, Deputy Whitten was shot in the neck by the murder suspect, paralyzing him instantly.

After visiting with him and his wife, Kami, in the hospital last July, he told me that he would do it all over again to protect his community and his citizens.

On February 3, 2020, Deputy Whitten suffered a complication while undergoing physical therapy and passed away. He served with the Liberty County Sheriff's Office for 4 years, and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank a real hero, Deputy Richard Whitten, for his faithful service.

Thank you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONGRESSMAN FORTNEY "PETE" STARK

(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. Mr. Speaker, we lost a devoted public servant with the recent passing of our dear friend, Representative Pete Stark.

As a student at Mills College during the early 1970s, I was president of the Black Student Union, and Pete helped me with many of my organizing efforts. He was also the very first Member of Congress I voted for.

Pete served for 40 years as a passionate and courageous public servant who made it his goal to advocate for those most in need.

Through working alongside him in Congress, I came to admire his willingness to speak out for what he believed to be right, even when it meant challenging those in power.

Pete made a difference in the lives of millions of people across the country. His substantial and lasting influence on health policy reflected his deeply held values of compassionate legislating and courageous advocacy.

Pete believed it was his role to fight for the people's interests, not for special interests. He saw his role as one of advocacy for the underserved people of his district and throughout the country.

Pete never failed to speak up when it came time to champion a more compassionate approach to governance. He truly spoke truth to power.

My thoughts and prayers are with Pete's wife, Deborah, his children, his family, and his loved ones.

May we carry his baton forward in our work for a more just world, a more compassionate world, and may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN "CATFISH" JACKSON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Kevin "Catfish" Jackson, who was honored at this year's Opportunity Award Gala at the Savannah Technical College Foundation for his business acumen, vision, and commitment to developing the next generation of Georgia's leaders. This award is much deserved for all the hard work and dedication that Mr. Jackson has poured into the Savannah business community.

He is the founder and CEO of EnviroVac Holdings, which employs over 1,000 people, and the chairman of the Savannah Economic Development Authority. He was appointed by the Governor to serve on the board of the Georgia Ports Authority, and he has continued to volunteer with numerous charitable organizations around town.

This is now the third major award he has won in Savannah for his accomplishments. He won Entrepreneur of the Year awards in both 2015 and 2018.

I am so proud that the Savannah Technical College Foundation chose Catfish for this year's honor.

Congratulations, Catfish. Keep up the great work.

AMERICAN WORKERS ARE THE LIVING FABRIC AND BACKBONE OF OUR COUNTRY AND ECONOMY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today's passage of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act is a major victory for the American worker.

Nationwide, millions of Americans work full-time jobs yet earn unsustainable wages and little to no benefits. Too many people work multiple jobs yet struggle to make ends meet while they watch the stock market and their executives, who, together, make millions upon millions.

But by restoring balance to the gutted National Labor Relations Act, the PRO Act will restore the collective voice and dignity of American workers from all backgrounds, no matter the color of their collar.

The PRO Act includes meaningful, enforceable penalties for union-busting companies and executives. It restores workers' ability to stand together by weakening States' antilabor right-to-work laws and closes loopholes that corporations use to exploit workers. Most importantly, it strengthens workers' right to free and fair union elections and requires corporations to respect the results.

American workers are the living fabric and backbone of our country and economy and the future of our prosperity. They deserve the power to stand together and advocate for themselves. The PRO Act is the pathway to that power.

TIME TO GET BACK TO ISSUES THAT MATTER TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address my colleagues in both Chambers of Congress.

Yesterday, we saw the absolute acquittal in the Senate of President Donald Trump after 3 years of baseless accusations, harassment, and a prolonged witch hunt known as the impeachment process.

Without a doubt, the saddest part of this 130-day fiasco that cost taxpayers an estimated \$3 billion and yielded zero direct evidence implicating the President has been the colossal waste of time and resources.

The question we must ask ourselves now is this: How many lives could we have bettered during all of this?

The answer is: Countless.

It is time to get back to the issues that matter to the American people. Let's find common ground and do something.

Today, I stand here just feet away from where President Trump stood on Tuesday and called for unity in this body.

As the President said that night, the only victories that matter in Washington are those that deliver for the American people, and I stand ready to work across the aisle.

Will you join me?

The American people are watching.

THREE IMPORTANT BILLS

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my support of three important bills that were considered by the House on Wednesday: H.R. 4044, the Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act; H.R. 4031, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act; and H.R. 2382, the USPS Fairness Act.

Regrettably, I was unable to cast my votes for this legislation, but had I been able to, I would have voted to pass all three.

I had the pleasure to support Mr. MALINOWSKI's and Mr. JOYCE's bills in the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup and would have gladly voted for them on the House floor as well.

I am particularly disappointed to have missed the vote on the USPS Fairness Act, offered by Chairman DEFAZIO, which I cosponsored. Importantly, it would repeal the 2006 mandate that the U.S. Postal Service prefund future retiree health benefits.

My mom has had a long civil service career at the U.S. Post Office, and so the issue really hits home for me.

No other industry is so unfairly burdened with prefunding benefits in this way, and this bill would help stem the financial losses faced by the USPS. What is more, it would have no effect on the Federal budget.

This legislation is not the end of the discussion for how we protect this vital industry and its workers; it is merely the beginning.

□ 2130

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

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

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, this morning, my father, my son, my father-in-law, and I attended the National Prayer Breakfast, and joined thousands of other men and women to pray for our country and our President.

This was one of the most humbling experiences of my life and will remain one of the greatest honors that has come with the position of my office.

Prayer is an important part of my Christian faith. It is an act that people

of faith value immensely, and every person should be able to pray, free from persecution, in any institution of the United States.

Additionally, our children should never feel ostracized for displaying their faith and expressing their religious beliefs in our schools across our Nation. It is more important than ever to defend our First Amendment rights and to support efforts made by our President and his administration, and Members of Congress should uphold these values and protect prayer.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, President Trump delivered his State of the Union address in this very Chamber. At one point, he praised the Second Amendment and gun rights, but neglected to even mention the 100 Americans who are killed with guns every day. That number is only part of it.

This week is National Gun Violence Survivors Week and their stories fill out the picture of the reality of guns in America. Over half of adult Americans have or know someone who has experienced gun violence, and about 3 million children experience gun violence every year.

That doesn't even include the millions more students who go to school afraid that they could be the victim of a mass shooting, all because the NRA and the Republican lawmakers they fund refuse to even allow the most commonsense gun legislation, like H.R. 8.

This legislation would ensure that no one could buy a gun without a background check, and a bipartisan majority of Americans agree.

It is time to end the NRA stranglehold, and end gun violence.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RATIFICATION OF 19TH AMENDMENT IN NEW JERSEY

(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, February 9, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in New Jersey.

The 19th Amendment was introduced to Congress in 1878. The amendment reads: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

It was not passed by Congress until the House of Representatives passed it in May of 1919 and the Senate passed it in June of 1919. It was then sent to the States for ratification, with New Jersey being the 29th of the 36 States.

I would like to honor the tireless efforts of advocates over history, pioneer's like New Jersey's own, Dr. Alice Paul, who worked for years to get women the right to vote. Her persistence and the persistence of thousands of women before and after her is a true example of how the dedication of these women changed our country and the world for the better. They are true American heroes.

PASS GUN SAFETY BILLS

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, in 1960 my mother's life changed dramatically forever. That was the year her father was murdered through an act of gun violence. She was just 10 years old and my grandmother became a widow with six children left to raise on her own.

This week marks National Gun Violence Survivors Week, where we listen to stories like my mom's and other survivors of gun violence through the country.

But here in Congress, we need to do more than just listen to these stories. We need to act. Last year, the House passed commonsense, bipartisan gun safety legislation, H.R. 8, to expand background checks. This measure is something over 90 percent of the American public wants.

Unfortunately, it has been sitting in the Senate for almost a year and that is unacceptable. Survivors of gun violence, victims of gun violence, and the American people deserve a Congress who will act and pass these gun safety bills. Enough is enough.

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

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

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn observance of National Gun Violence Survivors Week.

Colorado is home, and I am proud to represent the communities of Colorado's Sixth Congressional District, communities that have seen the horrors of gun violence firsthand.

Too many of my constituents bear the scars of gun violence long after their wounds have healed. Some never heal. In honor of their pain, their courage, and their advocacy, we must call on the Senate to pass the commonsense reforms that have already been approved in the House.

We must act now for Julie from Highlands Ranch, Colorado, who was shot when she was 13. Julie was left paralyzed from the chest down, requiring her to walk with canes and braces for the rest of her life. My heart is with Julie for having the courage to speak out in support of commonsense reforms.

We must act now for all survivors like Julie and we must act now for those who no longer have a voice.

CENTRAL VIRGINIAN OF THE WEEK: HANNAH HOWARD

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the perseverance, strength, and compassion of my constituent, Hannah Howard.

Hannah is a Gordonsville resident, Orange County High School senior, and Blue Ridge Virtual Governor's School student.

On May 8, 2019, Hannah lost her older brother, Devon, to a heroin overdose. In the 9 months since Devon's death, Hannah has shown tremendous courage by studying addiction and educating her peers.

As part of her senior project, Hannah interned at a rehabilitation facility where she learned about the recovery process and engaged with patients to understand substance use disorders.

Following her internship, Hannah not only became certified to administer Narcan herself, but she led her first Narcan certification course to members of the Orange County Youth Council and plans to hold additional trainings in the future.

I admire Hannah's empathy and determination. Through unimaginable loss, she has created a framework within the Orange community to prevent tragedies like the one she and her family have faced.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Hannah for her selflessness and her service to Virginia's Seventh Congressional District.

REMARKS OF SENATOR MITT ROMNEY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I know that Senator ROMNEY does not need to have his words further edified, but there is something about courage and something about his words that struck my heart.

So if I might, in the remarks that Senator ROMNEY made yesterday in his decision to cast a vote for article I, he said, briefly: The Constitution is at the foundation of our Nation. We each take an oath to defend it. Paraphrasing, he said: We arrived at different judgments, and he hoped that we would respect each other's good faith. Senator jurors swore an oath before God.

He said: "I am profoundly religious. My faith is at the heart of who I am." And he knew his decision would be hard.

I thought we lived in a nation that respected the heartfelt decisions and deliberation that Members have to

make. But after his decision and vote there was an onslaught of ugly and nasty comments, individuals calling him weak, #ExpellMitt.

I want to live in a nation that is better than that, that when we have to make hard decisions, we will be respected by all of America.

We all love the Constitution. I want to thank Senator ROMNEY for his profile in courage. There needs to be more of that. He voted the right way. We all did who voted "aye" on article I and article II.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISNEROS). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4303, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University:

Ms. SHALALA, Florida

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 1903(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy:

Mr. THOMPSON, Mississippi

RECOGNIZING 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) is recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 175th anniversary of Baylor University.

Baylor University, a private Christian university, was chartered by the Republic of Texas on February 1, 1845.

The charter, signed by Republic of Texas President, Anson Jones, was supported by the efforts of Baptist pioneers who sought to establish a Christian university "fully susceptible of enlargement and development to meet the needs of all ages to come."

Originally located in Independence, Texas, Baylor is the oldest, continually operating university in Texas, and was actually formed before Texas became a State.

In 1886, Baylor moved its main campus to Waco, Texas, where it remains today, and combined with Waco University. The new flagship campus of over 1,000 acres along the banks of the Brazos River enabled the university to flourish in its new central Texas home.

Today, Baylor continues to uphold their mission to educate men and women for worldwide leadership and service by integrating academic excellence and Christian commitment within a caring community.

Baylor's diverse student body is comprised of over 18,000 students from all 50 States and from over 90 countries. Both undergraduate and graduate students are propelled toward success by passionate and committed faculty and staff who recognize a calling to address society's greatest challenges.

A nationally ranked and distinctly Christian research university, Baylor is on an ambitious path to become the ninth Research 1, or R1, university in Texas, and the world's preeminent Christian research university.

As Baylor strives to attain the coveted R1 status, it is continually engaging in research at the highest levels as students work to fight disease, investigate environmental challenges, pioneer new technologies, and advance human flourishing.

This university-wide commitment to excellence is evident through classroom teaching and a communal drive toward success. Faculty provide impactful services to Baylor students and support them academically, spiritually, personally, and in their future careers.

□ 2145

Baylor strives to enable each student to achieve at the highest levels of human performance in academics, arts, and athletics, preparing them for worldwide leadership and service.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the recent 175th anniversary of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, I applaud the university's ongoing commitment to Christian values and academic excellence.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the 175 years of legacy and impact of Baylor University.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

RECOGNIZING BEN DOWNS

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben Downs of Bryan, Texas, as a 2019 inductee into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame.

