



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

No. 160

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 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,  
September 16, 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 9:50 a.m.

### IN MEMORY OF DARYL ANN PENNINGTON

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I share the news that a great friend and public servant has passed away.

Daryl Ann Pennington was a dear friend, trusted member of my staff, and a tireless advocate for Maryland's Fifth District.

For the past 12 years, Daryl served as a caseworker in my office in Greenbelt,

Maryland, serving Prince George's County, Calvert County, and Anne Arundel County. Earlier, she had worked for former Maryland State Senator Ulysses Currie.

Mr. Speaker, she knew the Fifth District and its communities better than almost anyone, and she cared deeply about the people who called, emailed, and wrote to us asking for assistance with Federal agencies and help accessing government services. In particular, Daryl was a fierce advocate for our district seniors, but she was also a mentor to countless young people, including interns who came to our district office and learned lessons from Daryl, not only about serving our constituents but how to approach life through perseverance, faith, and positive thinking.

Daryl drew heavily on her personal faith as a member of the Evangel Cathedral in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, for more than a quarter of a century, and as a partner with Dr. Corinthia Ridgely Boone of the International Christian Host Coalition organizing the National Capital Region's Day of Prayer for many, many years.

Mr. Speaker, she believed strongly that prayer was a powerful tool, not only to connect with her creator, but to connect with others here on Earth, to communicate her love for others, and to spread peace and joy to those around her, which she surely did. Her sense of humor, her wit, her warmth will be sorely missed not only by her colleagues in my office, but by all who knew her.

I and all of us who worked so closely with Daryl will miss her very, very much. Daryl had so many spiritual daughters and the many young women who looked up to her over the years as a mentor and friend, but her pride and joy were her five children: Laura, Christie, Toi, Peter, and Lenny, as well as her grandchildren to whom, of course, she was devoted.

A native of Rochester, New York, Daryl made her final journey home in

July when she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and departed Maryland to seek treatment closer to family at the University of Rochester Medical Center. We had all hoped to welcome her back soon, but sadly, Daryl's condition worsened quickly last week, and she passed away on Saturday morning with her family by her side.

Mr. Speaker, Daryl was a true friend and partner in service to the people of Maryland's Fifth District. She will long be remembered by those she helped and by those of us who worked closely with her.

Her passing is a great loss to my constituents, our office, to this House, and to our country. I hope my colleagues will join me in offering her family the condolences of the whole House and the thanks of a Nation grateful for patriotic Americans like Daryl Ann Pennington who serve their country and communities so dutifully and so well.

Mr. Speaker, now Daryl rests in peace with God, whom she served so faithfully throughout her life.

### MEMORIALIZING REVEREND BILLY GRAHAM

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that a familiar figure within North Carolina's history will soon be featured here in the United States Capitol.

On July 22, I came to the floor and spoke about how the first Republican majority in the North Carolina legislature in over 40 years voted in 2015 to replace the current statue of Charles Aycock in the Capitol with a statue of Billy Graham. A week later, on July 29, a committee within the North Carolina's General Assembly unanimously approved a model of Reverend Graham's statue and commissioned a sculptor to create a life-sized model.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g.,  1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The level of expediency in this process is a true testament to how Reverend Graham was revered not only in North Carolina, but also across the world. Recently, President Trump has expressed his support for a statue of Reverend Graham to be commissioned, and he even suggested that Reverend Graham would be memorialized in a new statuary park known as the “National Garden of American Heroes.”

Reverend Graham came from humble beginnings in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he was raised on a dairy farm in the early 1920s.

During his lifetime, he counseled foreign dignitaries, numerous Presidents, members of the Royal family, and many other significant public figures.

However, his work was not solely consigned to the upper echelons of government or politics. His life’s work was dedicated to the millions of people around the world who sought Jesus Christ as their one true Lord and savior.

He once described being a Christian as, “more than just an instantaneous conversion. It is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ.”

In 2018, Reverend Graham passed away at the age of 99, and to say that he left an indelible mark on society would be an understatement. For years, I have advocated for Reverend Graham to have a place within the hallowed Halls of the Capitol, and I am so pleased that the millions of people who visit the Capitol every year will soon be able to view his statue.

#### IN HONOR OF SARAH M. STEVENSON

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to speak in honor of the first Black woman to serve on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board.

One of the cofounders and conveners of the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum, not only a queen of the Queen City, but one of the crown jewels, Miss Sarah Stevenson.

Sarah Belle Mingo was born in Heath Springs, South Carolina, in 1925, the first of 14 children.

Her life quickly led her to Charlotte where, like many African-American women of her time, she worked as a housekeeper and did domestic work so that she and her family could achieve a brighter future.

In Charlotte, she successfully integrated the school district’s parent-teacher associations, and as an activist and mother of four, helped lay the foundation for one of the most integrated school districts in the Nation.

You could have found her across the street from us on October 12, 1970, when she attended oral arguments at the Supreme Court for the *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* case.

In 1980, she won election to the board of education, which she served for 8 years.

Equity in education was always at the forefront of what she did, because even though the courts declared separate but equal was unequal, too many schools in Charlotte were still both separate and unequal.

What she did made a difference. In 1984, halfway through Miss Sarah’s tenure on the school board, President Ronald Reagan made a campaign stop in Charlotte at the height of his popularity. President Reagan had a line in his stump speech that won thunderous applause in cities across the country, and in Charlotte, he repeated it, saying that school busing was a failed social experiment that nobody wants.

The crowd went silent. There was, at best, scattered applause. That is because in Charlotte, activists like Sarah Stevenson worked hard so that Black and White parents could come together in support of Charlotte’s “finest achievement”—school integration.

She lost reelection to the school board in 1988 because she continued to value equity and integration even as the political winds changed. Her values were more important to her than winning votes. And that is an example that we can all learn from.

While on the school board, she co-founded the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum, a group she continues to convene to this day. The Forum can best be described as the pulse of the community in Charlotte. The Forum has met on most Tuesdays for the past 40 years and is a required stop for candidates for public office in Charlotte and those running statewide.

For these and many other achievements, it goes without saying that Sarah Stevenson has earned numerous awards and commendations over the course of her life. I was honored to be with her in 2007 as the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership opened the 130-unit Stevenson Apartments in her honor.

But perhaps the greatest honor she continues to bestow on us, the entire Charlotte community, is her wisdom. Not only her wisdom, but the wisdom of the Forum and its 40 years of guest speakers and attendees.

As is said in a Fourfold Franciscan blessing that often starts the Forum:

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war so that we may reach our hands to them to comfort them and turn their path pain into joy.

May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

I thank Miss Sarah, for working for justice, freedom, and peace, and for

blessing so many people with enough foolishness to believe that we can make the impossible possible.

#### CONSERVATISM DURING COVID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight.

The American people are wondering what Congress is doing to help folks who are still struggling from the effects of COVID-19 on their health and on all of our economy. They see no movement in negotiations, and I have had folks back home ask me, What are you all doing up there? Well, sadly, the answer is, Not much, really.

Some in this Chamber claim that it is us, the Republicans, who have no solutions on COVID. Nothing could be further from the truth. Let me just speak for myself. I have introduced more than a dozen bills with my colleagues. Some of these bills are bipartisan, and they apply time-tested conservative principles to help people impacted and hurt by COVID-19.

These are bills that expand healthcare access. They support workers. They incentivize telework. They assure safe public housing. They simplify PPP loans. Mr. Speaker, they stop stimulus payments to dead people, of all things. They explore temperature checks at airports. They establish flexible funding for States and localities; a bill that holds China accountable, and helps incentivize a safe reopening of our country, and much, much more. Each and every one of these bills has been denied a vote in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the politics of being less than 50 days away from an election. And I get the political calculation that has been made. The Speaker started this year—right there—by ripping up the President’s State of the Union. And she seems intent on ending it by smearing Republicans as enemies of the State and blocking any meaningful bills to help hardworking Americans.

But the American people deserve to know that my Republican colleagues and I, we stand ready to govern and ready to pass commonsense conservative policies that will help them make it through this pandemic.

#### WILDFIRES RAVAGE WEST COAST

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the wildfires currently ravaging the West Coast of the United States.

More than 85 major fires, spanning from Washington State to Southern California are burning, as I speak. Thirty-five people have died, only ashes remain in hundreds of communities, tens of thousands have fled their

homes and many individuals are still missing. Some survivors compare the site of the flames to the gates of hell.

This year alone, California has seen over 2,600 more fires and a nearly 2,000 percent increase in the acres burned compared to this time last year. That is according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal-Fire.

The frequency and intensity are no accident. We used to refer to early fall as “wildfire season” but the threat of these fires is now present throughout the year.

In San Diego and in other areas of Southern California, dry and arid conditions, paired with high temperatures, can make for a deadly combination. The Valley fire in eastern San Diego County, which is now 87 percent contained, burned almost 18,000 acres of land and prompted the closure of the Cleveland National Forest.

□ 0915

That fire started 10 days ago, but smoke and haze across the county are barely now beginning to clear. The air quality continues to pose a risk for sensitive groups. This fire is only the latest in a long history of destructive fires in San Diego County.

I call on my fellow Members of Congress to accept and recognize this truth: Our actions don’t exist in a vacuum. The consequences of our actions lead to rising temperatures and more extreme natural events, including hurricanes, droughts, and flooding.

It is not a matter of belief. Yearly patterns show us how these changes aren’t natural. They are man-made. They are climate change.

We owe it to every single firefighter and first responder to act on this issue now. Every day, they risk their lives in the blistering heat, not knowing if they will make it back home. We are beyond grateful for their bravery and their unwavering dedication to public safety.

These conditions leading to the devastation on the West Coast are preventable, but the only way forward is through bipartisan partnerships to address the key drivers of climate change. Saving lives, infrastructure, and our lands from the effects of severe weather require concrete and swift action on the climate crisis now.

RECOGNIZING ALICE JOHNSON ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the birthday of an extraordinary constituent and American hero.

She is a World War II veteran, a U.S. Army Corps nurse, a Purple Heart recipient, a proud American patriot, an activity community member, and a birthday card enthusiast.

She is the remarkable Alice Johnson of Rancho Bernardo, California. I commend her service to our country, love of adventure, dedication to the well-being of others, and fun-loving spirit as she reaches this momentous milestone of 100 years.

Alice Johnson was born on September 12, 1920, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She completed her nursing education in 1941.

After Pearl Harbor, she enlisted in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Her unit arrived in Okinawa, Japan, on Easter Sunday in 1945, where she helped establish a field hospital ahead of the U.S. invasion of Japan.

A few months later, eight Japanese Kamikaze planes descended upon the island, and U.S. troops attempted to shoot them down. Alice was injured in the crossfire and evacuated to Hawaii for surgery. She was awarded a Purple Heart after her service overseas.

Later in life, Alice served as a flight attendant for United Airlines, back when flight attendants were required to be nurses.

Always interested in nursing and travel, she accepted a nursing position at a hospital in Aruba. There, she met and married John Johnson, and together, they had four children.

Alice moved back to the U.S. and continued her nursing career at a private cancer practice, at a burn hospital, and as a public health nurse for vision and hearing tests in schools.

After her retirement, Alice settled in Rancho Bernardo, California, near her family, and remains active, attending Hope United Methodist Church, square dancing with friends, and playing mah-jong at the Poway Senior Center.

Her daughter, Elaine, and son-in-law, Bill, reached out to me to share her life stories worthy of celebration as she becomes a centenarian.

I am overjoyed to wish Alice Johnson the very happiest 100th birthday. On behalf of the constituents of California’s 52nd District, we honor her selfless service in World War II, her dedicated career as a nurse, and the joy she continuously brings to all who know her.

I wish a happy 100th birthday to Alice. She is a treasure to us all.

HONORING DOLORES GRESHAM FOR HER REMARKABLE SERVICE TO WEST TENNESSEE

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

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a terrific Tennessee leader, State Senator Dolores Gresham, who will be retiring from public service this year.

My friend, Senator Dolores Gresham, has been a strong leader in west Tennessee for many years, and I have great respect for her strong career of service and her tireless leadership in education. Dolores Gresham has been highly influential in the political, social, and civic life in west Tennessee.