Ben's radio career began as a childhood fascination. Growing up in Hope, Arkansas, Ben dreamed of hearing his own voice over the radio. As a child, he recalls sitting up in the Hope Field House, pretending to give play-by-plays into an empty soda can.

His dream came true on November 4, 1968, when, at the age of 14, Ben went on the air for the first time. Looking back, Ben says he "wouldn't let a 14-year-old run my station, but fortunately for me, the manager at that radio station did."

By the time he went away to college at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, Ben was a seasoned pro. After 4 years at the station in

Hope, Ben decided to focus on his studies and enjoy the radio solely as a listener. This didn't last long, as he quickly found himself accepting a job offer from the local station in Bryan-College Station. That was in 1972, and he has been broadcasting ever since.

It was at Texas A&M University that Ben and I first met during the fall of 1972 as students in our management 105 class. We are both proud members of the centennial class of 1976, and he and I remain close friends today.

Since 1989, Ben has led Bryan Broadcasting. Under his leadership, the group has expanded significantly into a variety of genres and formats. He has worked hard to ensure that Bryan Broadcasting is always at the forefront of technology and constantly offering its listeners new and exciting content.

The rise of the internet and streaming service has provided WTAW and Bryan Broadcasting with a platform for a wide array of programs and on-demand podcasts while still promoting the traditional radio broadcast medium.

Ben remains involved in the broadcasting community through the Texas Association of Broadcasters and the National Association of Broadcasters. He also consults regularly with Members of Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to address important issues to the broadcasting community. One issue that he is particularly passionate about is revitalization of AM radio.

Outside of his work in the broadcasting industry, Ben has lived a life committed to service. During his time at Texas A&M University, Ben acquired a reputation for community service, which continues today. He has said that he is proud to be a part of a community that takes giving to heart. In 2018, Ben was named Citizen of the Year by the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce.

It was Ben's philanthropic spirit which led him to meet his wife, Lillian, 44 years ago as he was working on a tennis tournament to benefit the local Boys and Girls Club. Today, Ben and Lillie have two adult children and three beautiful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to honor the many accomplishments of my friend, Ben Downs, for his induction to the Texas Radio Hall of Fame, as well as his nomination for the Marconi Radio Award and the legendary Manager of the Year Award, both from the National Association of Broadcasters.

For decades, Ben's career has been dedicated to the passion he found as a child, broadcasting, while continuing to push the industry to take advantage of ever-advancing technology. His accomplishments and his service-centric spirit are more than deserving of this amazing honor. He is a faithful community leader, selfless servant, husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor Ben's meaningful accomplish-

ments and contributions to the broadcasting industry and to our Brazos Valley community.

As I close, I ask all our viewers to continue praying for our country, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE AGUILAR

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of George Aguilar of Bryan, Texas, who passed away on January 13, 2020, after a battle with cancer.

George was born on January 12, 1958, in San Antonio to Policarpo and Delores Aguilar.

Growing up in a military family, George traveled a great deal across the United States and Germany. He graduated from Killeen High School in Killeen, Texas, and went on to attend Central Texas College, where he studied criminal justice.

From a young age, George lived a life of service and was dedicated to giving back to his community. Following graduation, he served as a jailer in Killeen and then as a corrections officer in Huntsville, which led him to find his dream job as a police officer. In 1980, George joined the Bryan Police Department as a patrol officer.

Over the next three decades, George served in many roles within the department. As part of his commitment to the Bryan community, he served on patrol, as a detective, as a school resource officer, and as a canine handler. He was instrumental in starting important programs, such as Camp PAL, which operated from 1994 to 2005. He was awarded six commendations throughout his career and eventually earned a master peace officer's license.

After 34½ years on the force, George retired from the Bryan Police Department in 2015. However, his dedication to a life of service did not end there. Following his retirement, George went on to work as a bailiff for the Brazos County Associate Courts.

George is remembered for his great sense of humor, his love of dance, and his bright, smiling face that brought joy to all of those around him.

As a lifelong Dallas Cowboys fan, he attended as many games as he could, always cherishing the Cowboys v. Packers games he would attend with his son.

Mr. Speaker, George's life was defined by his service to his community. He will forever be remembered as a father, a brother, a fiance, and a selfless servant.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our heartfelt condolence to the Aguilar family. We also lift up the family and friends of George Aguilar in our prayers.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our first responders who protect us at home, and for our uniformed military service personnel who protect us around the world.

HONORING DR. STEPHEN A. HOLDITCH

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Stephen A. Holditch

of College Station, Texas, who passed away unexpectedly on August 9, 2019.

Before I continue our discussion about Steve, I want to give some context about the importance of his professional career. Let me state first that Steve considered his roles as a husband, father, and grandfather to be his most important. Because of the exceptional way he lived those roles, his legacy is readily apparent in the lives of those he left behind—his wife, Ann; his daughters, Katie and Abbie, and their five grandchildren.

The discussion of his professional accomplishments starts with a description of current energy metrics. Today, the United States of America is blessed to be the number one producer of oil and natural gas in the world, and as of this year, we are a net exporter of oil and gas. Reserves of American oil and gas rank us among the top 10 countries in the world. We also lead the industrialized world in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions over the past few decades. Ten years ago, no one would have ever predicted we would be where we are today.

This new world of American energy dominance is having dramatic implications, both domestically and internationally. We have secure, stable, environmentally responsible, and attractively priced energy resources for American families and businesses. We have become a reliable source of energy for our allies, giving them the flexibility to move away from unstable Russian and Middle Eastern suppliers. The oil and gas sector of our economy has created millions of good jobs and great paychecks for hardworking Americans. Our balance of trade payments has improved, and our geopolitical position has strengthened.

This dramatic energy renaissance didn't happen by accident or by government. It is the result of American ingenuity, research, and bold leadership. While no one person is solely responsible for the seismic shift in American energy, there are a number of bold leaders who took challenges that looked impossible to solve and solved them, particularly in the area of stimulation of low permeability, or tight, reservoirs. Their developments, studies, research, and field experiments using horizontal drilling and very large hydraulic fracturing treatments revolutionized American oil and natural gas and transformed our economy and our security.

One of those bold leaders was the late George P. Mitchell, Texas A&M class of 1940. Another is the person we are honoring today, Dr. Stephen A. Holditch, Texas A&M class of 1969.

Stephen Holditch was born on October 20, 1946, in Corsicana, Texas, to Damon and Margie Holditch. Growing up, Steve and his family moved often while his father pursued a career in the oil and gas industry. He spent most of his childhood in San Antonio before moving to Richardson, Texas, for his final year of high school, where he graduated in 1965.

Following graduation, Steve attended Texas A&M University, where he joined the Corps of Cadets and began his journey as a Fightin' Texas Aggie. Steve quickly excelled both in academics and the corps. While at A&M, he was a member of Company F-1, a member of the prestigious Ross Volunteers Honor Guard, and a member of the Ross Volunteers Firing Squad. During his senior year, he served as second battalion commander. In 1969, Steve graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science degree in petroleum engineering. He continued at A&M to earn a master's degree in the same discipline.

Steve began his career with Shell Oil Company in Houston, Texas. Much of his work over his 5 years with Shell focused on designing and pumping large hydraulic fracture treatments to stimulate production from the deep, low permeability geopressured gas reservoirs in south Texas. It was his work with hydraulic fracturing that inspired him to return to Texas A&M and set him apart from his peers as a true legend of the oil and gas industry for the advancement of this critically important technology.

One day in 1970, Steve was riding the elevator at work and met Ann Friddle, who was also working at Shell. Steve and Ann were married 6 months later on January 9, 1971, and they had been married over 48 years when Steve passed away.

He and Ann returned to College Station, and he pursued a Ph.D. in petroleum engineering, which he completed in 1975. In 1976, Steve joined the Texas A&M petroleum engineering faculty, and as if he didn't have enough to do as a young father and new professor, he started his own consulting company, S.A. Holditch & Associates.

S.A. Holditch & Associates quickly became a worldwide powerhouse in the petroleum engineering space. Over the years, Steve earned a reputation for being able to solve the most difficult petroleum engineering problems, especially those dealing with low permeability reservoirs needing stimulation, typically through hydraulic fracturing. He was distinctly proud of the work that Holditch & Associates did alongside the Gas Research Institute to advance understanding of low permeability sandstones, shales, and coalbed methane.

After over 20 years of success, Steve chose to sell Holditch & Associates to Schlumberger, where he stayed on as a fellow, the highest technical designation in that organization. As a Schlumberger Fellow for 5 years, Steve traveled extensively to help solve some of the world's most difficult petroleum engineering problems.

In 1995, at the age of 49, Steve was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, the highest honor that can be given to an engineer. After many years of service to the Society of Petroleum Engineers, or SPE, Steve was elected to the board of directors, then

vice president of finance, and finally president of this global organization with over 70,000 members.

He was awarded almost every recognition that SPE has to give, including three of the society's top technical awards. He was elected an SPE honorary member in 2006, the highest award that SPE can bestow upon an individual, and was officially named a Legend of Hydraulic Fracturing by SPE in 2014.

While Steven enjoyed many professional successes in the commercial regime, many of his accomplishments were at Texas A&M University, where he served on the faculty for 37 years. During his tenure, he taught 97 classes and served on over 150 graduate committees. From 2004 to 2012, Steve worked as head of the Harold Vance Department of Petroleum Engineering.

During this time, he revitalized the Crisman Institute of Petroleum Research and saw the number of students in the petroleum engineering department more than double. Under his leadership, the department quickly earned a reputation as the number one ranked university petroleum engineering department in the world.

It was during his time at A&M that he created this second legacy for America's hydrocarbon industry, the thousands of Aggie petroleum engineers who work around the world every day utilizing Steve's teaching and mentoring to solve the world's greatest energy challenges. Collectively, these pacesetters—George P. Mitchell, Michel T. Halbouty, and Dr. Stephen A. Holditch, and ones they taught and guided—have contributed significantly to America's energy dominance that is changing the world today.

In 2013, Steve retired from the faculty after many years of dedicated service to the Texas A&M community. Throughout his life, Steve often credited Texas A&M University as the foundation from which his success grew. He praised the values instilled in all Aggies, and in 2014, he was named a Texas A&M Distinguished Alumnus, an honor he richly deserved for a life of service and devotion to his beloved university. In thanking the Aggie community, Steve said: "You will look back at your years at Texas A&M as one of the best periods of your life. Always remember the Aggie Code of Honor."

In 2016, Steve was inducted in the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor, an award which made him prouder and happier than perhaps any other award he had ever received.

Following retirement, Steve enjoyed spending time in Bryan/College Station, with his wife Ann, their two daughters, and their five grandchildren. As a season ticket holder to a variety of Texas A&M sports, Steve continued to support the Aggies, but Fightin' Texas Aggie Football remained closest to his heart. Steve contributed a great deal to the Texas A&M community and can be described as a model Texas Aggie, who was true to its core values of Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, Respect, and Selfless Service. One of my fa-

vorite phrases that Steve often used was "I reserve the right to get smarter." That is what he did best, always pushing to find solutions to the world's toughest oil and gas challenges.

Mr. Speaker, Steve's life was defined by his dedication to his family and friends, his world-changing accomplishments in energy, and his true love of Texas A&M University. He will be forever remembered as a true pioneer in his field, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, teacher, mentor and friend. My father has a saying—"go make a hand." Mr. Speaker, Steve Holditch truly "made a hand" for his family, his university, his community, our country, and the world.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Holditch family. We also lift his family and friends in our prayers.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Stephen A. Holditch.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, February 7, 2020, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3739. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, Department of Energy, transmitting a report titled, "Potential Benefits of High-Power, High-Capacity Batteries", pursuant to H.R. 5895; Public Law 115-244; to the Committee on Appropriations.

3740. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting notification that, as a result of confirmed cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), a determination that a public health emergency exists and has existed since January 27, 2020, nationwide, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 319(a) (as amended by Public Law 107-188, Sec. 144(a)); (116 Stat. 630); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3741. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3742. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-

month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Mali that was declared in Executive Order 13882 of July 26, 2019, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3743. A letter from the Acting Director, International Cooperation, Acquisition and Sustainment, Office of the Undersecretary Department of Defense, transmitting a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Department of Defence of Australia, Transmittal No. 03-20, pursuant to Sec. 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 13637; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3744. A letter from the Acting Director, International Cooperation, Acquisition and Sustainment, Office of the Undersecretary Department of Defense, transmitting a notification of the Department's intent to sign an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation Projects, Transmittal No. 02-20, pursuant to Sec. 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 13637; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3745. A letter from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's 2020 Annual Performance Plan and Report, and Budget Overview, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3746. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for General Law, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a notification of a discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3747. A letter from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Small Business Administration, transmitting a notification of a nomination and an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3748. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Development Division, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Extension of Compliance Date for Entry-Level Driver Training [Docket No.: FMCSA-2007-27748] (RIN: 2126-AC25) received February 5, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 1494. A bill to strengthen partnerships between historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions and the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-393, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5273. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to increase to 100 percent

the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems to enhance border security, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-394). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself, Ms. DEAN, and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 5768. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to protect students and taxpayers by modernizing evaluation and increasing transparency in the accreditation system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BYRNE (for himself, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CLINE, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BUDD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. DUNN, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. WALKER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. SPANO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. SENBENBRENNER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama):

H.R. 5769. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an audit relating to the impeachment inquiry and trial of Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ):

H.R. 5770. A bill to establish a national network of electric vehicle charging stations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. LATTA):

H.R. 5771. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 5772. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WOODALL (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 5773. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to vehicle weight limitations for certain vehicles hauling perishable commodities or products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 5774. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a review on opioid overdose deaths among veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. POSTER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIMES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KIND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PARNETTA, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 5775. A bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. MCADAMS):

H.R. 5776. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to ensure community accountability for areas repetitively damaged by floods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. RICHMOND, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. TLAI):

H.R. 5777. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for assault or homicide committed by certain State or local law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CLAY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TLAI, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H.R. 5778. A bill to provide that any State or local law enforcement agency that has in effect a cooling-off period is ineligible to receive Federal funds pursuant to a Department of Justice law enforcement grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. NORTON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms.

OMAR, Mr. RUSH, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 5779. A bill to provide that in the case of a law enforcement officer who uses deadly force against a person, and thereby causes the death of that person, a hearing shall be conducted before a judge to determine whether there is probable cause for the State to bring criminal charges against the law enforcement officer relating to the death of the person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 5780. A bill to enhance stakeholder outreach to and operational engagement with owners and operators of critical infrastructure and other relevant stakeholders by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to bolster security against acts of terrorism and other homeland security threats, including by maintaining a clearinghouse of security guidance, best practices, and other voluntary content developed by the Agency or aggregated from trusted sources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. BOST (for himself and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 5781. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make an individual who is eligible for educational assistance under chapter 33 of such title, transfers such educational assistance to a dependent, and fails to complete a service agreement, solely liable for any overpayment of such educational assistance; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 5782. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a credit against tax for qualified special law enforcement officers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 5783. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to modify the transportation finance infrastructure and innovation program with respect to community development financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself and Mr. TURNER):

H.R. 5784. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve programs for minority students in STEM fields, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GAETZ (for himself, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. SPANO):

H.R. 5785. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the application of the Department of Veterans Affairs net worth limitation to veterans otherwise eligible for pension payments who are over the age of 99; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GALLEG0 (for himself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. LAMB, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, and Mr. TIMMONS):

H.R. 5786. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain information publicly available on one internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 5787. A bill to amend the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to clarify whistleblower rights and protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 5788. A bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to require a complaint of sexual harassment be annually reported to Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. HAGEDORN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. WILD, and Mr. TAYLOR):

H.R. 5789. A bill to allow nonprofit child care providers to participate in the loan programs of the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COLE, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. OMAR, Ms. CRAIG, and Ms. HAALAND):

H.R. 5790. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on 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. NEGUSE:

H.R. 5791. A bill to establish the position of Special Envoy for Refugees in the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 5792. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the restrictions on which designated beneficiaries may receive over the life of the beneficiary the required distributions from a defined contribution plan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROY (for himself and Mr. MCCLINTOCK):

H.R. 5793. A bill to ensure operational control of the southwest border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BASS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. CLYBURN):

H.R. 5794. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand research and education with respect to endometrial cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 5795. A bill to transfer the administration of the H-2A program from the Secretary of Labor to the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. CARTWRIGHT):

H.R. 5796. A bill to enhance consumer access to electric energy and natural gas information, to allow for the adoption of innovative products and services to help consumers manage their energy usage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. STEWART):

H.R. 5797. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to funding the recreational trails program, to require a study to determine the best available estimate of the total amount of nonhighway recreational fuel taxes received by the Secretary of the Treasury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. DELAURO):

H. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent resolution supporting the Farmers Bill of Rights; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RIGGLEMAN:

H. Res. 834. A resolution supporting policies that are a part of the "Best is Yet to Come" blueprint, outlined by President Trump during his historic, optimistic State of the Union Address; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. GALLEG0, and Mr. CASE):

H. Res. 835. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should establish a national goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the land and ocean of the United States by 2030; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. DESJARLAI, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. YOHO, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BRADY, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. HARRIS):

H. Res. 836. A resolution condemning and censuring Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. SIRES):

H. Res. 837. A resolution reaffirming the need for transatlantic cooperation to combat anti-Semitism in Europe; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. HORSFORD introduced a bill (H.R. 5798) for the relief of Cesar Carlos Silva Rodriguez; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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 Mrs. TRAHAN:

H.R. 5768.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BYRNE:

H.R. 5769.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, CLAUSE 18

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan:

H.R. 5770.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 5771.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for the general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 5772.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 and 13, which gives Congress the power to "Raise and support Armies," and "To provide and maintain a Navy."

By Mr. WOODALL:

H.R. 5773.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, To establish post roads.

By Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina:

H.R. 5774.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 5775.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution

"The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state."

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 5776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 5777.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 5778.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 5779.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. UNDERWOOD:

H.R. 5780.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 5781.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 5782.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution

Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 5783.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 5784.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mr. GAETZ:

H.R. 5785.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GALLEGRO:

H.R. 5786.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 5787.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 5788.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 5789.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 5790.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 5791.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 5792.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which states that Congress has the authority to "regulate Commerce . . . among the several States" and to "make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for

carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers."

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 5793.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 5794.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 5795.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

and Offenses against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And

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. WELCH:

H.R. 5796.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof..

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 5797.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 5798.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 230: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 273: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 344: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama and Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 435: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 490: Mr. MAST.

H.R. 587: Mrs. MILLER.

H.R. 906: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Ms. SLOTFKIN.

H.R. 924: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 996: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 1049: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HARDER of California, and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 1055: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1074: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 1109: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1374: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 1379: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1393: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1603: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 1605: Mr. WATKINS.

H.R. 1643: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1766: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1767: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1804: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1824: Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 1857: Mr. HECK, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1869: Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 1873: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1878: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. HECK, and Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 1975: Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 2091: Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 2117: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 2148: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2166: Mr. SIRES, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 2169: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2219: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. ESTES, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DUNN, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. POSEY, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2223: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2339: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 2350: Mr. COOK, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 2420: Mr. WALKER, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr.

FLEISCHMANN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. REED, and Mr. HILL of Arkansas.

H.R. 2491: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 2602: Mr. MCEACHIN.

H.R. 2616: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2653: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2662: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LEWIS, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 2682: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 2693: Ms. BARRAGAN.

H.R. 2733: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 2771: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 2930: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 3000: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 3104: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.

H.R. 3127: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 3221: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 3222: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 3235: Mr. KILMER and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 3467: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 3654: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. VISLOSKEY.

H.R. 3657: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3668: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 3711: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 3822: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 3960: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 4086: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 4088: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 4092: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 4132: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 4172: Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee.

H.R. 4194: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 4220: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4221: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 4259: Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 4350: Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 4426: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 4492: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 4519: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 4580: Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 4680: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 4705: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 4730: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 4782: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 4836: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 4963: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 4974: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 5002: Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 5004: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 5028: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 5043: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 5069: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 5080: Mr. LAWSON of Florida and Mr. MAST.

H.R. 5104: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 5141: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 5170: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 5176: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5200: Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 5221: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 5229: Mr. MAST.

H.R. 5238: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 5273: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 5297: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 5311: Ms. NORTON, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. DEFazio, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 5326: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 5329: Mr. HICE of Georgia.

H.R. 5348: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 5354: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 5434: Mr. ROUZER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mrs. MILLER.

H.R. 5481: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 5491: Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H.R. 5544: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee.

H.R. 5548: Mr. SOTO and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 5549: Mrs. MILLER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. RIGGLEMAN.

H.R. 5552: Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 5554: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5557: Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 5569: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 5596: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.

H.R. 5605: Mr. MAST.

H.R. 5642: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 5664: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. WRIGHT.

H.R. 5690: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 5702: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 5704: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 5705: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 5706: Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 5708: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 5751: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 5765: Mr. OLSON.

H. Res. 17: Mr. ROONEY of Florida and Mr. HURD of Texas.

H. Res. 114: Mr. HIMES and Mr. KILDEE.

H. Res. 374: Mr. HICE of Georgia.

H. Res. 512: Mrs. MILLER.

H. Res. 538: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H. Res. 643: Mr. YOUNG and Mr. BUCK.

H. Res. 745: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MCEACHIN, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H. Res. 775: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. COLE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H. Res. 787: Mr. MOULTON.

H. Res. 797: Ms. SPEIER.

H. Res. 810: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 820: Ms. JUDY CHU of California and Mr. COSTA.

H. Res. 826: Ms. LEE of California.

H. Res. 827: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. WRIGHT, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H. Res. 832: Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. WALKER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. POSEY, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. FOX of North Carolina, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. GUEST, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. BARR, Mr. SPANO, Mr. KELLER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. BOST, Mr. BUDD, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. DUNN, Mr. ESTES, Mr. EMMER, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. LATTI, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MAST, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. NUNES, Mr. CLINE, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. BUCK, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. MILLER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOHO, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, and Mr. TURNER.



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No. 25

Senate

The Senate met at 11:30 and 14 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable STEVE DAINES, a Senator from the State of Montana.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE DAINES, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. DAINES thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 10, 2020, AT 3 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, February 10, 2020.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:30 and 45 seconds a.m., adjourned until Monday, February 10, 2020, at 3 p.m.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S947

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 550TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF GURU NANAK

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 550th anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh religion. The 8th Congressional District of Illinois is home to many Sikh-Americans and Sikh faithful. I wish to acknowledge Guru Nanak's birth anniversary in the history of the Sikh religion and the important influence of Guru Nanak and Sikhism on other religions.

Born the child of Hindu merchants, Guru Nanak spent his childhood in the village of Talwandi, which is located in the modern-day province of Punjab in the modern nation of Pakistan. In keeping with the custom of the times, he married at an early age and was quickly blessed with two sons. He began his adult years working at a storehouse for tax collections, and exploring his spiritual side through meditation, writing hymns, and poetry.

Guru Nanak soon felt an irresistible calling to pursue spiritual enlightenment, however, after his thirtieth year embarked upon a series of pilgrimages in search of wisdom and religious truth. During this phase of his life, he composed a series of hymns that formed the basis of the Sikh religion and the foundation of the Adi Granth, the sacred text compiled in the early 17th century by the Fifth Sikh Guru Arjun.

As revealed by Guru Nanak and the Adi Granth, Sikhism teaches that there is only one God, that God is without form or gender, that we are all equal before God, and that a good life is lived as part of a community and expressed by good deeds (and not merely by faith or good thoughts). Sikh spirituality encompasses a belief in an unending succession of birth, life, death and rebirth until perfection is realized and one's soul is released from this cycle after achieving a complete understanding and acceptance of the nature of God.

Guru Nanak is recognized as the first of the ten gurus revered by Sikh faithful throughout the world. His truths continue to guide the Sikh community and form the bedrock of its commitment to public service and deeply ethical behavior.

Madam Speaker, on this 550th anniversary of his birth I want to recognize the founding contribution of Guru Nanak to Sikhism, one of the world's great religions, and also the many gurdwaras in the greater Chicagoland area and the Sikh faithful in the 8th Congressional District, for their service to their communities.

HONORING XANDER CARTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Xander Carter. Xander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Xander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Xander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Xander has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Xander helped perform habitat maintenance at Martha LaFite Thompson Nature Sanctuary in Liberty, Missouri, clearing over an acre of land of invasive honeysuckle and unhealthy trees and planting 25 new Missouri Dogwood trees.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Xander Carter for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO DEAN SEIF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona in Riverside County, California are exceptional. On Thursday, February 6, 2020, Dean Seif will be honored as the 2019 Citizen of the Year by the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

The mission statement of the Corona Chamber is to promote business, advocacy, community and economic development while serving as a catalyst for improving the overall quality of life in our community and region. Dean exemplifies this mission statement in all that he does in business and beyond. Dean has served the Chamber through various roles, including as the Chairman of the Board in 2016, and remains a strong advocate for the Chamber and their principles.