Before she entered public service as an elected official, Senator Gresham proudly served our country as a member of the United States Marine Corps and retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

A champion for education in Tennessee, Dolores Gresham presided over and led the Tennessee State Education Committee during a time of great improvement in academic achievement in the history of the Volunteer State.

Senator Gresham has proved to everyone that citizens can make a difference by being involved in community service and by leading by example.

Roberta and I wish her and her husband, Will, the best in their retirement. We appreciate her friendship, and we greatly appreciate her public service to the Volunteer State.

HONORING ANDY HOLT FOR HIS STRONG SERVICE TO WEST TENNESSEE

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and Tennessee State Representative Andy Holt. Andy is retiring this year from the Tennessee State legislature.

Representative Andy Holt has been a leader and an outspoken voice in the Tennessee State House since his first term began in 2011.

Representative Holt’s work on the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, his involvement with the Tennessee Farm Bureau—and I can’t forget his famous Hogfest—were all critical in bringing national attention to west Tennessee’s agricultural community.

Andy has served as a member of the Finance, Ways and Means Subcommittee, which is a vital committee that helps craft the Tennessee State budget.

Andy Holt has also been a strong voice in the Tennessee State Capitol and has never shied away from speaking and living out his values.

He was part of numerous monumental pieces of legislation, such as the enhanced concealed carry permit and the heartbeat bill, and helped successfully repeal a portion of the Tennessee professional privilege tax.

No matter the politics of an issue, Andy Holt always stood up for what he believed in and always put his west Tennessee family values first.

I am honored to call Andy Holt a friend of mine. He truly understands and cares about the needs of Tennesseans, and he will be sorely missed in the Tennessee State legislature.

Roberta and I wish Andy, his wife, Ellie, and his entire family well as he leaves the stage of public service. I thank Andy for his faithful service to west Tennessee, to Tennessee State government, and to the State of Tennessee.

HONORING MRS. SUZETTE MINK’S PUBLIC SERVICE TO WEST TENNESSEE

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Suzette Mink, from Millington, Tennessee, for her strong service to Shelby County government as she is set to retire in a few weeks.

Suzette’s service to Memphis and Shelby County started in 1985 when she began working for the Shelby County Trustee’s Office. From there, she

worked for the Shelby County general sessions court clerk, the general sessions criminal court judges' office, and then the general sessions civil court judges' office, where she will retire after 17 years of faithful service to these judges.

In 2019, Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris awarded Suzette with the Shelby County Shining Star Award. This award is given to someone who has shown exemplary dedication to their job within Shelby County government, and this award was much deserved.

I know I speak on behalf of all of Memphis and Shelby County, and the judges, when I thank Suzette for her service to our community. When I think of true public servants, we talk about people like Suzette.

I wish her and her husband, Derrick, the best in their retirement.

#### HONORING VETERANS COMMUNITY LIVING CENTER AT FITZSIMONS

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the staff and residents of the Veterans Community Living Center in Aurora, Colorado. This Colorado veterans home has cared for veterans, veteran spouses, and Gold Star parents for over 18 years.

The staff at Fitzsimons has acted heroically during this pandemic, risking exposure, facing fears, and continuing to show up for their residents and co-workers. Since March, 26 employees have tested positive, and most have returned to work.

This dedicated team has pioneered new ways of connecting veterans to their communities, including drive-by vintage car shows and coordinating phone calls and Skype visits with family and friends.

We do mourn the loss of 25 veterans who lost their lives to the virus and celebrate the lifetime of selfless service all veterans who live at Fitzsimons have made.

It is with pride that I recognize the staff and residents at the Veterans Community Living Center at Fitzsimons.

#### RECOGNIZING SALUD FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salud Family Health Centers on its 50th anniversary.

Salud was founded in 1970 to serve the migrant and seasonal farmworker population living and working in and around Fort Lupton, Colorado. Today, Salud operates 13 clinics and a mobile unit in 10 predominantly rural communities throughout northern and southeastern Colorado, serving over 82,000 patients annually.

Salud has grown to provide medical, dental, behavioral health, women's care, pediatric care, and on-site pharmacy services. Prior to COVID, Salud also operated 11 school-based sites to

better serve the needs of the community.

Salud's mobile unit travels mostly rural areas during the evenings to provide quality healthcare to seasonal and migrant workers. In its 50 years, Salud has served 2 million patients.

I am proud to have Salud Family Health Centers serving the people of the Sixth Congressional District.

#### APPLAUDING AURORA MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we observe Hunger Action Month throughout September to applaud the work of the Aurora Mobile Food Pantry.

While the food pantry is a crucial support system to our community at the best of times, it has been a lifeline to those experiencing hunger during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This summer, Aurora Mobile Food Pantry and its community partners, along with over 750 volunteers, provided more than 475,000 meals to our community. In addition to providing healthy food, more than 30,000 community members who visited the mobile food pantry received 37,000 pounds of pet food, 2,800 books for children, 5,400 water bottles, and \$47,000 worth of diapers and baby wipes.

All told, the Aurora Mobile Food Pantry has provided more than \$1 million in food to our community during COVID-19. It serves as a reminder of what can happen when Coloradans come together to support one another in times of need.

#### RECOGNIZING HEROISM OF MANJIT SINGH

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Manjit Singh.

Manjit Singh immigrated to my district from India in 2018 in search of the American Dream. On Wednesday, August 5, Manjit died a hero.

After his first day of truck driving school, Manjit was with his family and friends at Reedley Beach near his new home in California. He saw three children caught in the current of the Kings River and selflessly rushed in to help them.

Manjit did not know how to swim, but he knew bravery. Witnesses say he helped pull one of the three children to safety and endeavored to assist another.

While all of them have recovered, an 8-year-old girl named Samantha would later lose her life. I grieve for her and her family.

I stand amazed by Manjit's sacrifice, and I am grateful to his community for recognizing the heroism he demonstrated that day. I am inspired by the humanity and compassion that link all of us together.

#### DELAYED DIAGNOSIS DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during the coronavirus pan-

demic, American doctors, nurses, technicians, and first responders have cared for patients day in and day out. On the front lines, medical teams have worked tirelessly to care for the coronavirus patients under extraordinary circumstances.

Across the country, we formed a united front against an invisible enemy as medical professions of all stripes pitched in to help, from volunteering their time to donating valuable personal protective equipment to the emergency rooms, the hospitals, and the organizations that needed it the most.

As Americans were asked to stay at home, teams quickly transitioned to telemedicine to provide vital care to vulnerable populations. They took the initiative and developed creative solutions to ensure that patients could receive the care that they so much need.

During this crisis, America's medical community has stepped up during and throughout to provide care and save lives. They truly, too, are heroes.

Now, the work continues. We must acknowledge a secondary healthcare crisis that is occurring in our Nation.

Beginning in March, many hospitals, under the direction of national, State, and local authorities, postponed elective procedures with the goal of slowing the spread of the virus and saving the precious PPE and supplies for those who needed it the most.

Americans, following stay-at-home orders, delayed important medical care, and subsequently, too many have suffered negative healthcare outcomes that could have been prevented.

Earlier this spring, I wrote a letter to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, urging him and his administration to prioritize the comprehensive health needs of all Pennsylvanians during this crisis.

In my experience alone, I have heard tragic stories from colleagues whose patients have died from cardiac emergencies, from drug overdoses, and from other negative outcomes that could have been prevented.

Six months into this crisis, we are facing an imminent need to restore America's full access to care, including preventive screenings.

My good friend and colleague, Dr. Bruce Waldholtz, is a gastroenterologist and also a longtime volunteer leader of the American Cancer Society. Dr. Waldholtz, as a cancer survivor himself, understands firsthand that a doctor, a patient, needs preventative healthcare.

As he told me this week: "Due to the COVID restrictions, all nonemergency colonoscopies were canceled for several months. Literally, hundreds of patients in our practice had their colonoscopies canceled. This delay, compounded nationally, will result in less screening and an increase in colon cancer cases right now and in years ahead."

Colonoscopies and other preventative screenings save lives. Elective procedures are not unnecessary, and in

many cases, they find disease early before they can become metastatic and cancerous and spread.

Today, many doctors are playing catch-up as they seek to safely provide care to their patients. As I said, the work continues.

I urge Americans: Talk to your doctors and schedule the lifesaving screenings that can definitely make a difference in your healthcare.

As we continue to combat the coronavirus crisis and its many ramifications, I thank our medical teams for their unwavering dedication to American patients. Despite the obstacles we face, together, we can improve Americans' access to the quality healthcare and, together, we can save lives.

□ 0930

#### RECOGNIZING TOM SEAVER

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest baseball players to ever play the game, "Tom Terrific" Seaver, a member of the Miracle Memorable Mets championship season in 1969 that won the World Series. He passed away peacefully earlier this month.

A native of my hometown, Fresno, California, that has had a lot of terrific baseball players, no one ever played the game any better than Tom Terrific. He was a graduate of Fresno High and Fresno City College. During that time, he became a first-round draft pick in 1966. But in between that time, he served in the United States Marine Corps.

Of the many seasons that he played in baseball, he had 12 All-Star appearances, won multiple Cy Young Awards, and was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame when he first became available on a near-unanimous decision—a gifted and once-in-a-lifetime player.

As I said, he served honorably in the Marine Corps.

Last year, he retired from public life after being diagnosed with dementia. His passing has been a terrible loss for the community of Fresno and all baseball fans across the country.

Please join me in celebrating the life and career of one good person, Tom Seaver.

#### DEVASTATING CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to draw attention to the devastating wildfires burning in the West, throughout Washington, Oregon, and California, and other Western States, and, more precisely, this fire, the Creek fire, that is burning near my district in the central Sierra Nevada.

Let me first salute the incredible men and women, the firefighters, the first responders, all of those volunteers who are doing their best, over 14,000 of them throughout California, and many more throughout Western States. They

are putting their lives on the line trying to protect us and trying to protect our forests.

Last Friday, I toured the devastation firsthand and spent 6 hours in the southern perimeter of the Creek fire in the Shaver and Huntington Lake areas. I witnessed the devastating damage that has been done, not only in this picture that is illustrated here, but the many homes that have been lost, as you see here, 1400-degree tornado firestorms that literally melted homes, such as this one here, and many, many other structures.

This summer alone, clearly, has indicated that the numbers of fires that we see, not only in California, but throughout the West, are growing both in quantity and the scope of the devastation. This summer alone, with record heat and extreme conditions made worse by climate change, California has experienced 6 of the largest 20 wildfires in its history—and, sadly, most of those wildfires are still burning.

In the foothills in the high Sierra Nevada outside my home in Fresno, California, the Creek fire continues to grow, and we only have, as of today, about 15 percent containment. But that is similar not only in California but Oregon and Washington and other States, and it is making the air quality something that you have to see to understand and believe. When I left Monday, the air index was 304.

So, what must we do?

We must learn the lessons from these devastating fires, these wildfires. And I think, first of all, it requires much better forest management. We have tried to make changes within the U.S. Forest Service, but much more needs to be done in terms of resources to better manage our forest.

We also must do better land management planning. We have hundreds and thousands of people in the last 30 years living where they didn't live before, and it requires better land use planning.

And, finally, we must address the issues of climate change. When we have extended draught periods and dry conditions, the beetle bark and other factors play into a situation which, in California, from Lassen down to Lake Isabella, we have over 100 million dead trees, and that creates the fuel that adds to the problem.

These are among the lessons that we must learn to better manage our forests for future generations to come.

#### TREES ARE TRULY AMAZING

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the trees, the forest they call home, and all Americans who live near there.

In the words of the poet Joyce Kilmer:

I think that I shall never see  
A poem as lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed  
Against the Earth's sweet flowing breast.  
A tree that looks at God all day  
And lifts her leaf-filled arms to pray.  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair.  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain,  
Who's intimately lived with rain.  
Poems are made by folks like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

Mr. Speaker, trees are truly amazing. Through the remarkable process of photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide. They store the carbon in the wood, and they release the oxygen back for us to breathe. Trees provide us with clean air.

But just as important as clean air, trees provide us with clean water. Their roots hold the soil together, and as water percolates through, they clean the water.

Forests also provide wildlife habitat. They provide us places for outdoor recreation. Trees provide amazing green building products, like mass timber. Trees provide packaging for shipping. And let us not forget where toilet paper comes from.