Today, Dean continues to serve our community as a Board Member for the Corona Chamber and as the President of the Corona Chamber Foundation. He is also a Corona-Norco United Way Board Member, sits on the Governing Board of the Corona Regional Medical Center, and is a Member of the Corona Rotary Club. Dean is a local business owner, an active community member, and role model for many.

Considering all that Dean has done for the community of Riverside County and the city of Corona, it is only fitting to honor him as Citizen of the Year. Dean has contributed immensely to the betterment of our region and I am proud to call him a friend, a fellow community member, American and a constituent of the 42nd Congressional District of California. I add my voice to the many who will be congratulating Dean Seif on being named Citizen of the Year by the Corona Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING GREATER VALLEJO RECREATION DISTRICT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Greater Vallejo Recreation District (GVRD) on the 75th anniversary of its founding.

Greater Vallejo Recreation District was established in June of 1944 and has provided exceptional services to better the quality of life in our community ever since. This independent special service district offers recreational activities and leisure services to the people of Vallejo. GVRD is strongly committed to creating and managing age inclusive programs and facilities for the benefit and enjoyment of over 120,000 residents.

Greater Vallejo Recreation District manages mostly city-owned recreational properties and an additional 1000 acres of public land. These city properties include neighborhood parks, special purpose parks, an Olympic-size swimming pool and community centers. GVRD is responsible for organizing and overseeing services provided by Parks & Recreation. GVRD holds a variety of youth and family-friendly programs, such as Family Campouts, Breakfast with Santa, Concerts in the Park and Family Movie Nights. The GVRD staff works tirelessly to uphold the organization's mission to improve the livelihood of our community, and their outstanding service is evidenced by the gratitude of our community.

GVRD also offers educational programs to adults and youths. Students can attend an array of afterschool programs, including martial art classes, painting lessons, Spanish classes, online drivers education courses and many more. Furthermore, GVRD advocates passionately for a healthy lifestyle. The District organizes basketball and baseball trainings for children and teens along with cardio and weight lifting classes for adults. GVRD has maintained a tradition of creativity paired with excellent services that demonstrate ideals defined by the programs it provides.

Madam Speaker, the Greater Vallejo Recreation District has been instrumental in fulfilling the educational and amusement needs of our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Greater Vallejo Recreation District on the 75th anniversary of its founding.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF MRS. ANN KEYES

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a great North Carolinian, public servant, loving wife and a friend to many; Ann Keyes. Mrs. Ann Keyes resides in Plymouth, North Carolina with her husband George Donnell Keyes.

Mrs. Keyes' passion and conviction have led her to serve in North Carolina's Washington County Government for more than 44 years. She currently serves as the Director of Planning and Safety in the Office of Washington County Emergency Management where she oversees the efforts of many local governments to implement comprehensive community plans that prioritize public safety.

Mrs. Keyes's strong commitment to public safety drove her to earn many professional certifications that include: Executive Level Certification in Emergency Management, State Certification for Floodplain Manager, Certification for Community Rating System Coordinator, and Certification for Chronic Diseases and Chronic Pain Self-Management Training Leader.

With the lifetime record of public service, Mrs. Keyes has been recognized for numerous achievements which include: 2003 Washington County Emergency Management Responder of the Year Award, North Carolina State Coordinator's Award for Floodplain Management, Colonel Phillip Nichols Waters Award, North Carolina Division of Emergency Management Regional Coordination Center's Award of Excellence, 97th North Carolina National Guard Civil Affairs Battalion's Outstanding Support Award, Washington County Employee of the Year, and North Carolina Community Emergency Response Team's Green Star Award.

In her nearly half a century of service to North Carolina, I applaud Mrs. Keyes for her years of dedication and commitment to emergency preparedness of our communities in North Carolina. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First District of North Carolina, I express appreciation to Mrs. Ann Keyes for 44 years of committed service to Washington County. I thank for her for her perseverance and willingness to go the extra mile to ensure public safety in North Carolina.

Mrs. Keyes has, without exception, earned the right to be honored. It is my hope that God will continue to bless and keep Mrs. Keyes and her family in the years to come.

HONORING TATE EIVINS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tate Eivins. Tate is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tate has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tate has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Tate has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Tate built a large metal and wood picnic table for a historical site in Clay County, Missouri, and spent 144 hours planning, gathering materials, building, and teaching other scouts how to weld and build the table.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tate Eivins for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD
ANTHONY VACCARO, SR., PH.D.

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of long-time Concord resident, Edward Anthony Vaccaro, Sr., Ph.D.

Edward Vaccaro was born in Paterson, New Jersey, where he grew up spending time with his family at the Jersey Shore and developing a passion for the arts. Edward attended Fordham University before marrying his wife, Jeanne and starting a family. Ed and Jeanne moved to Concord, California where they raised their children.

Ed became involved in the local business community as the owner of Vaccaro's Florist. Ed went back to school and got his doctorate in 1987. Ed had a passion for the City of Concord and loved being a member of the community. The positivity with which Ed lived his life left an impression on everyone he met.

Edward Vaccaro was a cherished member of Concord and he will be missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY
RICHARD WHITTEN

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Liberty County Sheriff's Deputy Richard Whitten, who succumbed to complications of a gunshot wound sustained on May 29, 2019, while responding to a crisis call in Cleveland, Texas.

On May 29, Deputy Whitten was off-duty and en route to a law enforcement training class, when "shots fired" was dispatched over the radio. Deputy Whitten did not hesitate to put himself in harm's way, he responded instantly, arriving just as the suspect was fleeing the scene after murdering two people at a Cleveland business. After a brief pursuit, Deputy Whitten was shot in the neck by the murder suspect—paralyzing him instantly. The perpetrator subsequently committed suicide.

Following this tragedy, Deputy Whitten remained hospitalized at TIRR Memorial Her-

man, a world-class rehabilitation hospital in the Houston Medical Center. On February 3, 2020, Deputy Whitten suffered a complication while undergoing physical therapy and tragically passed away.

In July 2019, Deputy Whitten, his wife, Kami, and I had a lengthy conversation about his passion for law enforcement as well as his recovery process. He personally told me that he would do it all over again to protect his community. He served with the Liberty County Sheriff's Office for four years and will be greatly missed.

Deputy Whitten selflessly paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of Liberty County. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Deputy Richard Whitten, for his faithful service and devotion to his community. My prayers remain with his family and friends at this time.

CONGRATULATING MISSOURI'S 7TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S
FOOTBALL TEAMS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Webb City football team, who won their 15th State Title in Class 4 last year. "Go Cardinals". I would also like to commend the Carthage football team for winning the Class 5 State Championship and our Joplin High School football team who were runner's up in the Class 6 State Championship. They all performed admirably this season and demonstrated a determination and dedication to their team, school, supporters and communities.

Webb City football has a legacy of excellence and tradition that is evident in their record, which they only improved upon by claiming their fifteenth state title 48-0 against Platte County. The Cardinals, ranked 1st in their Class with a 13-1 record, had a hard road reaching the finals. They faced not only the 2nd best ranked team, but also the 3rd and 4th in the lead up to their championship win. Following their semifinal defeat in 2018 to the eventual champions, Webb City's program worked hard all season and succeeded in accomplishing their goal of "Chasing 15."

Carthage football's Class 5 Championship win was tough fought, including a nail-biting third quarter with an impressive long completion that secured their 27-21 win against second-ranked Jackson Indians. Their Coach, Jon Guidie, said the team "just . . . [wouldn't] die and they just won't quit." This win was the first state title for the 5th ranked Carthage team who finished their season 12-2. The Carthage team has fought back against the difficulties of their season, which is a credit to their determination and grit.

Joplin High School football team, ranked 3rd, lost to the 1st ranked De Smet in the Class 6 Championship game. The game was a hard-fought loss for Joplin High, with the Eagles unfortunately unable to hold a third quarter lead that would have secured a victory. The Eagles ended their season 13-1, having beaten Ft. Zumwalt West and Marquette in the semi-finals and quarterfinals respectively.

All of our great Missouri football teams have persevered through difficult seasons and have

become better players, better members of their communities, and better students in their journey to the State Title. I am honored to recognize their achievements, and I thank each team for making Missouri's 7th District proud.

HONORING CALEB JONES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Caleb Jones. Caleb is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Caleb has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Caleb has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Caleb has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Caleb set up a school supply drive and raised money to rebuild non-working bathrooms at a school in the country of Kosovo, while also installing playground equipment at the school when he visited in 2019.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Caleb Jones for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING GEORGE L. ORTIZ

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative JARED HUFFMAN, to remember George L. Ortiz for decades of exceptional public service to Northern California and to honor him for his commitment to our Latino community.

Mr. Ortiz was born in East Los Angeles in 1934 to migrant farmworker parents. From an early age, Mr. Ortiz followed in his parents' footsteps by working in the fields of Southern California. He then served in the U.S. Army in Germany in 1957 and 1958. After his time in the military, he received a track scholarship at Fresno State College, where he became the first member of his family to attend college.

Mr. Ortiz moved to Northern California in the 1960s and became a social worker, first for Sonoma County and then for California Rural Legal Assistance. For nearly 60 years, he was at the forefront of efforts to organize and bring equal opportunity and treatment to Mexican Americans living in the North Bay and beyond. In 1967, Mr. Ortiz co-founded California Human Development, a leading human services organization, and the Latinos Unidos scholarship program.

In 1999, The Press Democrat named George Ortiz as one of 50 people most responsible for shaping Sonoma County through

the 20th Century. In 2017, the North Bay Business Journal bestowed on him the Latino Business Leadership Award. In 2018, Sonoma State University awarded Mr. Ortiz the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters and that same year, the Mexican government presented him one of its highest honors, the Ohtli Award, for his efforts on behalf of Mexican nationals in the United States.

Mr. Ortiz leaves behind a loving and devoted family; his wife Carol and their children, Robert and Diane and two granddaughters.

Madam Speaker, we thank Mr. Ortiz for his unrelenting commitment to uplift Latinos in Northern California. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor his service and remember the life of George L. Ortiz here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the first vote due to a scheduled district meeting that went longer than expected.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 35 (H.R. 4044—Protect and Restore Americas Estuaries Act).

HONORING JOSHUA KNOWLES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Knowles. Joshua is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Joshua has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Joshua collected materials and sewing famine hygiene kits for Days for Girls, which distributes the kits to young women in impoverished countries so they can stay in school when they get to the age of menstruation.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua Knowles for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS COUNCIL

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Orange

County Business Council (OCBC) on the celebration of its 25th Anniversary.

The Orange County Business Council was established in 1995 to promote business development and strategic resource allocation to improve the lives of all Orange County residents. As the Orange County business community has emerged from the shadow of Los Angeles, OCBC has developed a distinct identity for our perfectly situated region to thrive. OCBC has placed a strategic focus on the future of the economy while working to preserve a high quality of life for residents and workers.

I ask all Members to join me in recognizing the extraordinary work and contributions of the Orange County Business Council and their efforts to enhance Orange County's economic development and prosperity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regretably missed votes on Wednesday, February 5, 2020. I had intended to vote "yes" on roll call vote 35, "yes" on vote 36, and "yes" on vote 37.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SOPHIE YAZZIE

HON. TOM O'HALLERAN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sophie Yazzie, Arizona's longest living veteran.

She passed away last weekend at the age of 105.

A member of the Navajo Nation, Sophie was born in Canyon De Chelly, Arizona.

At age 28, she enlisted in the Women's Army Air Corps, and served until she was honorably discharged.

Known for her kindness and compassion, Sophie lived a full life following her service to our country, working at Wingate Boarding School.

She is survived by her four children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Arizona and the Navajo Nation have lost an incredible community member and role model to many.

Pat and I are keeping Sophie's family and friends, and the entire Navajo Nation community in our prayers as we mourn her passing,

HONORING CARTER MCKAY LESKI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Carter McKay Leski. Carter is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in

the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Carter has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Carter has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Carter has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Carter teamed up with the American Legion Post 58 to lead the efforts of collecting, packaging, and ultimately shipping more than 300 pounds of toiletries, gifts, snacks, and letters to two different active duty military units in time for Independence Day.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Carter McKay Leski for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

REMEMBERING ACTOR KIRK
DOUGLAS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the great actor, humanitarian and philanthropist Kirk Douglas, who passed away Wednesday at the age of 103. Americans of a certain age will remember Kirk Douglas in his roles as Spartacus, leader of a slave revolt in ancient Rome; the painter Vincent Van Gogh; the gunfighter Doc Holliday; and General George S. Patton. Others will recall that he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Jimmy Carter and the Kennedy Center Honors award from President Bill Clinton. I will remember him for the personal note he sent to me in 2015 after I wished him well from the House floor on the occasion of his 99th birthday. I said that he would go down in Hollywood and American history for his courageous role in breaking the McCarthy era blacklist by putting the screenwriter Dalton Trumbo's name in the film credits for "Spartacus." In his note to me, he said: "Unfortunately, I have lived long enough to see that climate of fear and xenophobia reborn. I sincerely hope you and your fellow legislators will find a way to come together in these troubling times. It is essential that our leaders lead rather than follow the hateful messages of the new demagogues." He added that no one should take for granted "the privilege of living in America." Mr. Douglas' humanitarianism was displayed not only in his choice of roles but in the messages of the films he produced. He said he loved the theme of "Lonely Are the Brave" that, "if you try to be an individual, society will crush you." He said he chose to play characters who were "part scoundrel," because "I don't find virtue photogenic." His philanthropic activities through the Douglas Foundation, created in 1964, included building 400 playgrounds in Los Angeles; creating the Douglas Family Early Childhood Center at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles; substantial underwriting of programs at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and establishing the Anne Douglas Center for Homeless Women, named for his wife. Mr. Douglas was born into poverty in Amster-

dam, New York, the son of illiterate Russian Jewish immigrants; his father was a ragman, a seller of discarded goods. His best-selling autobiography was *The Ragman's Son*, published in 1988. He knew anti-Semitism from an early age, but also knew he wanted to be an actor, changing his name from Isadore Demsky to Kirk Douglas and making his Broadway debut in 1941 as a singing Western Union messenger in "Spring Again." Known for his rugged good looks and dimpled chin, he received three Academy Award nominations. In 1996, the Academy honored his body of work with a Lifetime Achievement Oscar. America will long remember Kirk Douglas. His was a storied life.

HONORING PATRICK J. JOLLY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick J. Jolly for his dedicated service to our community as Napa County Veteran Services Officer.

Mr. Jolly was born in San Francisco and served in the Navy for twenty years. Following his service, he went on to help fellow veterans as a Veteran Services Officer for Sonoma County, where he stayed for three years. Afterwards, Mr. Jolly became a Napa County Veterans Services Officer, ensuring all veterans, surviving spouses and family members receive access to all benefits to which they are entitled. In this function, he has helped over 5,000 veterans and their families receive millions in benefits, one-time claims, and college fee waivers. Mr. Jolly was also instrumental in bringing a VA healthcare presence to Napa County, and has advocated for veterans throughout his career. After thirteen years of honorable community service, Mr. Jolly is retiring.

Mr. Jolly has served as President of the California Association of County Veteran Services Officers (CACVSO) as well as CACVSO Parliamentarian. He is also a Certified Veterans Advocates, a member of the American Legion, part of The Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He has been married to his wife, Kate Jolly, since 1977. He is known for his unique hobbies such as playing the bagpipe and brewing his own beer. A kind, compassionate, and knowledgeable member of our community, Mr. Jolly has served our district and our country for decades.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Jolly is the kind of citizen we should all strive to be. He has dedicated his life to service and to his fellow veterans. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor Patrick J. Jolly here today.

HONORING BENJAMIN AARON
PROBST

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Aaron

Probst. Benny is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1099, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benny has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Benny has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Benny has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Benny replaced the landscaping in front of the main building at Earnest Shepherd Youth Center in Liberty, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin Aaron Probst for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EARL
MEYER GOLDMAN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of longtime Concord resident, Earl Meyer Goldman.

Earl Goldman was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and along with his mother and brother, eventually came to California. Earl graduated from Albany High School and then UC Berkeley with a degree in business. After marrying, Earl and his wife moved to Concord where they raised their family.

In his professional life, Earl's entrepreneurial spirit led him down many different paths. He started Earl Goldman Insurance from his house, which he grew into a successful local business. He also owned a laundromat and co-owned a radio station.

Earl's passion for his community has left a mark on the City of Concord. He envisioned a revitalization of Concord's downtown Todos Santos Plaza, and not only worked with public officials to improve Concord's infrastructure, but also dedicated himself to the long process of expansion and redevelopment. In addition to that work, Earl also supported various organizations, including the Concord Junior Optimist baseball league, Mount Diablo Hospital, and Friends of Camp Concord. Most of all, Earl will be remembered for his positive attitude and the love he had for his community.

Earl Goldman was a cherished member of Concord and he will be missed.

RECOGNIZING PCWA GENERAL
MANAGER EINAR MAISCH

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise along with my colleague, Representative DOUG LAMALFA, to recognize Einar Maisch for his 34 years of service at the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA).

Einar's career as a civil engineer in the greater Sacramento area began immediately after his graduation from California State University, Sacramento. After stints at two local engineering firms, Einar joined PCWA in 1985, and his rapid ascension since then highlights his profound impact in serving the needs of the community.

Water resiliency and infrastructure are among the most pressing needs in our region, and Einar has never shied away from tackling the most challenging projects that certainly could not have been completed without his hard work and devotion.

Beginning his tenure at PCWA as a Senior Civil Engineer, Einar went on to serve as the Agency's Director of Strategic Affairs for fifteen years. His responsibilities in engaging in external matters included his participation in the Sacramento Area Water Forum and managing several large-scale water infrastructure projects critical to the region. These include the Penryn/Lincoln pipeline project, the expansion of the Foothill Water Treatment Plant, and the Stanford Ranch project, just to name a few.

Einar provided strategic planning, management, and oversight for PCWA's Cross-Basin Pipeline Project, L.L. Anderson Dam spillway modification project, American River Pump Station project, and relicensing of the Middle Fork American River Project, where he negotiated a new power sale contract and the renewal of PCWA's water supply contracts. All of this work has greatly expanded the Agency's status in the California energy market.

This extensive list of accomplishment led to him being selected as PCWA's General Manager in 2015, a role he has thrived in over the past five years. As General Manager, he worked to ensure PCWA's long-term viability as the local leader in water rights and economic prosperity by overseeing a clear and transparent budget process, increasing customer accessibility to the Agency, and expanding its regional and national influence on water issues. Throughout this long tenure, Einar has always prioritized the needs and interests of the customers and community.

Einar is now retiring after nearly 35 years of service at the Agency, where he took tremendous pride in serving the people of Placer County. His work will leave a lasting impact on water planning, resiliency, and management in Northern California for decades to come, and Representative LAMALFA and I could not be more thankful for all Einar has done. He will now be able to spend much more time traveling, playing golf, and spending time with his wife Susan, his son, daughter, stepdaughter, and two grandsons. We wish him the best of luck in his much-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF MARK
DAVIS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mark Davis in appreciation of his dedicated service to the people of Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District, specifically through his tireless work with Operation UNITE and the Eastern Kentucky PRIDE organization over the last two decades.

I count it a great honor to have had high-caliber individuals, like Mark, helping lead initiatives that I personally launched to meet dire needs across more than 40 counties in southern and eastern Kentucky. He's the type of individual who has sacrificed countless hours, executing a broad spectrum of tasks with his unique charisma, the utmost humility, a tireless reliability and sheer excellence.

Mark joined Eastern Kentucky PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment) in 2002 as a Field Representative. PRIDE is a grassroots non-profit organization that was launched to help clean-up the hill-sides, roadways, lakes and streams, across our beautiful Appalachian region in Kentucky. Thanks in-large-part to Mark's ambition, organizational skills, and drive, upwards of 30,000 volunteers have participated in litter clean-up campaigns every year to improve the environment. There has never been a task too great or too small for Mark. He was always the first to graciously give his time and energy for the greater good, whether it involved greeting volunteers at events and handing out trash bags, or working directly with state officials to clean up the largest illegal dumpsites in Eastern Kentucky, or educating students about the value of greenhouses and protecting our wetlands. While others discussed ways to improve our environment, Mark was outdoors getting the job done. PRIDE's work is where the rubber meets the road—and Mark could often be found pulling up his bootstraps to haul appliances from illegal dumpsites, transport volunteers to service sites, building outdoor classrooms, and finding every opportunity to make a difference every single day.

Mark's passion for PRIDE bled over to another powerful movement in our region, Operation UNITE, a holistic non-profit organization aimed at curbing the deadly opioid epidemic both in our region and nationwide. After faithfully volunteering for Camp UNITE, where he served as a mentor to at-risk middle school students, he joined the UNITE team in 2014 as the Youth Programs Coordinator, and later a Law Enforcement Liaison. In an effort to creatively raise drug-free awareness among our youth, Mark operated a state-of-the-art mobile education trailer and prevention program, called "On the Move," in partnership with the Kentucky Army National Guard and the Appalachian High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AHIDTA). Since 2013, approximately 40,000 students from schools in 43 counties and four states have participated in the interactive program. He also played a valuable role each year at the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, coordinating logistics for the event that has grown into the largest conference in the country aimed at saving lives and addressing the nation's opioid crisis through a multipronged approach.

Mark is the teammate you want to have in the fox hole with you when things get tough, and the comic relief you need on a difficult day. His dedication, his inspirational attitude, and perseverance have set the bar high for programs operated by PRIDE and UNITE. I'm grateful for the personal efforts that he has invested in the lives of countless students and families across Southern and Eastern Kentucky, and I wish him the very best success in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING EMILY
HERGENRIDER OF LAUREL

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Emily Hergenrider of Laurel for her resilience as she faces life's challenges and her leadership.

A senior at Laurel High School, Emily was born with 16 congenital heart defects and has had seven open-heart surgeries. They are a huge part of Emily's life, but she has not let them define her.

Emily faced one of her most challenging times in seventh grade. She had gone through her seventh open-heart surgery and was missing a lot of school. As a result, it was recommended she be held back for a year. Not wanting to do that, Emily refused to let the circumstances get the best of her, and instead used it as motivation.

Emily worked diligently to catch up in school, even as she recovered from surgery and attended numerous follow-up visits. Today, five years later, her hard work and drive have paid off. Emily is reaching her full potential and is expected to graduate in May.

In addition to her success in the classroom, Emily serves as president of the Laurel High School chapter of Future Farmers of America. She says she fell in love with agriculture because of her dad. She dreams of one day becoming a rancher and owning cattle. Emily says FFA, along with her other extracurricular activities, have motivated her to come to school even when she isn't feeling well.

Emily says she plans to continue her education and earn a degree in ag business or ag management. She even already has a few heads of her own cattle.

Madam Speaker, for her persistence and perseverance in the face of life's challenges and for her leadership and service, I recognize Emily Hergenrider of Laurel for her Spirit of Montana.

RECOGNIZING NACHA, ONE OF THE
2020 BEST PLACES TO WORK IN
VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and my colleague, Rep. JENNIFER WEXTON (VA-11), I rise to recognize Nacha, and to congratulate them on their recent designation as one of the 2020 Best Places to Work in Virginia by the Virginia Business and Best Companies Group. Determined by a statewide survey competition, the annual list honors the best places of employment in Virginia. A testament to their commitment to success in this area, this is the second consecutive year Nacha has been named to the list.

Nacha's designation as one of the 2020 Best Places to Work in Virginia is a fitting acknowledgement of their many contributions to Virginia's economy, workforce, and business community. Headquartered in Herndon, Virginia, Nacha proudly employs 66 Virginians,

and three of their 43 Direct Members are based in the Commonwealth: Navy Federal Credit Union, Capital One, and ePayResources.

Nacha serves as trustee of the Automated Clearing House (ACH) Network, enabling payments such as direct deposit and direct payment via ACH. Today, Nacha's work is more important than ever, as more than 80 percent of U.S. workers now receive their regular pay using Direct Deposit via ACH, and consumers now pay 800 million bills each month with Direct Payment via ACH. 24.7 billion ACH payments, valued at a total of \$55.8 trillion, moved across the ACH Network in 2019 alone, the fifth straight year to see a gain of more than one billion payments.

Rep. WEXTON and I are thrilled to recognize Nacha's commitment to creating and fostering an award-winning work environment in Northern Virginia, and we commend them on their efforts to strengthen the ACH Network. We are proud to represent in Congress many employees of one of the 2020 Best Places to Work in Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in recognizing Nacha's successes, and in congratulating them on the well-deserved honor of being named one of the 2020 Best Places to Work in Virginia.

HONORING RUDY CAMPBELL

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Rudy Campbell, former mayor of Tempe, who passed away on February 3, 2020 at the age of 96. Arizonans will remember him as a dedicated man who committed his life to serving his country and making Tempe a better place to work and live. Deeply committed to his community, Mayor Campbell had a long and storied history of public service.