No wonder trees are so admired, as they should be. However, our beloved trees and forests in the West have a different image today, one not of grandeur and amazing beauty, but one of fuel in an apocalyptic inferno that is killing people, destroying homes and property, and leaving barren landscapes below and choking smoke above.

Mr. Speaker, unlike the mythical Ents of middle-earth in the "Lord of the Rings," our trees cannot speak for themselves. I don't claim to be Dr. Seuss' Lorax, but if trees could talk, I believe they would be crying out: Hey, humans, stop loving us to death. Hey, humans, we need some relief, and you are supposed to be taking care of us. Hey, Congress, you are killing us, and if we die, you die. Please work together and apply your husbandry skills to give us a chance. When trees win, humans win.

Mr. Speaker, even as the climate changes and fire threats increase in the West, there is hope if we will just do the right thing. That right thing is forest management, and it looks different on different sites.

Here is an example of how it looks in my home State of Arkansas. This is the Felsenthal National Wildlife Management area. You can see an unmanaged forest, the control site. You see the thick underbrush, the midstory and the understory that is too thick. You see the simple management practices of thinning out the understory, doing controlled burns, and at the bottom you see what a beautiful, healthy forest looks like.

Here is an example of how it looks in California. This is an aerial shot from the devastating Camp fire near Paradise. This red hatched area, that is where the fire burned. This dark red line, that is where the fire was stopped.

You can see this little band right here. That was actually a firebreak

that was put in place by a private forestry company to stop the spread of fire onto their land because public lands are so mismanaged.

Here is what that firebreak looked like. It was a thinned area where the fire came in from this direction. It went down to the ground, and firemen were actually able to put it out and save the forest on the other side.

That is what sound forest management looks like. This is not clear-cutting. It is commonsense, science-based management that works.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to act—not after the election, not the next Congress, but now. In the Trillion Trees Act, we have outlined policies to implement the most basic forest management practices to the four most critical areas:

The wildland urban interface where fire can start, but where breaks can be created and we can thin;

Energy transportation corridors. We know fires can start from electric arcs;

Transportation corridors, where trains and cars can create sparks and where more humans are near the forest;

And last but not least, in critical watersheds where the damage is felt long after the fires are out.

For the sake of our forests, our environment, and all Americans, I urge Congress to act. Pass the Trillion Trees Act, and let's be the good stewards that the trees deserve.

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#### STAND UP FOR SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we woke up this morning to another 1,000 souls lost to coronavirus and the Western States are ablaze. Our most powerful weapon for combating these threats is rigorous, unbiased science. And yet this administration continues to suppress and misrepresent the work of our Federal scientists.

HHS officials appear to be tampering with public health bulletins to suit their political narrative. EPA is misrepresenting its own analysts' work to absolve polluters. And just yesterday, the President claimed that science doesn't know about the impacts of climate change.

If science doesn't know, who does?

This cannot go on. My committee has been fighting back. Among other initiatives, we have passed the Scientific Integrity Act to make sure that Federal science is not distorted by politics or special interests, no matter who is in the White House.

As we work to make this bill a law, I commend all of our Federal scientists who remain objective, exacting, and transparent in their research: Don't quit. Continue to stand up to scientific integrity. Your country needs you. We all do.

□ 0945

#### HONORING HEALTHCARE HEROES AND FRONTLINE WORKERS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our valiant frontline workers and healthcare heroes who have taken care of their neighbors and saved countless lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes nurses, doctors, pharmacists, grocery store workers, truck drivers, and anyone who has risen to the occasion to help others during these unprecedented times.

In particular, Jane Spence, Larisa Barnes, Bobbie Sumner, Amanda King, and Lynn Reynolds have exemplified remarkable selflessness and courage as they work to save lives in the South-east Georgia Health System.

Throughout my time in Georgia's First Congressional District, I have visited and met countless heroes serving at Saint Joseph's Candler Hospital, Liberty Regional Medical Center, Clinch Memorial Hospital, Memorial Health Center in Savannah, Wayne Memorial Center, and Winn Army Medical Hospital. This has allowed me to gain insight into the daily sacrifices they make and their commitment to serving their communities.

Doctors and nurses who serve at our Veterans Affairs Health Systems are deserving of recognition for their outstanding work, as well.

In addition to our healthcare heroes, I also want to honor leaders and local businesses in our communities.

Individuals like Tom and Rita Boland converted their Island Drapes and Upholstery business to manufacture thousands of face masks a week.

I was also encouraged to see the local nonprofits in Georgia's First Congressional District rise up to address the many challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, the Computers for a Cause movement was formed thanks to the beautiful work of United Way of Coastal Georgia, Keep Golden Isles Beautiful, Communities in Schools, and Coastal Outreach partnering with Coastal Computer Consulting to gather and donate computers for children who don't have access to one.

This allowed countless children to continue their education when schools were closed. These folks were working day in and day out risking their own health and safety and spending time away from their families and friends to serve us.

I want to express my deep gratitude for the work that they do to make America great, and I am honored to call them my friends and neighbors.

#### HONORING PRESTON G. EXLEY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Mr. Preston Exley of Springfield, Georgia, who passed away at the age of 81 on September 10.

Mr. Exley was a selfless leader in every area of his life who was loved by many.

Mr. Exley worked for the Savannah Sugar Refinery for 40 years and retired in 1997.

Preston loved the Lord, and his life was a testament to that. Preston was an active member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and served in a variety of roles, including Sunday school superintendent, president of the Men's Group, and a member of the Church Council.

Preston was committed to serving his country through his service with the Georgia Army National Guard for 23 years, and he retired as a captain.

Preston was also dedicated to improving education in his community during his time serving on the Effingham County School Board from 1980 until 1994, and he later went on to serve as Effingham County Chief Magistrate Judge for 12 years.

Included in his long list of pursuits, Preston was a farmer for many years in his home place in Clyo.

Impressively, Preston was past president of the Effingham County Young Farmers, a member of the County Board of Directors, and served as the Springfield Chapter President.

Preston was also a loyal family man, who prioritized his family above all else.

I am thankful for the selfless life Preston lived, and I know his legacy will continue in Springfield for years to come. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and all who knew him during these challenging times.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 a.m.

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#### PRAAYER

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

Lord, merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon those throughout our country who are suffering so much, more each day. Keep safe the firefighters out West. Keep safe those who are responding to the destruction of Hurricane Sally on the Gulf Coast. Listen to the cries of those who have lost so much as a result of these natural disasters, even as the COVID pandemic wreaks its havoc in our communities.

Here in the Capitol, impel with Your spirit the Members of Congress who, more than any others, have the opportunity to address our Nation's needs. Give them the wisdom and courage to do so, working as a united force for good in these times. Lord, have mercy.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Ms. SLOTKIN 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.

#### RESIGNATION AS PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN,  
Washington, DC, September 11, 2020.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I am writing to inform you of my retirement as Parliamentarian of the House, effective September 30, 2020. It has been a great honor to serve the House for more than 25 years. I am especially grateful for the privilege of working with a professional and inspiring team of colleagues.

In addition to the daily counsel provided in the chamber of this august body, our office's role in assisting the invaluable work of the House Democracy Partnership is a source of particular pride. The contributions of the HDP to legislative strengthening and democratic reform have made a lasting impact across the globe. The support provided by successive Speakers and the tireless work of Representative Price and the other members of the HDP are manifested in the remarkable strides witnessed in the now 21 partner countries.

I have been humbled to be part of the office's tradition of nonpartisan education and scholarship about the procedures and history of this House—the body closest to the people in our Federal government. From complying with the statutory requirement to publish the parliamentary precedents to hours spent in the Hall of the House with Members, students, and visitors, the office has been steadfast in our commitment to transparency in the "People's House." This commitment is the bedrock of our democratic tradition.

Finally, I thank my wife and family for their love and support during my tenure.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS J. WICKHAM, Jr.

#### APPOINTMENT AS PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. With great appreciation to our Parliamentarian, Thomas

J. Wickham, Jr., pursuant to section 287(a) of title 2, United States Code, the Chair appoints as Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives Jason A. Smith to succeed Thomas J. Wickham, resigned.

With congratulations to Jason Smith and thanks and gratitude to Thomas Wickham. Thank you.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

#### HONORING JAMES BUTLER III

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

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to remember James Butler III of East Lansing, Michigan.

Lovingly known as the Godfather of Lansing, Mr. Butler lived a life of service that began when he was born into a Navy family in 1943.

His achievements speak for themselves. He was called to serve in the Army, finishing top of his class as a noncommissioned officer at Fort Benning. He served in Vietnam, earning two Purple Hearts and four Bronze Stars for heroism in combat.

However, if you really want to know who James Butler was, listen to the words he promised while serving: "If I make it back, I will give back."

Well, he made it back, and he spent the next 30 years working at IBM, moving to Michigan and breaking barriers as the first Black man to hold an executive-level position at the company.

Even in retirement, Mr. Butler answered the call to serve, working under former Governor Granholm as the director of the Michigan Broadband Development Authority.

In short, Mr. Butler lived a life of giving back. For his work, he was recognized by too many organizations to list at this time.

But for those who knew him best, Rishan, his wife of 52 years, his three kids and seven grandkids, he was a good and kind man, and he will be dearly missed by all.

#### CONDEMN LAWLESSNESS AND STAND WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I cannot believe that this week, under the leadership of my colleagues on the Democrat side, under Speaker PELOSI, we are actually going to vote on a resolution condemning people for using the place of origin to distinguish this novel virus. We are going to use our time and the formal declaration of this great body to do that instead of condemning the lawlessness and the violence that is ravaging our once-great American cities.

I think that is unacceptable by all standards. I think we have plenty of opportunity to stand with our law enforcement officers who risk their lives, the law-abiding citizens who are having their rights trampled, and say no more.

I have the David Dorn Act and the Patrick Underwood Act. Both men died, being murdered in cold blood by these violent protesters. This would increase penalties and accountability for the folks who consider even thinking about doing that in the future.

We also have a resolution to condemn this lawlessness. I hope my colleagues can join me on that.

#### MARKING ADDICTION AND RECOVERY MONTH

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

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, one in seven people will experience addiction in their lifetime.

Last year, over 70,000 people died from a drug overdose. Over the last 3 years, it is over 200,000 people.

Addiction is a national crisis for which we will not find a vaccine.

Last week, I spoke with patients in recovery across western Maryland. The reality of COVID-19 is making recovery much harder.

Today, we are coming together in Congress as Team America for a day of action we are calling Congress Goes Purple.

Together, we are wearing purple to show our support for those in recovery. Together, we are raising awareness to combat the stigma around addiction. And together, we will do everything we can to support those in recovery.

Madam Speaker, to those in recovery, never be afraid to speak up and ask for help.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

This year, an estimated 191,930 men in our Nation will be diagnosed with prostate cancer.

As a survivor of this disease, I know firsthand the challenges families face when they decide which testing, treatments, and coverage options are right for them.

That is why I proudly support legislation like the Preexisting Protections Act to ensure those with preexisting conditions have access to affordable care.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among American men, but the good news is that as innovation and technology continue to evolve, fewer men are dying after the diagnosis.

Identifying signs from the outset is critical so that it can be treated and stopped before further spread. I am immensely grateful to be alive today, thanks to early detection.

I encourage all men in the 25th District to talk with their healthcare providers and participate in regular screenings.

I am committed to helping win the fight against cancer, and together, we can beat this disease.

In God we trust.

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#### BEING BETTER STEWARDS OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, natural disasters ripping through the Nation today are urgent reminders that we must be better stewards of the natural environment, including the Great Lakes.

Yet, recent actions of the Trump administration's Environmental Protection Agency do just the opposite.

In August, the EPA issued a rule allowing the release of toxic metals, like arsenic and mercury, into lakes, rivers, and streams near power plants that use them.

This is the wrong strategy and is bad for America and bad for Americans. For decades, communities across western New York have been working together to bring back waterways, like the Buffalo River, that were once declared ecologically dead due to toxic industrial pollution.

Successful efforts like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative solidified the Federal role to improve water quality in the Great Lakes, restore aquatic habitat, and provide new recreational opportunities for all.