Born in Oklahoma to migrant farmworkers, Campbell learned the early value and dignity of hard work. He forged his own path and worked every day to provide his parents and sister with the support they needed to succeed in their own lives. After serving in World War II, Campbell came to Arizona and made Tempe his home. He settled down to work and raised his family in Tempe with his wife, Greta. They had two children, four grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren together over their 76-year marriage.

Campbell took on many leadership roles throughout his decades of public service in the Tempe community. He served as President of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Arizona Highway Commission, and a member of the Tempe City Council. A champion of public education, Campbell advocated for accessible and affordable higher education for all during his service on the Arizona Board of Regents. In 1966, Campbell made history by becoming the first Mayor elected by the people of Tempe. His tenure leading the city served as a model for future mayors and will continue to inspire generations of leaders in Tempe and across Arizona.

As Mayor, Campbell worked tirelessly to expand and transform Tempe's infrastructure.

Campbell modernized Tempe's roads, highways, and bridges, leading the way for industry and accelerating economic growth in the region. His contributions to the city were invaluable and laid the foundation for modern-day Tempe.

His service as mayor and in the community led to the City of Tempe naming a park in his honor. Today, Campbell Park is a beloved place in our local community and a testament to his lifetime achievement. His legacy will continue to live on for years to come.

I thank Mayor Campbell for his service and Godspeed.

REMARKS AT THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ BY SURVIVOR MARIAN TURSKI

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, on January 27, world leaders gathered at the site of Auschwitz, the notorious Nazi death camp, where 1.1 million innocent people—960,000 of them Jews—were systematically murdered during the Second World War. They joined survivors to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the camp's liberation by Allied forces on January 27, 1945. Among the survivors who spoke at that commemoration was Marian Turcki, a Polish-Jewish journalist and historian who has been a global advocate for Holocaust remembrance and human rights—and who marched in 1965 with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from Selma to Montgomery.

His powerful words stirred the souls of those gathered on that solemn day. I have read them, and I want to share them with my colleagues so that they too will be moved. All Americans ought to read his account and his warning to future generations that we must heed the lessons of the Holocaust and the rise of the Nazi movement that brought it about. Therefore, I include in the RECORD his remarks.

REMARKS BY MARIAN TURSKI, AUSCHWITZ,
JANUARY 27, 2020

Dear friends, I am one of the few still alive of those who remained in this place almost to the very last moment before liberation. My so-called evacuation from Auschwitz commenced on the 18th of January. Over the next six and a half days it proved a death march for more than half of my fellow inmates, with whom I marched in a column of six hundred. In all likelihood, I will not make it to the next commemoration. Such are the laws of nature.

Please therefore forgive me the emotion in what I will now say. This is what I want to say above all to my daughter, my granddaughter, who I thank for being present here, to my grandson: it concerns those who are the peers of my daughter, of my grandchildren; a new generation, particularly the youngest, those who are younger even than them.

When the Second World War broke out, I was a teenager. My father was a soldier who had received a serious gunshot wound to the lung. It was a dramatic situation for our family. My mother came from the Polish-Lithuanian-Belarusian border, where armies had swept back and forth, plundering, looting, raping, burning villages so as to

leave nothing for those who came after them. You might say I knew first-hand from my father and mother what war is. Yet despite everything, although only 20 or 25 years had passed, it seemed as distant as the Polish uprisings of the 19th century; as distant as the French Revolution.

When I meet young people today, I realize that after 75 years they seem a little weary of this topic: war, the Holocaust, genocide. I understand them. That is why I promise you, young people, that I will not tell you about my suffering. I will not tell you about my experiences, my two death marches, how I ended the war weighing 32kg, exhausted, on the verge of death. I will not talk about the worst of it, that is, the tragedy of parting with loved ones after the selection, when you sensed what awaited them. No, I won't talk about these things. I would like to talk to you about my daughter's generation, and my grandchildren's generation.

I see that President of Austria Alexander Van der Bellen is among us. You will remember, Mr. President, when you hosted me and the leaders of the International Auschwitz Committee and we talked about those times. At one point you used the phrase: 'Auschwitz ist nicht vom Himmel gefallen.' Auschwitz did not descend from the sky. This is, to use a phrase of ours, an obvious obviousness.

Of course it didn't descend from the sky. Yet while this may seem a banal enough statement, it contains a profound and extremely important cognitive shortcut. Let us shift our imagination for a moment to Berlin in the early 1930s. We are almost in the city center, in a district called Bayerisches Viertel, the Bavarian Quarter. Three stops from Ku'damm; from the zoo. Where the Bayerischer Platz metro is today. And here, one day in the early 1930s, a sign appears on the benches: 'Jews may not sit here.' 'Okay,' you might think, 'this is unpleasant, it's unfair, it's not nice, but after all there are so many benches around here, you can sit somewhere else, it's fine.'

This was a district inhabited by German intelligentsia of Jewish origin. Albert Einstein, Nobel laureate Nelly Sachs, the industrialist, politician and Foreign Minister Walter Altenau lived there. One day a sign appears at the swimming pool. 'Jews are forbidden to enter this swimming pool.' 'Okay,' you might say, 'this is unpleasant, but Berlin has so many places to swim, so many lakes, canals—it's practically Venice—so you can go and swim somewhere else.'

Then another sign appears. 'Jews are not allowed to belong to German choral associations.' So what? They want to sing and make music? Let them gather together and sing by themselves. Then another sign. 'Jewish, non-Aryan children are not allowed to play with German, Aryan children.' So they can play by themselves. And another. 'We sell bread and other food products to Jews only after 5pm.' Okay, now this is a real hindrance because there's less choice, but in the end you can still shop after 5pm.

And here we start to get used to the idea that you can exclude someone. That you can stigmatize someone. That you can turn someone into an alien. Slowly, gradually, day by day, people begin to get used to it—victims, perpetrators, witnesses, those we call bystanders—all begin to get used to the idea that a minority that gave the world Einstein, Nelly Sachs, Heinrich Heine and the Mendelssohns is different, that these people can be pushed to the edges of society, that they are strangers, that they spread germs and start epidemics. These terrible, dangerous thoughts are the beginning of what happens next.

The regime of the time plays things cleverly, meeting the demands of workers. The first of May wasn't celebrated in Germany

before? Never mind, here you go. On leisure days, they introduce Kraft durch Freude—Strength Through Joy. Organized holidays for the workers. They vanquish unemployment and play on the strings of national dignity: ‘Germany, rise from the shame of Versailles. Restore your pride.’ At the same time, the regime sees that the people are gradually overwhelmed by the anesthesia of indifference. They stop reacting to evil. And so, the regime can afford to accelerate the process of evil.

From there, things accelerate. A ban on employing Jews. A ban on emigration. Then the evil spreads to the ghettos: to Riga; to Kaunas; to my ghetto, the *tódz* ghetto—Litzmannstadt. Most of those there are sent to Kulmhof—Chetmno—where they will be murdered in gas vans, and the rest are sent to Auschwitz, where they will be murdered with Zyklon B in modern gas chambers. And here we see the truth of what President Van der Bellen said: ‘Auschwitz didn’t suddenly descend from the sky.’ Auschwitz crept up, pattered with small steps, came closer and closer, until the things that happened here began.

My daughter, my granddaughter, peers of my daughter, peers of my granddaughter—perhaps you do not know the name of Primo Levi. Primo Levi was one of the most well-known prisoners of this camp. He once coined the phrase: ‘It happened, therefore it can happen, it can happen everywhere.’

I will share with you one personal memory. In 1965, I was in the United States of America on a scholarship during the fight for human rights, for civil rights, for rights for African Americans. I had the honor of taking part in the march from Selma to Montgomery with Martin Luther King. When my fellow marchers found that I had been in Auschwitz, they asked me ‘Do you think that such a thing could only happen in Germany? Or could it happen elsewhere?’ I told them: ‘It could happen to you. If civil rights are violated, if minority rights are not respected and are abolished. If the law is violated, as happened in Selma, then such things could happen.’ What to do? You must do what you can. If you can defend the constitution, defend your rights, defend your democratic order, defend the rights of minorities—then you can overcome this.

Most of us Europeans come from the Judeo-Christian tradition. Believers and non-believers alike accept the Ten Commandments as the canon of our civilization. A friend of mine, Roman Kent, the president of the International Auschwitz Committee, who spoke here five years ago during the previous commemoration, could not be here today. He coined the ‘Eleventh Commandment,’ which stems from the experience of the Shoah, the Holocaust, the terrible epoch of contempt. It runs thus: ‘Thou shalt not be indifferent.’

And this is what I want to tell my daughter, what I want to tell my grandchildren. My daughter’s peers, my grandchildren’s peers, wherever they might live, in Poland, Israel, America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe. This is very important. Thou shalt not be indifferent in the face of lies about history. Thou shalt not be indifferent when the past is distorted for today’s political needs. Thou shalt not be indifferent when any minority faces discrimination. Majority rule is the essence of democracy, but democracy also means that minority rights must be protected. Thou shalt not be indifferent when any authority violates the existing social contract. Be faithful to this commandment. To the Eleventh Commandment: thou shalt not be indifferent.

Because if you are indifferent, you will not even notice it when upon your own heads,

and upon the heads of your descendants, another Auschwitz descends from the sky.

HONORING THE UPVALLEY FAMILY CENTERS OF NAPA COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The UpValley Family Centers of Napa County for 20 years of exceptional public service.

Since 1999, UpValley Family Centers has been the primary trusted resource for low-income and vulnerable households in Napa County. By partnering with different organizations in our community, it has built an impressive infrastructure of over 40 regional agencies that work together to provide access to a variety of services in our community. Such services include education and mentorship initiatives, immigration assistance, tax preparation, substance-use prevention programs, and case management services.

Since 2005, the Family Centers have participated in the Internal Revenue Service’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, making free tax-preparation assistance available for Napa residents. To date, their VITA program has brought more than \$5 million in state and federal refunds back to our community. The UpValley Family Centers also provides licensed staff able to give immigration assistance to non-citizen residents, including naturalization assistance and permanent residence renewals. UpValley Centers have become an irreplaceable resource to our community and today, it serves thousands of individuals across Napa’s region.

UpValley Family Center’s commitment to serving our community is truly remarkable. In addition to running programs that help working families build economic stability, UpValley Resource Centers provides life-saving disaster response and recovery services. These services include updating state fire resources like CalFire, helping people apply for disaster unemployment assistance, and bilingual information about disaster assistance available to all community members.

Madam Speaker, the UpValley Family Centers of Napa County is a dedicated source of support for northern Napa that has made great contributions to better our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor this organization here today.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RICHARD WAYNE PARKS

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one of North Carolina’s own, Mr. Richard Wayne Parks and I congratulate him on being the recipient of the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce 2019 Distinguished Citizen Award, Mr. Richard Wayne Parks.

Mr. Parks’ deep dedication to service and community protection led him to spend over 30 years in the law enforcement field in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. His experience includes extensive expertise through his work with the Rocky Mount Police Department, Nash County Sheriffs Office, Rocky Mount Police Department and the Supreme Court of North Carolina Marshals Offices.

Richard Parks experience also includes a wide range of training and education with institutions such as the Coastal Plains Law Enforcement Academy, Police Law Institute (PLI) and the FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association. He has also taken a Management Course for Law Enforcement Executives and was awarded the Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate and the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate.

Mr. Parks demonstrated strong leadership skills through his state-level law enforcement program participation which includes involvement between 2006 and 2010 with the NC FOP State Executive Board and the NC FOC State Legislative Committee and also his involvement with the North State Law Enforcement Officers Association, NC Peace Officers Memorial Day Steering Committee and the NC Police Executive’s Associations; all of which he serves as a current participant.

Rocky Mount, Nash County, Edgecombe County and the State of North Carolina have all benefited from Mr. Parks’ advancement as a law enforcement professional, and also from his selfless commitment to community service. He has a remarkable track-record of service participation through his current membership with the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police, North Carolina Peace Officers Memorial Day Ceremony Steering Committee, Jim Dickens First Responders Appreciation Day Committee, NC Governor’s Task Force on Safer Schools, North Carolina Police Executive’s Association, Nash County Farmers Market Advisory Board and the Westridge Swim Club Board of Directors. As referred to by many of his colleagues; “Ricky” also serves as a member of the North State Law Enforcement Officers Association. As the only law enforcement association that minority officers could join when it was formed in 1952, Ricky Parks’ enlisted in the Association to demonstrate that the inclusion of all people, regardless of race or gender and in all levels of law enforcement would lead to better and more productive law enforcement in all of the local communities across the State.