Madam Speaker, I strongly oppose the EPA's destructive policies, and I urge my colleagues to recommit themselves to prioritizing long-term sustainability of the natural environment.

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#### HONORING EDWARD M. BARTHOLOMEW, JR.

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

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward M. Bartholomew, Jr., for his life of service to the city of Glens Falls, Warren County, and the entire north country region.

Ed served in many important roles over the course of his over-40-year career. He was elected mayor of the city of Glens Falls at the age of 28. He set to work revitalizing the community, making the civic center a success, building a modern baseball park, improving critical infrastructure, and establishing the Greater Glens Falls Transit System.

He cemented his reputation as someone who can grasp all aspects of a chal-

lenge and accomplish his objectives despite daunting obstacles.

In 2010, after spending time in the State senate, Ed returned to lead the Economic Development Corporation of Warren County, where he had been working tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ed Bartholomew was an extraordinary leader for the Warren County community and beyond. He was an absolute joy and privilege to work with, and he will be sorely missed.

I am honored to recognize his leadership in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District. Our prayers go out to his friends and family during this difficult time.

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#### CELEBRATING PHILADELPHIA GAY NEWS

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of the longest running weekly newspapers in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Gay News, which has been dedicated to lifting the voices of the LGBTQ community since 1976.

PGN was founded by a pioneer for the LGBTQ community, Mark Segal, and has provided reliable and accessible news ever since.

PGN has been at the heart of the fight for equality, diving into the challenges facing LGBTQ people and lifting up their voices.

At the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, PGN was vital to ensuring people had the information and resources they needed to make informed decisions about their safety, health, and well-being.

Today, PGN is the largest East Coast LGBTQ newspaper, with over 25,000 weekly readers. In a recent interview, Mr. Segal said that this journey was not without struggle. "At times, we had to fight to keep the doors open," but PGN pressed on.

In March, PGN was awarded a historical marker to honor the remarkable impact this paper has had. Just last week, PGN was awarded the best overall nondaily newspaper by the Society of Professional Journalists.

We are grateful for the leadership of Philadelphia Gay News and its founder, Mark Segal.

To the entire PGN family, congratulations, and keep making good trouble.

□ 1015

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#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF FARIS VIRANI

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, in his 9 years with us, Faris Virani used his short life to paint a masterpiece.

At 6 years old, he was told he had Ewing sarcoma, a deadly, aggressive form of childhood cancer. He never complained or asked, "Why me?" He was thankful to God for the gift of life.

When his family and friends felt down, he picked them up with his trademark line, "Let's go with the flow." Faris and his mom, Asha, going with the flow.

He knew his short life was going to make this world better, and that life became the force behind his Ewing Sarcoma Center at Texas Children's Hospital that bears his name.

He was frustrated that every September Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and its gold color were largely forgotten by the American people. He said: "Mom, when I grow up, I will let there be gold."

Faris, we hear you and, in unison, we say, "Let there be gold."

In closing, Madam Speaker, I will say, in memory of Faris, please, let there be gold. Celebrate this young man's life.

God bless Faris Virani.

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#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORMANDIA MALDONADO

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of a great lady, Normandia Maldonado, an icon in Dominican culture, and my bill, H.R. 3870, which renames the post office located at 511 West 165th Street in Washington Heights, New York, in her name. The bill passed unanimously on this floor.

Maldonado is renowned for her decades of artistic leadership within the Dominican diaspora in New York City. She founded Club Civico y Cultural Juan Pablo Duarte and Centro Cultural Ballet Quisqueya, as well as helped establish the first Dominican parade in New York City.

In the wake of the administration's unprecedented attacks on the Postal Service, I am honored to enshrine Ms. Maldonado's altruistic spirit, fortitude, commitment, and community service with this designation. She was the queen of merengue, the queen of dance and folklore.

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#### PRESIDENT TRUMP KEEPS PEACE PROMISES

(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, yesterday marks an historic turning point for the Middle East and north Africa. For the first time, Arab nations have pursued peace with the Jewish state with the motive of friendly relations with Israel—no land for peace, no confidence-building measures, simply peace in exchange for peace for the very first time.

I was grateful to be at the White House for the signing of the landmark agreements brokered by President Donald Trump between the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Israel. Seeing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu alongside UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al Nahyan and Bahraini Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani was inspiring.

Under the leadership of President Trump, the Middle East is a new chapter, an opportunity for peace and prosperity.

Thank you to President Trump, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Jared Kushner, and all others who achieved this historic advance for peace.

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

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF CARLTON HASELRIG

(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 honor the memory of an amazing Johnstown, Cambria County native, Carlton Haselrig.

An incredibly accomplished athlete, Carlton excelled in both wrestling and football. In high school, he was an undefeated wrestler and State champion.

At the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown, Haselrig became the most decorated wrestler in NCAA history, with a total of six NCAA national championships.

In 1989, Haselrig was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers, despite never having played in a college football game.

Haselrig returned home to coach football and wrestling at Greater Johnstown, his high school. He dedicated his time to the youth in his community, openly talking about his past struggles with addiction and mentoring hundreds.

His wife said: "He never wanted to be the star that he became. He just wanted to be Carlton Haselrig from Johnstown—a family man, a husband, and a dad."

Sadly, Haselrig passed away this summer. Even in death, Haselrig continues to give back, having donated his brain for chronic traumatic encephalopathy research.

May God bless Carlton and his family.

#### EQUITY AND INCLUSION ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2019

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous

materials on H.R. 2574, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DINGELL). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1107, I call up the bill (H.R. 2574) to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to restore the right to individual civil actions in cases involving disparate impact, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1107, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 116-502, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 2574

*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 "Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2019".*

##### SEC. 2. RESTORATION OF RIGHT TO CIVIL ACTION IN DISPARATE IMPACT CASES UNDER TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964.

*Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

*"SEC. 607. The violation of any regulation relating to disparate impact issued under section 602 shall give rise to a private civil cause of action for its enforcement to the same extent as does an intentional violation of the prohibition of section 601."*

##### SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF MONITORS UNDER TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964.

*Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following:*

*"SEC. 608. (a) Each recipient shall—*

*"(1) designate at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with requirements adopted pursuant to section 602 and carry out the responsibilities of the recipient under this title, including any investigation of any complaint alleging the noncompliance of the recipient with such requirements or alleging any actions prohibited under this title; and*

*"(2) notify its students and employees of the name, office address, and telephone number of each employee designated under paragraph (1).*

*"(b) In this section, the term 'recipient' means a recipient referred to in section 602 that operates an education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance authorized or extended by the Secretary of Education."*

##### SEC. 4. SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION.

*Section 202(b) of the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3412(b)) is amended—*

*(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and*

*(2) by inserting after paragraph (3), the following:*

*"(4) There shall be in the Department, a Special Assistant for Equity and Inclusion who shall be appointed by the Secretary. The Special Assistant shall promote, coordinate, and evaluate efforts to engender program compliance with*

*title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and inform individuals of their rights under such Act, including the dissemination of information, technical assistance, and coordination of research activities, in a manner consistent with such Act. The Special Assistant shall advise both the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on matters relating to compliance with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.)."*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 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. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act. This legislation will restore the right of students and parents to address racial inequities in public schools.

This legislation comes over 66 years after the Supreme Court ruled in 1954, in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case, that in the field of education, the doctrine of separate but equal has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.

This comes just 4 years after the General Accountability Office found that racial segregation in public schools is now as bad it was in the 1960s and getting worse.

For almost 40 years, the courts interpreted the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title VI, as granting students and parents the right to bring discrimination claims against public schools and any other entities receiving Federal funds for discriminatory policies and practices.

Victims of federally funded discrimination could use title VI to challenge both discriminatory policies and practices that were created with the intent to discriminate and policies and practices that, while neutral on their face, had the effect of discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

To be clear, the mere presence of the policy's disproportionate impact does not alone constitute a violation of title VI, but allowing communities to use disparate impact analysis equipped them with an important tool to combat systemic inequities for decades.

Unfortunately, in its 2001 decision in the case of *Alexander v. Sandoval*, the Supreme Court stripped private citizens, including students and parents, of their right to bring disparate impact claims against schools and other federally funded programs. While this ruling did not invalidate the use of disparate impact analysis to prove discrimination, it reserved that power to pursue such claims to the Federal Government through administrative enforcement of

title VI. In other words, this long-standing protection against discrimination in federally funded programs, including education, can now only be enforced if the administration in power so chooses.

The effect of this ruling on anti-discrimination enforcement has been particularly acute in education. Since 2001, we have seen an increase in racial isolation in public schools and a decrease in resource equity. As a result, African-American and Hispanic children disproportionately attend schools that are both majority minority and underresourced.

Whether this trend has been intentional or not is immaterial, but we do know that discrimination in 2020 is not the same as it was in 1964. Discrimination increasingly comes in the form of coded terminology, structural inequality, and implicit bias rather than explicit bigotry. So students and parents must be empowered to hold schools accountable for policies and practices that deny students access to quality education based on their race, color, or national origin whether or not they can prove the discriminatory policies were intentionally imposed.

Understandably, parents and students have been expressing confusion and frustration because they can no longer use the Civil Rights Act to challenge discriminatory policies and practices in their schools.

□ 1030

By ceding this right to the Federal Government, the Supreme Court majority in Sandoval opened the door to civil rights enforcement becoming a political issue instead of a right. While the Office of Civil Rights, the OCR, at the Department of Education is staffed with career attorneys, it is led by a political appointee. This department has repeatedly shown its reluctance to enforce and defend the civil rights of all students.

Our core civil rights protections should not be up for a vote every 4 years. To that end, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act would restore the private right of action of students and parents to bring a title VI discrimination claim based on disparate impact and hold schools accountable for providing equal access to quality education for all students.

The legislation also requires school districts and institutions of higher learning to appoint a title VI monitor to ensure that at least one employee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the law. This includes, at a minimum, investigating complaints of discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. This provision in the bill is modeled after title IX officers in school settings. The legislation's aim is for title VI monitors to foster a culture of compliance, similar to what we now have under title IX.

Finally, the bill creates an assistant secretary in the Department of Education to coordinate and promote title

VI compliance. History has shown that we cannot support historically disadvantaged students or close persistent achievement gaps without robust civil rights enforcement. This is particularly true as public schools become more segregated, more segregated than they were in the 1960s and as the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates inequitable access to quality education for underserved students.

Today, we have the opportunity to restore and strengthen critical civil rights protections by passing the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act.

Nearly seven decades after the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* which struck down school segregation, this bill would bring us one step closer to delivering on its promise of equity in education.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2574, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act.

My Republican and Democrat colleagues agree that separate is not and never was equal; racism is wrong; segregation is wrong. I am going to repeat that. My Republican and Democrat colleagues agree that separation is not and never was equal; racism is wrong; segregation is wrong. Although this body has taken measures to ensure racism and segregation are not to be tolerated, its lingering effects still persist.

We continue to strive toward a future where all students, regardless of race or color, have the chance to succeed. While there is more work to be done, the bill before us takes the wrong approach. This bill seeks to create a private right of action for disparate impact claims under section 602 of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI protects federally funded programs and entities from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

While the Democrats will falsely characterize this bill as restoring a right—and, indeed, my colleague has just done that—in reality this bill radically alters civil rights law without giving any consideration to its potential ramifications.

The leftist Center for American Progress called title VI and disparate income impact claims the “sleeping giant of civil rights laws” that are a “potentially powerful tool” to advance liberal goals through activist litigation.

While title VI is most used in the context of education, the law itself is not confined to that issue. Title VI applies to any program or entity that receives Federal funding, which would include education, policing, employment, and healthcare, the list goes on and on.

This is more than an education bill. Despite its far-reaching implications, Democrats deprived the committee of

primary jurisdiction any opportunity to debate or consider this bill. That is a really important point to consider, Madam Speaker.

As the Republican leader of the Education and Labor Committee, the consequences of this legislation within the education community are very clear. The creation of a private right of action would lead to additional burdens on already taxed State and local agencies, especially school systems who would have to defend themselves against tenuous allegations advanced by parents and activists. Through such lawsuits, these activists could require State and local governments to adopt a myriad of policies that Congress and State and local lawmakers never authorized or intended and cost those entities a lot of money paid to trial lawyers.