With a long and strong history of local and state professional law enforcement experience, Richard Wayne Parks has earned the deep respect of his law enforcement colleagues. He is greatly admired for his leadership and work as a law enforcement professional, his experience and expertise and his efforts to promote unity among law enforcement officers regardless of the branch of service. His efforts have surpassed law enforcement support through his work to serve the needs of domestic abuse victims, those in need of substance abuse treatment, care for the homeless and numerous other community education and family care needs.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the remarkable achievements of one of North Carolina’s own, Mr. Richard Wayne Parks and I congratulate him on being the recipient of the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen Award.

RECOGNIZING TED HILLMER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. LONG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ted Hillmer, Jr.'s 17 years of service as superintendent of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Greene County, Missouri. The park commemorates the Battle of Wilson's Creek, first major American Civil War engagement west of the Mississippi River on August 10, 1861. Hillmer's first experience at the park was in 1988, whereas project engineer he oversaw the construction of a brand-new visitor center for the 2,100-acre national park, southeast of Republic, Missouri.

Hillmer later returned to the park in 2003, where he worked for 17 years as park superintendent. He leaves the historic battlefield knowing that a new, vastly-improved, and expanded visitors center, which he oversaw the design and planning, is scheduled for completion sometime in summer. The expanded visitor's center will include a wider array of artifacts from the battle and a far more expansive retelling of the almost 5-hour long battle that claimed 2500 lives.

Hillmer has overseen a great increase in visitors and interest to the park since he became superintendent. Last year saw 220,067 people visit the historic park, including 3 classes from the Fort Leonard Wood. Without Hillmer's oversight, or the staff and experts working to meticulously maintain the surviving documents and artifacts of the battle, these lessons would have been lost to history.

Madam Speaker, the passion and hard work shown by Ted Hillmer, Jr. should be an example to all of us. The legacy Ted Hillmer leaves behind will not be forgotten, both by the staff of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield as well as the surrounding communities who cherish the historic site. I hope we can all join together in remembering him for his service, not only to the community, but to the continued remembrance of the victims of our civil war.

THE TEMPORARY REAUTHORIZATION AND STUDY OF THE EMERGENCY SCHEDULING OF FENTANYL ANALOGUES ACT (S. 3201)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 3201, The Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act.

Synthetic opioids such as fentanyl have caused tens of thousands of deaths in recent years and Congress has an obligation to continue to offer solutions to this ongoing public health crisis. Unfortunately, the measures taken in S. 3201 go too far in expanding mandatory minimum sentencing and would place further burdens on our already-strained criminal justice system.

S. 3201 extends the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) "class-wide" scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, causing more

individuals to be prosecuted seeking burdensome and ineffective mandatory minimum sentences. This expansion of DEA authority raises civil liberty concerns and has the potential of reversing meaningful criminal justice reform.

In 2018, I was proud to vote in favor of the First Step Act (P.L. 115-391), bipartisan reform that overwhelmingly passed Congress and was eventually signed into law. Among other things, this bill addressed the growing bipartisan consensus that mandatory minimums are unsustainably costly and counterproductive. Rather than building on this success, S. 3201 expands outdated mandatory minimum sentences even for those caught with trace amounts of illicit fentanyl-related substances. This issue is particularly burdensome because according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, roughly 85 percent of individuals charged with trafficking fentanyl were unaware that that they were in fact in possession of the illegal substance.

All levels of government must continue to strive towards removing illicit fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances from our communities. However, any legislation that addresses this issue cannot simply overcorrect the problem and must instead form a sustainable drug enforcement strategy.

Madam Speaker, I urged my colleagues to vote against The Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HOWARD SKAVDAHL

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I honor the life of Howard Skavdahl, who recently passed away.

He was a native of Harrison, in Nebraska's Third District, and is laid to rest with the select men and women of our armed services buried in Arlington Cemetery.

He earned this honor through his valued service to our nation in World War II.

During World War II, Howard Skavdahl served our country in England, France, and Germany as a meteorologist in the Army Air Corps.

He continued in the Reserves until retiring in 1965 as a Major.

Major Skavdahl truly embodies our "greatest generation." He had a lifelong passion for aeronautics.

After completing his active duty military service, he completed his Masters Degree at the California Institute of Technology, and brought his aeronautical expertise to the private sector at the Rand Corporation and Boeing.

While at Boeing, he was chief technical engineer for two NASA airplanes, and worked on propulsion systems for the 747, 757, 767, and 777.

He retired in 1990 as the head of Boeing's Propulsion Research Department.

Besides his accomplishments, Mr. Skavdahl was known for his compassion for his family and friends.

Throughout his life, he touched countless others, and is survived by his three sons, ten grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

We are grateful for his service to our country.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANCES ANN LUTCHER THEATER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Frances Ann Lutcher Theater for Performing Arts on its 40th anniversary. The 1,500 seat, world-class, non-profit performing arts center was opened by the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation on February 7, 1980, with a sold-out performance by the great pianist Liberace!

I am proud to say that this outstanding theater is located in the 36th Congressional District in the beautiful city of Orange, Texas. The Lutcher Theater is the largest Performing Arts Series from Houston to New Orleans, with annual attendance of approximately 30,000 adults and children. In its first 40 seasons, the theater has brought 1,026,285 patrons through their doors to experience a variety of events from Broadway to dance recitals, Willie Nelson to Blue Man Group, Riverdance to local reading and declamation contests.

A recipient of multiple grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Lutcher Theater most recently received a grant to produce a professional theater event for secondary students from Southeast Texas. This event will allow students to experience the performing arts world and potentially discover a life-long love of theater. Students can see the literature from their classrooms in action, for a full 'page to stage' experience, featuring professionally trained actors and actresses. The Lutcher Theater creates the opportunity to share the love of art and literature with the next generation.

This theater is only one of four theaters in Texas having received with the Kennedy Center Partners in Education designation. The Kennedy Center Partnership was established in 2003 to bring nationally accredited teaching artists to work with local educators, training them how to integrate the arts into their classroom curriculum.

Embracing their mission, Lutcher Theater is committed to providing professional entertainment for the enlightenment and cultural growth of residents living in Southeast Texas.

For 40 seasons, the Lutcher Theater has enriched the region with invaluable resources and opportunities for the study and enjoyment of the performing arts. I thank them for their continued support and dedication to both the city of Orange and Southeast Texas.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF EIZO KOBAYASHI

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of long-time

community member, Eizo Kobayashi as he celebrates his 88th birthday, a milestone of special esteem in the Japanese culture.

Eizo Kobayashi was born in Oakland, California in 1932. During World War II, Eizo's family was interned and moved to the Topaz Relocation Center in Utah. As a 10-year-old Japanese American, Eizo was faced with institutionalized racism, the experiences of which would stay with him throughout his life. His memories during the three years his family was interned include his father being hospitalized and subsequently moved to another location, while the rest of his family remained in Utah. Eizo would go out into the desert and collect shells, crystals, arrowheads and other artifacts he could find. Upon being released from the internment camp, the Kobayashi family moved back to California where Eizo graduated from Piedmont High School. He went on to study at the University of California, Berkeley where he received a Bachelor of Arts and a Community College Lifetime Teaching Credential. After graduation, Eizo served in the U.S. Army before turning his focus to law enforcement. In 1956, Eizo became a Deputy Probation Officer in the Adult Division of the Alameda County Probation Department. He later began working for the California Department of Corrections in 1962 and moved up the ranks until he retired as a Unit Supervisor and District Administrator in 1995.

While tirelessly pursuing professional success, Eizo always understood the importance of family and community. Eizo and his wife, Mary, wed in 1965 and moved to Concord, California where they raised two daughters, Keiko and Tamiko. Not only is Eizo a dedicated family man, but he is also passionate about his community. He has been the President of the Diablo Valley Chapter for the Japanese American Citizens League, the Vice President of the Unity Foundation in Concord, President of the Concord Senior Citizens Club, and a board member of the Concord Ambassadors. Additionally, in 1992 Eizo was appointed to the Police Facility Blue Ribbon Task Force. Eizo's connection to the local community is also exemplified by his contributions as a former columnist for the *Contra Costa Times*. Eizo continues his work to this day serving the homeless at the Concord Adult Homeless Shelter and is an appointed member of the Contra Costa County Merit Board, a seat which he has held for the last 30 years.

Eizo has always been a civic leader and has received the 1993 Humanitarian Award from the Unity Foundation, the 1994 Civil Rights Advocacy Award from the Concord Human Relations Commission, and the 1996 City of Concord Mayor's Award, among other awards.

Eizo's influence and strong moral character continue to foster a positive impact in the community. As a longtime friend and inspiration, please join me in congratulating Eizo on his 88th birthday and his life of service and leadership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll

Call No. 35; YEA on Roll Call No. 36; and YEA on Roll Call No. 37.

HONORING NANCY DOBBS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Representative JARED HUFFMAN to recognize Nancy Dobbs for years of exceptional public service to the people of Northern California and to honor her at the Northern California Public Media 35th Anniversary Celebration.

Nancy Dobbs was born in Los Angeles, California. She earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Sonoma State University. She has dedicated her career to helping shape the health, education and civic engagement of the North Bay. She has developed a variety of TV and radio programs to educate and encourage people to explore our community. She has always believed that media can act as a springboard for action to improve our region and our relationships with our neighbors.

Ms. Dobbs is the Founder, President and CEO of Northern California Public Media, which works to empower individuals to explore their world with informative television, radio and other media programs. For 38 years, Ms. Dobbs has worked tirelessly to serve the Bay Area with a reliable news outlet and accurate news coverage. In 1994, she launched KRCB FM Radio 91, which is celebrating its 25th year of broadcasting. Among her many accomplishments are board memberships with Roseland University Prep, North Bay Leadership Council and California Public Television as the chairwoman. In addition, she has played a crucial role in the creation of the TV series "Natural Heroes," which documents successful local efforts to be environmentally conscious. Her commitment to enriching the education of our youth through insightful media programs is truly unprecedented and deeply appreciated by our community.

Madam Speaker, Nancy Dobbs is a dedicated seeker of truth who has made great contributions to better our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF LEO GOLDNER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of an extraordinary man, Leo Goldner. Leo lived a full life, brought joy to so many, and served as a valued member of the Toledo community. Today his family and friends gather to eulogize him, and I would like to read his obituary into the RECORD on this day:

"Leo Goldner was born in Toledo Hospital on July 3rd, 1923, son of Herman and Margret Fleichochoer Goldner and brother to his beloved sister. For many years the Goldner's

lived above their family dry goods store called the Chicago Bargain House.

"He lived in a Hungarian immigrant neighborhood in East Toledo and learned to speak fluent Hungarian. He was an avid Stamp collector and a Yo Yo champion.

"Leo was the only Jewish boy in his elementary and high school and learned to defend himself against neighborhood bullies by learning Judo and quickly worked his way up to Black Belt 5th degree status. He had release parochial time in elementary school, but instead of taking two buses to go to his synagogue, he agreed at the request of the Monsignor of St. Stephen's Church to become an altar boy at St. Stephens Church, an interesting choice for a Jewish boy.

"There are pictures of Leo hanging in Waite High School and in St. Stephen's Church where he donated the bronze statue of St. Stephen, which still stands there out front today on Genesee Street. He graduated from Waite High School as a member of the National Honors Society.

"Leo attended the University of Toledo to study pre-law, was on the wrestling and tennis team, and joined the Lambda Chi fraternity. Upon the invasion of Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. There, as a lowly private, he was eventually sent to officer's candidate school to become a Lieutenant.

"In the Army, he served under General George C. Marshall as chief of staff and helped liberate the Philippines under General Douglas MacArthur where he was injured in hand to hand combat. He had no less than 12 medals and five decorations, including the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

"He served as director of USO Camp Shows in the Western Pacific after being wounded in battle. He was an expert Magician and Hypnotist.

"During the time he was an infantry officer, he used two three day passes to marry the love of his life Marian Rachel Baron, to whom he was married for 76 years.

"After being discharged from the Army, he worked at the family dry goods store, but really wanted to have a store of his own. He accepted a job offer from his brother-in-law, Jerry Baron at Baron Steel Company. There he flourished as a salesman, making an unheard-of million dollars for the firm his very first year. Later, he and his brother-in-law Sidney Baron, started Tyler Steel, in 1953. Two years later, Leo started Parker Steel Company, which today is the number one distributor of metric metals in the nation.

Leo and Marian began their married life in a house on Vermont Street in Toledo. In 1955 they built a home in Ottawa Hills. He included in the home a Theater room where he could perform magic tricks.

He was past president of the Association of Steel Distributors and a founding member of Magician Ring 68, Toledo, Ohio. He was the longest living member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians (where he was awarded the Order of Merlin), which he joined on his 16th birthday.