H.R. 2574 also creates a new special assistant for equity and inclusion at the Department of Education. Rather than create multiple siloed positions competing for resources and attention, committee Republicans believe an integrated approach to the Education Department's equity and inclusion efforts would lead to better results.

Republicans and Democrats largely agree on the importance of equality and integrated schools. Unfortunately, instead of working toward a bipartisan solution, H.R. 2574 is the result of Democrats' choosing a partisan path.

The question is whether in the long run these ideas will have helped or hurt the ongoing effort to achieve greater equality for children. H.R. 2574 fails on this front. Committee Republicans believe no effort to erase the evil legacy of segregation and discrimination can be complete without eliminating the State's ability to trap students in low-performing schools.

Instead of debating this bill, we should look at bipartisan solutions that help expand educational freedom for all families. We know that school choice gives parents and families the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and enroll their child in an institution that challenges them, develops their skills and intellect, and encourages them to reach higher.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentlewoman is exactly right. This will have ramifications that school districts will have to defend longstanding policies where they have a clear, provable disparate impact against minority children but the parents can't prove that it was imposed with discriminatory intent, and this administration won't do anything about it until they are just stuck.

Yes, if this bill passes, the parents will be able to come forth and say that the Black children are stuck in woefully inadequate schools while the White children are not. Yes, they should have to defend themselves if

you can prove it. They ought to have their day in court. They can prove that the policy is having a disparate impact on their children, and according to the Sandoval decision they have to wait for this Department of Education to do something about it.

On school choice, the recent studies have shown that when you don't very carefully regulate it, you can actually have more school segregation in school choice than you have now.

The question on achievement is mixed. There are some studies a few years ago that said on average school choice produced results that were average. More recent studies have shown that on average school choice produces achievement numbers that are worse than average. So that is not a road we should be going down. We should make sure that people, if they prove discrimination, have their day in court.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, our colleagues say that this administration is doing nothing to help minority students. One of the biggest things that we could do to help minority students is to give them a choice about where to go to school. We talked about this yesterday, and we are talking about it again today. Minority students thrive in charter schools. Recent test scores show these students doing much better.

Our colleagues are saying that choice creates segregation. I don't believe that, Madam Speaker. Choice creates the opportunity for success, and we know that. The research shows that over and over again. We can look at New York City and the results that Success Academy is getting for the students there. They are primarily minority students—but it is because minority parents are choosing to send their children there—and they are succeeding. They are graduating at a very high rate; they are going to college at a very high rate. So giving choice to children of all races and all economic groups results in better achievement. That cannot be denied.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the question of segregation of school choice is not what the Democrats are saying; it is what the studies have shown, that there is more likely to be segregation when you give people the choice. That is why freedom of choice was thrown out by the Supreme Court as an answer to *Brown v. Board of Education* many years ago.

You have Whites choosing the White schools, Blacks choosing the White schools, social isolation taking place, and nature taking its course. That is why you need the right to integrate the schools, and you can't do it with school choice.

Madam Speaker, I think the question is clear. We have a lot of schools where the distribution of resources is done clearly along racial lines, and because you can't prove that it is with discriminatory intent, you can't do anything about it. So that is why you need the bill, and I would hope that we would pass the bill to let those who can prove that they are being discriminated against have their day in court.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I have before me some very, very excellent results in terms of freedom of choice programs, and I would like to share those with the body.

The largest private school choice program in America got more solid evidence of its effectiveness Monday. The lower-income, mostly minority students using the Florida tax credit scholarship to attend private schools are up to 43 percent more likely to enroll in 4-year colleges than White students in public schools and up to 20 percent more likely to earn bachelor's degrees according to a new study released Monday by the Urban Institute.

I don't think the Urban Institute is a conservative group.

The outcomes are even stronger for students who use the scholarship 4 or more years. Those students are up to 99 percent more likely to attend a 4-year college than their public-school peers and up to 45 percent more likely to earn bachelor's degrees. The new findings build on a 2017 study that was the first of its kind, but also more limited.

The previous study found scholarship students were more likely to enroll in college and earn associate's degrees, but not significantly more likely to earn 4-year degrees. However, the 2017 study included only data from public colleges in Florida, and the researchers cautioned that as a result our results may underestimate the true impact of FTC participation on college enrollment and degree attainment.

Madam Speaker, this is solid evidence that having programs like the Florida Student Scholarship Program is working for minority and low-income students. And I find it incredible that our colleagues continually come out on the side of teacher unions, trial lawyers, and others who want to see gains for themselves but no gains for the children they should be serving.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1045

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, let me thank Chairman SCOTT for his tremendous leadership in putting forth this legislation. But also, just for his staying very vigilant as it

relates to the issues of Black and Brown students in our country, and the power that we need to push back against systemic racism and really what it is, is creeping school segregation.

Madam Speaker, I rise in total support of H.R. 2574, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act.

Just a little bit of history of myself. I was born and raised in El Paso, Texas, and schools were segregated when I started school. My family fought with the NAACP, and I believe El Paso was the first city in Texas to desegregate public schools.

Fast forward, my mother, Mildred Parish Massey, she was one of the first 12 students to integrate into the University of Texas at El Paso. I know from personal experience the struggles and the fights that all of us mounted just so we could have access to public education.

And now, fast forward to 2020, segregation in our Nation's schools is growing.

We have turned the clock back immeasurably. It can no longer be ignored. Over the last three decades, African-American students have increasingly found themselves in intensely segregated schools, and we knew unraveling segregation in schools was going to be a long struggle. This segregation, though, is a product of a number of factors, including housing segregation, economic inequality, all tied to structural racism in our country.

But while structural racism pervades so many elements of our society, it is really especially appalling in education, because we know that integrated schools help reduce racial prejudice and tension over the years.

Public education is supposed to be the great leveler in our society. Schools are supposed to be the pathway where hard work and knowledge provide new pathways of opportunity. Instead, this growing segregation fuels the perpetual worsening systemic racial and ethnic wealth gap that exists in our Nation. It robs students of their future, and it makes a mockery, really, of the values of opportunity and the hard work that we hold dear.

And what I think many of us weren't prepared for was the idea that we were going to have to fight tooth and nail now, which was a battle we fought in the 1950s and 1960s. We are fighting those battles again to make our own Federal Department of Education take this issue seriously. My God.

Madam Speaker, for three-and-a-half years, from my seat on the Committee on Appropriations, I have asked Secretary DeVos over and over and over again to take this issue seriously. But after years of dissembling and delay from the Secretary, I have begun to question her commitment to ensuring the rights of equal education for kids in America—that includes Black and Brown kids. And I asked her, does she really care about the civil rights of these young people?

And it is really the refusal by Secretary DeVos to acknowledge the clear evidence of increasing segregation. This is part of the reason why this bill is so important, and we need to act today.

The Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act is one piece of the puzzle to start pushing back on segregation in schools. It allows parents of children most adversely affected by this growing racial and ethnic segregation to pursue legal action against a local jurisdiction to fix the problem.

Without a private right of action, students of color face countless forms of irreparable damage without any remedy that they can use to seek justice.

The bill would further provide that education programs that receive Federal financial assistance must designate at least one compliance coordinator to focus on reducing segregation and investigate complaints.

And so if we truly want to turn the corner, turn the corner on the legacy of school segregation and unequal opportunity, we have a responsibility to put power back into the hands of parents and students to fight injustice and claim their right to a quality public education.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will vote for H.R. 2574, and I thank the chairman for bringing forth this very important bill. I am so sorry that we have to do this once again.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I stated in my opening comments, Republicans do not believe in segregation. Segregation was not good for this country. But segregation was settled, we believe, despite what has been said by our colleagues, by *Brown v. Board of Education*.

I find it very interesting that this bill is about a private right of action and, yet, it has become the discussion about segregation and about, again, Secretary DeVos and what she has or has not done. My knowledge of the Secretary is that she has worked all her life to expand opportunities for low-income and minority students. That is what giving choice to those students and those parents is all about—expanding opportunities for them to choose where to go to school. And we even know that when we expand opportunities and we have school choice, that even the public schools get better.

I just read statistics about what is happening in Florida, the largest place for school choice and for scholarships for low income and minority students to choose where they want to go to school. It shows what a great gift that has been to them, and how poorly, unfortunately, the students in the public schools are doing.

Consigning students to public schools and not giving them a choice is not a good thing. It is totally unfair. But this bill is about a private right of action, which the Supreme Court has said does not exist in this legislation—the legislation that already exists.

What it is is a gift to trial lawyers. And the implication is, from what we are hearing, is to go back to unequal opportunity. That is not what we want for low-income and minority children, or any children in this country.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, Democrats have made a habit of letting bipartisan solutions fall by the wayside in lieu of partisan politics in an attempt to help those who help them. The Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act is no exception. Republicans and Democrats agree on the importance of equality and integrated schools. I am going to repeat that again. Republicans and Democrats agree on the importance of equality and integrated schools. Unfortunately, instead of working toward a bipartisan solution, H.R. 2574 is the result of Democrats choosing a partisan path.

The creation of a private right of action could lead to additional burdens on school systems who would have to defend themselves against tenuous allegations advanced by activist lawyers and does nothing to eliminate the State's ability to track students in low-performing schools.

This bill is designed to score political points rather than build on a history of bipartisan and bicameral solutions to racial inequality and discrimination.

For these reasons, I urge a “no” vote on H.R. 2574, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TORRES of California). The gentleman from Virginia has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to say a few words about what the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights found, since the ranking member mentioned the Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, by name.

It found that the Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, has rescinded critical guidance to protect students' civil rights, narrow the scope, and reduced the number of investigations conducted, and decreased the budget and staffing capacity of the Office of Civil Rights at the department.

The Commission's report indicated that OCR issued 38 guidance documents to improve program understanding of and compliance with civil rights statutes under the Obama administration. By comparison, the OCR under the Trump administration has issued few guidance documents and has instead rescinded critical guidance documents.

Specifically, in 2018 Secretary DeVos rescinded guidance documents in sup-

port of the constitutionally protected use of race in admission or assignments to improve diversity and higher education and K-12.

Also, in 2018, Secretary DeVos rescinded 2014 school discipline guidance packages, which provided local educational agencies with technical assistance through reform, discipline policies, and practices that, although racially neutral, disproportionately impacted students of color in violation of title IV. And it goes on and on to talk about what has been going on in this administration.

Madam Speaker, the ranking member talked about school segregation yesterday. We had the opportunity to do something to help those localities that wanted to voluntarily desegregate their schools. And it was a bipartisan result—21 Republicans joined Democrats in providing resources to localities that wanted technical assistance in how to voluntarily desegregate their schools.

That can be complicated, because in the Supreme Court case involving two localities, Louisville, Kentucky, and Seattle, Washington, voluntary school desegregation initiatives were found unconstitutional. The Court said you can do it, but in this case, you didn't do it right. So technical assistance, legal advice, is necessary to make sure that you can have an effective policy that can withstand constitutional challenge.

Regrettably, 160 Republicans voted “no” to give those resources to those localities that want to voluntarily desegregate their schools.

I mentioned the research on school choice. This is a very simple bill. It just gives the right of those who can prove discriminatory impact on their school systems—they can prove it, it just gives them the right to come to court to prove that they have been discriminated against to vindicate their rights.

It is a very simple bill, and I hope that the House will pass it so their civil rights will be protected.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2574, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2019. This bill will take a meaningful step forward to ensure that programs receiving federal funding are upholding a high standard of equality and inclusion—similar to that which our country strives for.

In 2001, the Supreme Court, in its ruling in *Alexander v. Sandoval*, stated that only the Department of Education can challenge schools and other programs over discriminatory practices. In the majority opinion written by Justice Antonin Scalia, supported by the court's conservative bloc, he claimed that students and parents did not own the right to challenge schools and other programs on their practices and policies. Let me repeat that—the Supreme Court ruled that instead of allowing those directly and adversely affected by discriminatory practices and policies to initiate legal proceedings, the responsibility would be

placed on government bureaucrats. Now, at a time when the Department of Education lacks competent leadership, it is more important than ever before to reverse the Supreme Court's decision.

H.R. 2574 rectifies the Court's ruling and would allow students and parents to hold federally funded programs, like schools, accountable for any discriminatory practices and policies that impact people of color through a private right to action within the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It also creates an Assistant for Equity and Inclusion position in the Department of Education, tasked with guiding and advising the agency as to the best practices and policies for students in every classroom across the country.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and ask for its immediate in consideration in the Senate.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary and Homeland Committees, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2574, the "Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2019," which restores the power of students and parents to challenge discriminatory policies and practices in schools and other federally funded programs.

In 2001, the Supreme Court decided in *Alexander v. Sandoval* to overturn four decades of statutory protections against discrimination by stripping victims of discrimination of the right to bring disparate impact claims under Title VI.

However, this bill ensures that victims of discrimination no longer have to rely on the Department of Education to take legal action in order to challenge discriminatory practices in their schools.

Instead, individuals will once again have the ability to address instances of racial inequities themselves.

The Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act further protects students by making positive and substantive changes to Title VI, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance.

For example, the bill creates Title VI monitors to ensure that every school district and institution of higher education has at least one employee who is specifically responsible for investigating any complaints of discrimination based on race, color, or national origin.

It also establishes an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Education to coordinate and promote Title VI enforcement in education.

In 1954, the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* struck down the "separate but equal" premise that had allowed segregation in our public-school system.

It has been 66 years since that monumental ruling, yet we still have not been able to fulfill the promise of equity in education for our children.

Over the past few months, the United States has experienced seismic shifts in social consciousness regarding racial inequities that have permeated every aspect of American society.

As the names of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tamir Rice, Philando Castile, and so many others, become synonymous with today's civil rights movement, I believe this bill marks a step forward in the fight for equal rights.

We cannot achieve true racial equality without addressing the systematic discrimination in our education system.

For example, in December of 2018, Andrew Johnson, a Black high school wrestler, in New Jersey was forced to make an impossible choice when a referee told him to either cut his dreadlocks or forfeit the wrestling match.

Although Johnson wore a hair covering for the match, as dictated by wrestling guidelines, the referee rejected the covering and gave the student 90 seconds to cut off his dreadlocks.

In 2016, a Black teenager was escorted out of his high school graduation ceremony in Sacramento, California by three deputies after refusing to remove his kente cloth, a traditional Ghanaian silk and cotton fabric that symbolizes national cultural identity.

Earlier this year, the Barbers Hill Independent School District in Texas refused to change its grooming policy that led to the suspension of two Black students.

Despite public backlash against the policy, which forbids male students from keeping their hair at "a length below the top of a t-shirt collar, below the eyebrows, or below the ear lobes", the school board voted unanimously to keep the policy in place.

These instances of continued discrimination against minority students in our public-school system create a learning environment that is far from equal.

It is imperative to recognize that the existence of these Eurocentric policies in our educational system have a disparate effect on Black students, who are either forced to suppress their cultural heritage and Black identity or forfeit their right to equal educational and extracurricular opportunities.

While on the surface, such policies do not seem directed at specific races or ethnicities, in practice, they often discriminate against a Black person or person of color based on characteristics associated with them.

It is also well known that Black students are more often over-disciplined at school than their white counterparts.

Between 2015 and 2016, Black children accounted for 15 percent of all students, yet they made up 31 percent of referrals to law enforcement and school-based arrests, perpetuating the school-to-prison pipeline.

In Texas, black students in the Houston Independent School District (HISD) were four times more likely to receive a law enforcement referral, which includes citations, tickets, court referrals, and school-related arrests, than their white peers.

According to the Texas Education Agency, HISD is also known for its stark disparities between black and white students in school discipline, with black students being seven times more likely to get an out-of-school suspension.

These instances create a culture of inequality and reinforce barriers to education for students of color.

Without a private right of action to challenge these patterns and policies, students of color face countless forms of irreparable harm, including missing countless hours of instruction, educational opportunities, and relationship development that promotes pro-social growth and positive life outcomes.

Madam Speaker, by creating measures that give agency to individuals to identify, challenge, and change discriminatory practices in their own communities, we are creating an environment where all kids, regardless of race, color, or national origin,

color, or national origin, are given an equal chance to learn and excel.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize the opportunity we have here today to rectify some of the inequities in our schools and, more importantly, positively change the educational experience for students of color across the country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1107, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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.

□ 1100

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. I am in its present form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Foxx of North Carolina moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 2574, to the Committee on Education and Labor with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Page 4, line 11, strike the quotation mark and period at the end.

Page 4, after line 11, insert the following:

"(C) ANTISEMITISM CONSIDERED DISCRIMINATION.—In carrying out the responsibilities of the recipient under this title, the employee or employees designated under this section shall consider antisemitism to be discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin as prohibited by this title."

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, as you have heard throughout this debate, Republicans agree that discrimination and segregation are repugnant and immoral.

Unfortunately, this bill does nothing to address these problems. Instead, Democrats are trying to sneak in a radical partisan rewrite of civil rights law under the guise of an education bill. However, before the House takes action on this legislation, we have one final opportunity to address one particular flaw in this bill.

On September 11, 2019, President Trump issued an executive order establishing the policy of the executive branch to consider discrimination against Jews to be illegal discrimination under title VI when such discrimination is based on an individual's race, color, or national origin.

If this House is going to radically rewrite title VI, as this bill does, we should use this opportunity to show commitment to combating anti-Semitism.

With anti-Semitism on the rise around the world, the need for this amendment is clear. In fact, here in the United States, we have seen horrific acts of violence against our Jewish friends over the last few years.

In October 2018, 11 congregants lost their lives at a synagogue in Pittsburgh, the worst killing of Jews in American history. In December of last year, a gunman targeted a Jewish kosher deli, leaving six dead.

This motion does one simple thing. The underlying bill requires recipients of funding from the Department of Education to designate title VI compliance coordinators. My motion inserts language into this provision directing such compliance coordinators to consider anti-Semitism to be illegal discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under title VI.

Madam Speaker, we have an opportunity with this amendment to achieve an important goal. We can ensure that recipients of Federal education funding are doing all they can to protect members of our communities from horrific anti-Semitism.

I urge a “yes” vote on my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, anti-Semitism is religious discrimination. As the motion reflects, religion is not covered by title VI. It covers discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. It doesn’t cover religion.

While we are picking just one religious kind of discrimination, anti-Semitism, what about the other religions? Wouldn’t they deserve attention, too?

This is just a political attempt to insert religion into title VI. That is controversial. Might get support for that, but that is not part of this bill.

This motion just diverts attention from the core provision of the bill, and that is to open the courts so that those who can prove discrimination can have their day in court if their proof is based on disparate impact.

Now, let’s not divert attention away from that core idea that people who have been discriminated against ought to be able to get into court. Let’s let them have their day in court. Defeat this motion and pass the bill.

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.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and the nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

#### ENSURING CHILDREN AND CHILD CARE WORKERS ARE SAFE ACT OF 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7909) to facilitate access to child care services safely and securely during the COVID-19 pandemic, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7909

*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 “Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act of 2020”.

##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Child care is an essential service that supports children’s early development and allows parents to work.

(2) At least 1 out of 2 child care providers closed at some point during the COVID-19 pandemic, and 2 out of 5 face the possibility of permanent closure.

(3) The lack of access to child care services can prevent parents from returning to work and can prevent children from accessing critical services, including meals.

(4) Ensuring the safe re-opening and operation of child care service settings during periods of community transmission of COVID-19 will require child care providers to adopt new measures and practices in order to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission.

(5) Such measures and practices must ensure the safety of children as well as child care workers, who may be at high risk of infection.

(6) Ensuring that working families have access to safe child care service options is critical to supporting young children’s development and to returning the economy back to its pre-pandemic levels.

##### SEC. 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE SAFE PROVISION OF CHILD CARE SERVICES.

###### (a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this Act referred to as the Secretary), in consultation with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall provide technical assistance to States, Indian Tribes, and tribal organizations related to the safe provision of

child care services while there is community transmission of COVID-19. Such technical assistance shall include information about—

(A) the prevention of COVID-19 transmission in child care provider settings, including the use of face masks and other personal protective equipment in such settings,

(B) training and professional development on health and safety practices related to the prevention of COVID-19 transmission in child care provider settings,

(C) the acquisition and use of personal protective equipment, and

(D) modifications of child care provider settings and services to prevent COVID-19 transmission, such as optimal staff-to-child ratios across such settings and the use of mental health supports.

(2) MATERIALS.—As part of such technical assistance efforts, the Secretary shall—

(A) publish educational materials related to the prevention of COVID-19 transmission in child care provider settings, including by posting such materials on a website,

(B) update any such materials as necessary to reflect advancements in the science of COVID-19, and

(C) provide a mechanism through which States may exchange best practices relating to the safe operation of child care providers.

###### (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to lead agencies designated under section 658D(a) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858b(a)) to provide guidance, technical assistance, and support to child care providers, either directly or through resource and referral agencies or staffed family child care networks, regarding the safe operation of child care providers while there is community transmission of COVID-19.

(2) RESERVATION.—The Secretary shall reserve 2.75 percent of funds appropriated to carry out this section to make payments to Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, or consortia of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations.

(3) ALLOTMENTS.—From amounts appropriated to carry out this section and not reserved under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall allot to Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to the remaining States amounts in accordance with subsections (a)(1) and subsection (b) of section 658O of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858m), except that none of such remaining States shall receive an allotment of less than \$10,000.

(4) REQUIREMENTS.—Each lead agency that receives a grant under this section shall ensure that—

(A) guidance, technical assistance, and support are available to child care providers regardless of such providers’ settings, sizes, or administrative capacities, and

(B) guidance, technical assistance, and support are available in the languages most commonly spoken in the State, Indian Tribe, or Tribal organization.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after funds are appropriated to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report that includes—

(1) recommendations for how to ensure the safe provision of child care services while there is community transmission of COVID-19, including recommendations that address each of the issues described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (a)(1),

(2) recommendations for how to ensure the supply of child care services meets demand during periods when providers implement the recommendations described in paragraph (1), including whether it will be necessary to expand the number of child care providers to meet such demand and, if so, recommendations for how to expand the number of child care providers, and

(3) the estimated cost of implementing the recommendations described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

#### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

The terms “State”, “Indian Tribe”, and “Tribal organization” have the meanings given such terms in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

#### SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2021. Funds appropriated to carry out this Act shall remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7909, the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act.

Access to high-quality, affordable childcare has always been fundamental to the well-being of families and children, so it is not surprising that childcare has emerged as one of the most urgent issues facing families and communities during this pandemic.

I have spoken with parents who are struggling with how you balance kids at home with work at home. I have heard from business owners, economic development leaders, and local elected officials who are worried about the workforce and the economy, and childcare has always been an important part of all of these conversations because it is a key factor in reopening our communities safely.

Many, and in some places most, childcare providers across the country were closed during the early months of the pandemic. But now, they are reopening and working hard to restore confidence and provide a safe place for the children in their care.

Unfortunately, providers have told us that they have received little direct guidance about how to modify their practices for COVID-19 to keep children, families, and workers safe and that the guidance they have received keeps changing and is oftentimes unrealistic. This makes it difficult for pro-

viders to rebuild and to serve the number of children they need to sustainably run their business and survive the pandemic.

It is worth noting that even before the pandemic, this industry operated on razor-thin margins and faced major difficulties.

According to a recent report from the American Institutes for Research and Early Edge California, of the 278 California childcare providers surveyed, 52 percent reported that it was too difficult to understand or follow new requirements during COVID-19, and 79 percent reported a significant need for guidance on how to implement new COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

This important bipartisan bill before us today, introduced by my colleagues Representative FINKENAUER and Representative GUTHRIE, will help meet this need by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to issue educational materials and guidance on how to provide childcare services safely during the pandemic.

Critically, this bill authorizes funding that will enable States to provide direct outreach, technical assistance, and support to childcare providers.

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

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

Madam Speaker, before I begin, I was talking to my friend from Oregon earlier—and also, I know, your home State—and our thoughts and prayers are with everybody on the West Coast. I know some of us have friends on the Gulf Coast. We have citizens of our country, Madam Speaker, that are going through some tough times, and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7909, the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation that I introduced with my colleague, Representative FINKENAUER from Iowa, which will provide childcare providers resources and information on how to safely operate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Without childcare options, parents can't return to work, which is a key component to our Nation's economic recovery. Additionally, childcare benefits and a child's health and development are critical to building a strong foundation for future success.