Leo and his wife Marian were founding members of the Toledo Chapter of Hillel at the University of Toledo. He did hundreds of Hypnosis demonstrations benefiting Waite High School and raised over \$200,000 for scholarships.

For well over 34 years, he was the State of Israel Bond Chairman for NW Ohio and traveled to Israel over 20 times. He was on the National Board of Myasthenia Gravis Foundation, the Darlington House, (home for the aged) the Elks Club, the Kiwanis, a 32nd degree Mason, the Damaseus Lodge, as well as a member of Temple B'nai Israel, Temple Shomer Emunim, Congregation Etz Chayim, and the American Israel Policy Conference.

"Leo was also a member of the American Society of Clinical Hypnotists, the National

Guild of Hypnotists Gold Baton Group at Toledo Symphony Orchestra, the President's Council of the Toledo Museum of Art, and the Ohio Governor's Club.

"He is listed in Who's Who in America and is a member of the Jewish Community Center, where he taught Judo for many years. He was an avid boater and fisherman.

"Leo was President of Parker Steel Company, a board member of Temple Shomer Emunim, Couples Club Co-chair, and Chairman of the board of the Footlighters' Club of South Florida which raises money for indigent entertainers and musicians. He and Marian had many joyous years at the family

cottage, the Squeezum Inn, on Kelleys Island.

"Leo and Marian spent many winters in their home in the Florida Keys, before moving to Aventura, FL for the last 16 years.

"When asked if he had any regrets, Leo said:

'Not really, I really don't have any regrets. I've lived my life enjoying every minute. I've tried to enjoy every minute. I don't know when it's going to end, but I don't want anyone to feel sorry for me when I'm gone. I've enjoyed every minute and accomplished everything I ever wanted to do. As far as I'm concerned, they can dance and celebrate a life well lived at my funeral.'

"Leo is survived by his wife Marian; his four children, Paul (Linda Bender, Sandra Soifer), Harriet (aka Camryn Lee), Marcia Alter and Janet Killam (Michael); his grandchildren, Andrea DeMar (David), Mark Goldner, Sharon Tipping (Michael), Olivia Potash (Daniel), and Jordan Killam; and his great-grandchildren, Lauren, Noah and Rebecca DeMar, Talia, Emma, and Abigail Tipping and Omri Potash."

Leo Goldner was a fine man and will be remembered admirably by all those who knew him. We offer his family and friends our prayers and hope that they find comfort in the wonderful memories of what Leo meant to each of the people who shared in his life.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate met at 11:30:14 a.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 11:30:45 a.m. until 3 p.m., on Monday, February 10, 2020.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 30 public bills, H.R. 5768–5797; 1 private bill, H.R. 5798; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 88 and H. Res. 834–837, were introduced. **Pages H934–36**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H937**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1494, to strengthen partnerships between historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions and the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–393, Part 1); and

H.R. 5273, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to increase to 100 percent the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems to enhance border security, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–394). **Page H934**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H851**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:43 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H855**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Monsignor Kevin Sullivan, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, New York, NY. **Pages H855–56**

Question of Privilege: Representative Granger rose to a question of the privileges of the House and sub-

mitted a resolution. Upon examination of the resolution, the Chair determined that the resolution qualified. Subsequently, the House agreed to the Hoyer motion to table H. Res. 832, raising a question of the privileges of the House, by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 38. **Pages H868–69**

Protecting the Right to Organize Act: The House passed H.R. 2474, to amend the National Labor Relations Act, the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959, by a recorded vote of 224 ayes to 194 noes, Roll No. 50. **Pages H879–H928**

Rejected the Kevin Hern (OK) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 195 ayes to 223 noes, Roll No. 49. **Pages H925–27**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–392, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. **Pages H895–98**

Agreed to:

Norcross amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that requires that pre-election hearings before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) are conducted on a day-to-day basis; **Page H900**

Hayes amendment (No. 7 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that codifies the current precedent of the National Labor Relations Board governing

voluntary recognition of a union by an employer which ensures collective bargaining between the union and employer can proceed for a reasonable period of time (one year) without requiring an intervening election;

Pages H904–05

Stevens amendment (No. 9 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that directs the GAO to conduct a report on sectoral bargaining in other countries;

Pages H907–08

Vargas amendment (No. 13 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that requires regional directors to transmit the Notice of Election at the same time as the Direction of Election; both the Notice and the Direction must be transmitted electronically—including by email or fax—and if neither are possible, must be transmitted by overnight mail;

Pages H914–15

Tlaib amendment (No. 14 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that requires employers to post a Notice of a Petition for Election within two days after the NLRB notifies an employer and union about a pre-election hearing, thereby restoring the 2014 Election Rule;

Pages H915–17

Lawrence amendment (No. 15 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that eliminates the waiting period for union elections and returns the requirement that NLRB's regional directors schedule elections as "early as practicable"; ensures that the election will happen no later than 20 days after it's directed, unless extraordinary circumstances warrant otherwise;

Pages H917–18

Stevens amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that clarifies that the ABC test included in the PRO Act does not preempt any State laws governing the wages, work hours, workers' compensation, or unemployment insurance of employees (by a recorded vote of 241 ayes to 178 noes, Roll No. 41);

Pages H898–99, H920

Wild amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that clarifies that this bill shall not be construed to affect the privacy of employees with respect to voters' lists provided to labor organizations by employers pursuant to elections directed by the Board (by a recorded vote of 242 ayes to 178 noes, Roll No. 44);

Pages H902–03, H922

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 11 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that provides whistleblower protections to employees who report violations of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA); covers employees of employers as well as employees of labor unions (by a recorded vote of 404 ayes to 18 noes, Roll No. 47); and

Pages H910–13, H924

Rouda amendment (No. 16 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that clarifies that nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the jurisdictional

standards of the NLRB with respect to small businesses (by a recorded vote of 249 ayes to 173 noes, Roll No. 48).

Pages H918–20, H924–25

Rejected:

Keller amendment (No. 8 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that sought to strike provisions of H.R. 2474 that allow intermittent strikes and that makes it illegal for employers to replace striking workers permanently;

Pages H905–07

Rooney (FL) amendment (No. 12 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that sought to allow employees to petition for a union certification election when fewer than 50% of current "unit members" were members during the last election;

Pages H913–14

Foxx amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that sought to strike provision requiring that employers turn over employees' personal information to a labor union within two days of the National Labor Relations Board ordering a representation election (by a recorded vote of 190 ayes to 229 noes, Roll No. 42);

Pages H899–H900, H920–21

David P. Roe (TN) amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that sought to strike provision allowing unions to be certified without winning a secret ballot election under certain circumstances and replaces with a requirement that all unions win a secret-ballot election in order to be certified (by a recorded vote of 187 ayes to 235 noes, Roll No. 43);

Pages H900–02, H921–22

Allen amendment (No. 6 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that sought to strike provision overturning state right-to-work laws (by a recorded vote of 187 ayes to 232 noes, Roll No. 45); and

Pages H903–04, H922–23

Meadows amendment (No. 10 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–392) that sought to strike provisions that impair States' ability to enact right-to-work laws (by a recorded vote of 186 ayes to 235 noes, Roll No. 46).

Pages H908–10, H923–24

H. Res. 833, the rule providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 826) and the bills (H.R. 2474) and (H.R. 5687) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 40, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 39.

Pages H859–68, H869–70

Expressing disapproval of the Trump administration's harmful actions towards Medicaid: The House agreed to H. Res. 826, expressing disapproval of the Trump administration's harmful actions towards Medicaid, by a yea-and-nay vote of 223 yeas to 190 nays, Roll No. 51.

Pages H870–78, H928

H. Res. 833, the rule providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 826) and the bills (H.R. 2474) and (H.R. 5687) was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 40, after

the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 39.

Pages H859–68, H869–70

Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University: Representative Shalala. Page H931

Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Representative Thompson (MS). Page H931

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and ten recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H868–69, H869, H869–70, H920, H920–21, H921–22, H922, H922–23, H923–24, H924, H924–25, H926–27, H927–28, and H928. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Committee Meetings

NON TRIBAL PUBLIC WITNESS DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Non Tribal Public Witness Day”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

U.S. STRATEGIC COMMAND

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled “U.S. Strategic Command”. Testimony was heard from Admiral Charles A. Richard, Commander, U.S. Strategic Command. This hearing was closed.

NON TRIBAL PUBLIC WITNESS DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Non Tribal Public Witness Day”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SOLVING AMERICA’S CHILD CARE CRISIS: SUPPORTING PARENTS, CHILDREN, AND THE ECONOMY

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled “Solving America’s Child Care Crisis: Supporting Parents, Children, and the Economy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CLEARING THE AIR: LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE CARBON CAPTURE, UTILIZATION AND STORAGE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change held a hearing entitled “Clearing the Air: Legislation to Promote Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS OR ALLOWING CONSUMER ABUSE? A SEMI-ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Protecting Consumers or Allowing Consumer Abuse? A Semi-Annual Review of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau”. Testimony was heard from Kathy Kraninger, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

FAKE IT TILL THEY MAKE IT: HOW BAD ACTORS USE ASTROTURFING TO MANIPULATE REGULATORS, DISENFRANCHISE CONSUMERS AND SUBVERT THE RULEMAKING PROCESS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Fake It Till They Make It: How Bad Actors Use Astroturfing to Manipulate Regulators, Disenfranchise Consumers and Subvert the Rulemaking Process”. Testimony was heard from Seto Bagdoyan, Director, Forensic Audits and Investigative Service, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

ABOUT FACE: EXAMINING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY’S USE OF FACIAL RECOGNITION AND OTHER BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGIES, PART II

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “About Face: Examining the Department of Homeland Security’s Use of Facial Recognition and Other Biometric Technologies, Part II”. Testimony was heard from John Wagner, Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security; Peter Mina, Deputy Officer for Programs and Compliance, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security; and Charles Romine, Director of the Information Technology Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

CITIZENS UNITED AT 10: THE CONSEQUENCES FOR DEMOCRACY AND POTENTIAL RESPONSES BY CONGRESS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “Citizens United at 10: The Consequences for Democracy and Potential Responses by Congress”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Deutch and Jayapal; Ellen Weintraub, Commissioner, Federal Election Commission; and public witnesses.

A THREAT TO AMERICA’S CHILDREN: THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S PROPOSED CHANGES TO BROAD BASED CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy held a hearing entitled “A Threat to America’s Children: The Trump Administration’s Proposed Changes to Broad Based Categorical Eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

A THREAT TO AMERICA’S CHILDREN: THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S PROPOSAL TO UNDERMINE PROTECTIONS FROM MERCURY AIR TOXICS STANDARDS

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “A Threat to America’s Children: The Trump Administration’s Proposal to Undermine Protections from Mercury Air Toxics Standards”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS: HOW CHILDCARE IS IMPORTANT FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship held a hearing entitled “Taking Care of Business: How Childcare is Important for Regional Economies”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ASSESSING THE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF TRIBES, FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES, AND U.S. TERRITORIES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled “Assessing the Transportation Needs of Tribes, Federal Land Management Agencies, and U.S. Territories”. Testimony was heard from Nelson Petty, Jr., Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Public Works, U.S. Virgin Islands; Christopher B.

French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Aron Reif, Transportation Program Manager, Office of Acquisition and Property Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on H.R. 5052, the “WAVES Act”; legislation on the Class Evaluation Act; legislation on the Edith Norris Rogers Improvement; legislation on the For Profit Conversions; legislation on the GI Bill Comparison Tool Data MOU; legislation on the Home Loan Disaster Legislation; legislation on the Increase in Frequency of Benefits under Automobile Assistance Programs; legislation on the VET–TEC Guard/Reserve Fix; legislation on the VET–TEC Terminal Leave Fix; legislation on the Authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Provide or Assist in Providing Second Vehicles Adapted for Operation by Disabled; legislation on the Electronic Certificates of Eligibility; legislation on the Liability for Transferred Education Benefits; legislation on the STEM Eligibility; and legislation on the VET–TEC Improvement Act. Testimony was heard from Charmain Bogue, Executive Director for Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

TRADE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Trade held a hearing entitled “Trade Infrastructure for Global Competitiveness”. Testimony was heard from Greg Richardson, Deputy General Manager and Chief Financial Officer, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Georgia; Curtis Robinhold, Executive Director, Port of Portland, Oregon; and Ric Campo, Chairman, the Port Commission, the Port of Houston Authority, Texas; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, February 10

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, February 7

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of H.R. 5687—Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief and Puerto Rico Disaster Tax Relief Act, 2020.

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