Childcare providers, however, are currently grappling with safely reopening and staying open. A recent article in U.S. News and World Report noted tens of thousands of childcare providers shuttered across the U.S., 4,500 in the Washington, D.C., area alone.

In my home State of Kentucky, thanks to the CARES Act, many of our childcare centers have been fortunate to reopen. However, one-third of the

State's 2,200 licensed or certified childcare centers still haven't reopened.

In order to reopen for families, childcare providers must follow certain guidelines and modify their normal routines in order to create a safe environment for children. Now more than ever, childcare providers need assistance interpreting and implementing CDC and State guidelines designed to keep children safe.

My bill, along with Representative FINKENAUER, H.R. 7909, requires the Department of Health and Human Services to work with States to provide technical assistance for childcare providers as they reopen across the country.

In a recent study on technical assistance, the Government Accountability Office found that the current COVID-19 pandemic underscores the importance of Federal agencies providing technical assistance to grantees to ensure the continuity of operations of grant programs and the effective use of funding.

□ 1115

While it is common for Congress to require technical assistance, it is critical that we tailor these directives carefully to ensure grantees are receiving necessary and timely support. We in Congress hear the concerns of childcare providers and are sending the assistance they desperately need.

Additionally, this bill authorizes \$5 million for 1 year for HHS to issue grants to States so they can provide guidance and technical support to childcare providers, and it requires HHS to provide recommendations to Congress on how to ensure there is an adequate supply of safe childcare during COVID-19. It is critical, and not only to children and childcare providers, but also to families who need access to childcare while they return to work.

Madam Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on H.R. 7909 so that we can help put our country on the path forward. I appreciate working with my colleague from Iowa, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. GUTHRIE, for his kind remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Ms. FINKENAUER), the author of this important bipartisan legislation.

Ms. FINKENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, aptly called the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act. I introduced this commonsense bipartisan bill to help ensure our childcare providers have the information and resources they need to provide a safe environment both for the kids they serve and also their caregivers they employ amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

You see, parent and childcare providers were having a tough time even

before this pandemic hit our country. In my district, for example, parents can't find enough people to provide quality and affordable childcare, and there is an overwhelming demand and just not enough care available. This is an industry struggling with a shrinking workforce, low wages, and razor-thin margins.

And for myself personally, growing up in Iowa, I went to college in Iowa; and I saw, after college and even after high school, a lot of my friends move away and go to States where they could make more money and pay off their student loan debt.

Right now they are in their thirties, around my age, getting married, wanting to have kids, wanting to move back home, and one of the barriers to doing it is access to childcare.

So, again, this has been an issue that we have dealt with for a long time, before this pandemic even hit. But now, on top of everything, we are asking our childcare providers to keep our kids safe during this pandemic. In my State, cases continue to rise, but many folks have no choice but to return to work.

Right now, I am worried that we are headed in the wrong direction. Roughly 60 percent of childcare providers have actually closed their doors because of the pandemic, and there is a chance that up to half of those closures will actually be permanent.

Earlier this year, we passed legislation to create a \$50 billion childcare stabilization fund, which passed with bipartisan support. This will help address some of the intense financial pressure facing our providers right now, but the problem is still more complicated. We must give the providers the guidance and also the support that they need to protect the health and safety of our children, families, and frontline workers.

That is where the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act comes in. We want to make sure childcare providers are equipped to keep kids safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19. We are going to do that by ensuring there is practical safety guidance and technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

We also want to make sure that this guidance actually reaches childcare providers and that providers get the help they need in implementing best practices. That is why our bill would also create grants so States can reach out to providers and provide the technical support they need to succeed.

This bill recognizes the unprecedented demands being put on our childcare providers. We simply cannot expect them to do this alone when they are already up against so much.

When it comes to addressing the childcare crisis which existed, again, well before COVID-19 hit our country, I am happy to say that I have found many partners on both sides of the aisle who are willing to tackle this issue for hardworking families.

Thank you to the great group of bipartisan colleagues who are joining me in tackling this problem and who worked with me to craft this bill. This includes my colead, Congressman BRETT GUTHRIE of Kentucky.

There is an understanding here that if parents don't have access to quality and affordable childcare, then they will start passing up economic opportunities. Sometimes it is turning down a promotion or, in other cases, that means leaving the workforce altogether. We see this far too often, especially in rural districts like mine.

It is clear that the childcare industry is critical to recovering from this pandemic and the economic situation it created. Providing help and technical assistance now will take a burden off our providers amid the many challenges, again, that they face during the pandemic.

This bipartisan bill before you today is common sense, and it is something that folks across the country are asking for. So I urge you to vote "yes" on the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), a member of the committee and a good friend.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting America's childcare providers and the essential services they provide to our Nation's families.

As millions of families have learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, childcare is a critical component of our national economy. In addition to the significant benefits that childcare provides for children's social and emotional development, access to reliable childcare continues to play a vital role in America's economic recovery.

As parents return to work, they need to be sure that their children will be looked after and kept safe. The Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act of 2020, H.R. 7909, would make these assurances to families by equipping childcare providers with the resources they need to perform their jobs safely and effectively.

This legislation would provide funding for States to implement technical support and training programs to assist childcare providers in meeting safety guidelines and acquiring personal protective equipment.

Childcare providers have supported millions of American families, providing an essential service during good times and bad. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7909.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, may I please inquire how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Oregon has 13 minutes remaining.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I really thank the gentlewoman for her

leadership on these issues. Thank you so very much for allowing me this time. As well, to the chairman of the committee, ranking member, and to Ms. FINKENAUER and the gentleman from Kentucky, let me thank them for their leadership, and I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Madam Speaker, let me indicate how important this legislation is. Twelve Utah childcare students were infected with COVID-19. They infected another 12; one of them was a parent who had to go to a hospital.

The Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act of 2020 is vital and long overdue. This bill requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide educational materials and technical assistance to States related to the safe provision of childcare services during COVID-19.

With this bill, childcare facilities not only receive information on COVID-19 prevention, but also professional development for providers on health and safety, as well as guidance on the acquisition and use of personal protective equipment.

We heard this a lot in my district: No PPE.

It also instructs HHS to recommend additional steps to Congress about ensuring the safe provision and adequate supply of childcare during COVID-19, including whether and how to expand the supply of childcare to meet demand. There is a demand. It is crucial.

In addition, according to The Washington Post, before the coronavirus pandemic, approximately one-third of all children under age 5 attended a paid care facility, daycare center, preschool, or prekindergarten. In 2019, there were 15 million-plus children living with a single mother and approximately 3 million children living with a single father.

This is crucial because, as things open up, children and schools are all going to be intermingling, and these childcare workers are vital to what we do and how we provide for these hard-working parents and to protect these children.

And now we know. It has been disabused that at any point children are not infectious. That is no longer a fact. It is not a fact. It is not true. They are infectious and they can transmit COVID-19.

Let me take a moment to speak quickly to H.R. 2574, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act of 2019.

That bill passed, but it restores the power of students and parents to challenge discriminatory policies and practices in schools and other federally funded programs. We know what happened to this young man who wanted to wrestle. What a humiliating situation when, on the wrestling floor, in the competition, a coach had to cut his hair off.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 7909.

I also rise to support H.R. 3659, Danny's Law, that deals with bullying,

and, as well, H.R. 8162, 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues and ask my colleagues to support the legislation.

Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor and Founding Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7909, the "Ensuring Child and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act of 2020," which requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide educational materials and technical assistance to states related to the safe provision of child care services during COVID-19. Despite their vital role during the pandemic, child care providers have received insufficient actionable guidance on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while providing high-quality care.

With this bill, child care facilities not only receive information on COVID-19 prevention but also professional development for providers on health and safety as well as guidance on the acquisition and use of personal protective equipment. It also instructs HHS to recommend additional steps to Congress about ensuring the safe provision and adequate supply of childcare during COVID-19, including whether and how to expand the supply of child care to meet demand.

An increasing number of states open up and more individuals return to work, parents are relying on child care facilities once again, making the need for proper guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at child care services more essential than ever. As of this morning, the United States has over 6,606,859 cases of coronavirus and over 195,961 related deaths. Adequate and updated information is key to getting control over this disease, and we must ensure that this guidance is easily and readily accessible to all.

It is no secret that the child care sector provides an immense public value to our society and our economy. According to the Washington Post, before the coronavirus pandemic, approximately one-third of all children under age 5 attended a paid care facility, day-care center, preschool or prekindergarten.

Child care plays a crucial role in the lives of working parents, especially in single parent households. In 2019, there were about 15.76 million children living with a single mother and approximately 3.23 million children living with a single father in the United States. We must never forget that child care is often a lifeline to single, working parents that allows them to balance both their parenting and professional responsibilities.

I am proud to be a leader on this critical piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues from both parties to join me in voting to pass H.R. 7909.

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

Madam Speaker, in these challenging times, childcare providers, especially those who run small operations, are at risk of shutting their doors. The call for Congress to act is loud and clear.

With the additional health and safety requirements providers are expected to navigate, it is important to help them implement these requirements so the children in their care remain safe and free from harm. H.R. 7909 will ensure

that childcare providers receive guidance and assistance to safely operate so that parents can return to work and our economy can continue to recover. I think most of the people, when I am back home, are just looking to return to normal, and this moves that forward.

For these reasons, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 7909, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I wish to once again thank Representatives FINKENAUER and GUTHRIE for their leadership in crafting this urgently needed bipartisan bill and all of my colleagues who have spoken in support of the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act. This is such an important issue.

Today's children are tomorrow's leaders. This bill will help make sure that childcare providers who are entrusted with the health, safety, and development of our Nation's very future have the support they need to succeed.

I also want to note, as my colleague from Iowa noted, that the consideration of this bill comes after the House passage of the Child Care is Essential Act, which will provide \$50 billion in direct grant funding to help childcare providers cover operating expenses, purchase PPE and cleaning supplies, pay providers through the pandemic and beyond, and, importantly, give struggling parents relief from high-cost copayments and tuition.

This is a good investment in our children, our families, our economy, and our future. I continue to urge Senator McCONNELL and the full Senate to take up the Child Care is Essential Act, as well as this excellent bipartisan bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation before us today, H.R. 7909, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7909, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

□ 1130

#### CHILD CARE PROTECTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2020

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2683) to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring

requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2683

*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 "Child Care Protection Improvement Act of 2020".

#### SEC. 2. TASK FORCE TO ASSIST IN IMPROVING CHILD SAFETY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a task force, to be known as the Interagency Task Force for Child Safety (referred to in this section as the "Task Force") to identify, evaluate, and recommend best practices and technical assistance to assist Federal and State agencies in fully implementing the requirements of section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f(b)) for child care staff members.

(b) COMPOSITION.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall appoint the members of the Task Force, which shall—

(1) consist of only Federal officers and employees; and

(2) include—

(A) the Director of the Office of Child Care of the Department of Health and Human Services (or the Director's designee), the Associate Commissioner of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services (or the Associate Commissioner's designee), and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (or the Director's designee); and

(B) such other Federal officers and employees (or their designees) as may be appointed by the President.

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of the Task Force shall be the Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(d) CONSULTATION.—The Task Force shall consult with representatives from State child care agencies, State child protective services, State criminal justice agencies, providers of child care services, including providers in the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders on identifying problems in implementing, and proposing solutions to implement, the requirements of section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, as described in that section. Such consultation shall include consultation with State agencies that are at different stages of such implementation.

(e) TASK FORCE DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

(1) develop recommendations for improving implementation of the requirements of section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, including recommendations about how the Task Force and member agencies will collaborate and coordinate efforts to implement such requirements, as described in that section; and

(2) develop recommendations in which the Task Force identifies best practices and evaluates technical assistance to assist relevant Federal and State agencies in implementing section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, which identification and evaluation shall include—

(A) an analysis of available research and information at the Federal and State levels regarding the status of the interstate requirements of that section for child care staff members who have resided in one or

more States during the previous 5 years and who seek employment in a child care program in a different State;

(B) a list of State agencies that are not responding to interstate requests covered by that section for relevant information on child care staff members;

(C) identification of the challenges State agencies are experiencing in responding to such interstate requests;

(D) an analysis of the length of time it takes the State agencies in a State to receive such results from State agencies in another State in response to such an interstate request, in accordance with that section;

(E) an analysis of the average processing time for the interstate requests, in accordance with that section;

(F) identification of any fees (and entities responsible for paying any such fees) associated with the interstate requests in each State to meet requirements, in accordance with section 658H of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f), including identification of—

(i) the extent to which such fees are consistent with subsection (f) of that section; and

(ii) information regarding factors that impact such fees;

(G) a list of States that are participating in the National Fingerprint File program, as administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and an analysis of reasons States have or have not chosen to participate in the program, including barriers to participation such as barriers related to State regulatory requirements and statutes; and

(H) a list of States that have closed record laws or systems that prevent the States from sharing complete criminal records data or information with State agencies in another State.

(f) MEETINGS.—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Task Force shall hold its first meeting.

(g) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the first meeting of the Task Force, the Task Force shall submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a final report containing all of the recommendations required by paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (e). The report shall also include a list of the members of the Task Force, the agencies such members represent, and the individuals and entities with whom the Task Force consulted under subsection (d).

(h) NO COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS.—A member of the Task Force shall serve without compensation in addition to any compensation received for the service of the member as an officer or employee of the United States.

(i) EXEMPTION FROM FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force.

(j) SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate 1 year after submitting its final report under subsection (g).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Over 75 percent of preschool-age children attend some form of early care and education before reaching kindergarten. For this reason, it is imperative that we ensure we are providing our children with the best educators that will give them the best education possible.

The 2014 reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant—or as we will say today, the CCDBG Act—made changes to the original 1990 bill, including adding background checks to ensure that childcare centers receiving funds through the CCDBG are employing quality professionals.

However, in the 6 years since the reauthorization, barriers to background check information have hindered the hiring process for quality childcare providers.

So as of right now, there is no uniform process to share this information across States. Each State has its own set of laws and policies, making it harder for childcare providers to gather the necessary information for the employees that they are hiring.

S. 2683, the Child Care Protection Improvement Act of 2020, would create an interagency task force that will identify the obstacles in the background check process and recommend best practices to overcoming them.

When children attend safe, high-quality, early care and education programs, they develop the skills that help them succeed in school and in the future.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of S. 2683, the Child Care Protection Improvement Act of 2020, the same bill offered by my colleagues Representatives MCBATH, KELLER, TAYLOR, FINKENAUER, and AXNE.

In 2014, Congress passed the Child Care Development and Block Grant Reauthorization Act with broad bipartisan support and it required that States conduct specified comprehensive criminal background checks for all childcare staff members.

As part of this crucial requirement, interstate checks must be completed in any State where the prospective employee lived over the last 5 years. However, given the variation of individual State laws and practices, interstate background checks have proven difficult for many States to complete.

With only three States able to fully implement the Child Care and Development Block Grant background checks as of March 1st, 2020, it is time for Congress to determine the root causes of the roadblocks to interstate background checks.

The Child Care Protection Improvement Act does just that by establishing

a task force at HHS. The task force includes the FBI and respective CCDBG Federal agencies, as well as those who are operating State background check systems in order to determine the issues with the current systems.

By establishing a task force, Congress can take action to improve the operability and preserve the resources of the grantees who are already burdened by the red tape in the interstate background check system.

Approximately 1.3 million children receive a childcare subsidy from the Child Care and Development Fund every month. Their parents deserve the peace of mind that their children's caretakers have gone through comprehensive background checks.

While good-faith efforts toward compliance have been shown and incremental improvement has been demonstrated, more can be done to expediently implement these crucial safety measures for our children. The task force established in this bill is a promising step to achieving criminal background check implementation in every State.

I thank my colleagues for working across the aisle in crafting this legislation. I thank Chairman SCOTT of the Education and Labor Committee and Republican leader FOXX for helping bring this bill to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY), my friend and an important member of our committee.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2683, the Child Care Protection Improvement Act.

As a father of three and a member of the Education and Labor Committee, the issue this legislation seeks to improve is near and dear to me.

After reauthorizing the Child Care and Development Block Grant in 2014, which passed with broad bipartisan support, Congress added a requirement for States to implement background checks for any childcare employee put in charge of supervising children.

Childcare is an essential service as well as a source of employment for many Americans, so safety and care are of the utmost concern. Parents want to know that their children are in a good, honest, and safe environment.

However, since this reauthorization, implementation has been very problematic. Many States have experienced a great amount of difficulties actually performing robust background checks.

In fact, as of March 1, 2020, only three States have been able to fully implement the required background checks.

If passed, this bill will establish a task force at the Department of Health and Human Services to monitor background checks and to make recommendations for improving implementation at childcare businesses.

Keeping children safe from harm is a parent's number one concern when they leave them in someone else's care.

Parents will be more assured when they know their caretaker and all of

its employees have histories absent of criminal activity, sexual abuse, or any other forms of neglect.

We are facing so many challenges in this Nation at this time, but regardless, we can never stop working to make our children safe.

I thank my colleague, Senator BURR from North Carolina, for leading this initiative in the upper Chamber. I thank my colleagues in the House for doing the same. I look forward to its passage here in the House.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), who has been an architect of this piece of legislation.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2683, the Child Care Protection Improvement Act, legislation that is essential to the safety of millions of American children.

I am a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 3986, which is almost an identical companion bill in the House.

Childcare services play an integral role in our society. Families across the Nation entrust childcare providers with the well-being of their children on a daily basis. Every parent deserves the peace of mind of knowing that their childcare providers are passionate, caring, and above all, qualified.

While this is the case with a great many providers, it is imperative for States to be able to effectively conduct background checks, especially across State lines.

Faults in our criminal background check system can leave our children vulnerable to bad actors. No child should ever be placed in the care of an unqualified or dangerous person.

S. 2683 will help States address challenges in implementing background checks required under current law, ensuring our children receive the safest and highest quality of care possible.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

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

Madam Speaker, the childcare industry is critical to the well-being of American families, and each family across our Nation deserves to know that those who are caring for their children have gone through thorough and necessary criminal background checks.

The Child Care Protection Improvement Act helps protect children and gives parents peace of mind when it comes to sending their children to a childcare facility.

This legislation is a perfect example of what Congress can accomplish when bipartisanship and meaningful collaboration take priority over politics.

I encourage a “yes” vote on S. 2683.

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 2683. We must do everything that we can to ensure the safety of our children. Families deserve to know that their kids are being cared for by qualified providers.

Before we close out, I thank my colleagues, Representatives VAN TAYLOR, CINDY AXNE, FRED KELLER, and ABBY FINKENAUER for working with me to introduce the House companion for this bipartisan legislation.

It is so great that we were able to work together to keep our children safe, set them up for educational success, and ensure our qualified childcare providers have access to the opportunities they have worked so hard for.

I also thank the Education and Labor Committee staff for their hard work of helping us advance this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2683, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DANNY'S LAW

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3659) to establish an Anti-Bullying Roundtable to study bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3659

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as “Danny’s Law”.

(b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) This Act is named in honor of Daniel Fitzpatrick, who, in August 2016, when he was 13 years old, tragically took his own life as a direct result of bullying.

(2) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, bullying is among the most commonly reported discipline problems in public schools.

(3) Potential effects of bullying include social and emotional distress, physical injury, and increased risk for lowering academic achievement.

#### SEC. 2. ANTI-BULLYING ROUNDTABLE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an independent commission to be known as the “Anti-Bullying Roundtable” (in this Act referred to as the “Roundtable”).

(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the Roundtable shall be to study and report on bullying in elementary schools and secondary schools in the United States by consulting with State educational agencies and local educational agencies regarding—

(1) current policies on bullying;

(2) teacher education on bullying and bullying prevention policies;

(3) parent and student education on bullying and bullying prevention policies;

(4) instances of student violence as a result of bullying;

(5) instances of student self-harm as a result of bullying;

(6) preventative measures in place at State and local levels; and

(7) instances of cyberbullying and practices for addressing cyberbullying.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Roundtable shall be composed of 15 members, appointed as follows:

(A) 3 members shall be appointed by the Secretary of Education, and those 3 members shall represent 3 different categories of stakeholders described in paragraph (2).

(B) 6 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 3 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the majority leader of the House of Representatives, and 3 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader of the House of Representatives. The Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall each select individuals who represent at least 3 different categories of stakeholders described in paragraph (2).

(C) 6 members shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, 3 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the majority leader of the Senate, and 3 of whom shall be appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader of the Senate. The President pro tempore, the majority leader, and the minority leader of the Senate shall each select individuals who represent at least 3 different categories of stakeholders described in paragraph (2).

(D) In appointing members of the Roundtable, the Secretary of Education, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President pro tempore of the Senate, to the extent practicable, shall take into account all the other nominees to the Roundtable to ensure as many as possible of the categories of stakeholders described in paragraph (2) are represented.

(2) REPRESENTATION.—The members of the Roundtable shall include, to the extent practicable, at least one representative of each of the following:

(A) Teachers.

(B) School leaders.

(C) Parents of schoolchildren.

(D) Individuals who are at least 16 years of age and who have experienced bullying.

(E) Physicians.

(F) Child psychologists.

(G) Paraprofessionals.

(H) School resource officers or other appropriate professionals responsible for school security.

(I) Specialized instructional support personnel.

(J) Other staff.

(K) Other individuals with expertise working with bullied youth.

(3) CHAIR.—The members of the Roundtable shall elect one individual to serve as chair.

(4) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for the duration of the existence of the Roundtable.

(5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Roundtable shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made under paragraph (1) and in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (2).

(6) PAY.—Members of the Roundtable shall serve without pay.

(d) TIME FRAME FOR FORMATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the designated Members of Congress and the Secretary shall appoint the members described in subsection (c)(1).

## (e) POWERS OF ROUNDTABLE.—

(1) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Roundtable may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Roundtable considers appropriate.

(2) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—Upon request of the chair of the Roundtable, the Secretary of Education shall work with the heads of appropriate departments or agencies to furnish requested information to the Roundtable.

(3) MAILED.—The Roundtable may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

(4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon request of the Roundtable, the Secretary of Education shall provide to the Roundtable the administrative support services necessary for the Roundtable to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

## (f) REPORTS.—

(1) BEST PRACTICES REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date on which the Roundtable has been formed, the Roundtable shall submit to the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary shall make public, a report on best practices concerning bullying, including cyberbullying, in elementary schools and secondary schools in the United States that contains, among other items—

(A) recommendations for how to prevent bullying;

(B) recommendations for how to best educate educators, administrators, and all relevant school staff on recognizing bullying;

(C) recommendations for how parents can best address and discuss with their children the early warning signs of bullying;

(D) recommendations for addressing underlying causes of bullying behavior;

(E) recommendations to address bullying of at-risk students, including students who are at greater risk of self-harm; and

(F) examples of successful evidence-based bullying prevention programming.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Roundtable has been formed, the Roundtable shall transmit a final report to the Secretary of Education and the Congress containing—

(A) a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Roundtable; and

(B) recommendations for lawmakers regarding effective bullying prevention policies.

(g) TERMINATION.—The Roundtable shall terminate upon submission of the final report pursuant to subsection (f)(2).

(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—No data obtained under this Act from State educational agencies, local educational agencies, Federal departments or agencies, or other sources, including information described in subsection (e)(2), shall include or reveal personally identifiable information about any individual.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the terms “elementary school”, “local educational agency”, “paraprofessional”, “parent”, “other staff”, “school leader”, “secondary school”, “Secretary”, “specialized instructional support personnel”, and “State educational agency” have the meaning given those terms, respectively, under section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

□ 1145

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I was proud to co-introduce this important legislation with my colleague, Congressman MAX ROSE, and I would like to start by thanking him for his work and leadership on this bill and on behalf of Danny and his family.

In 2016, 13-year-old Daniel Fitzpatrick took his life as a direct result of bullying at school.

To honor Danny and to help save countless other young lives, his family committed to advocacy and established the Danny’s Angel Network Nurturing Youth, DANNY, foundation to raise awareness and end bullying in schools.

One out of every five kids in this country experiences bullying. The problem has grown and moved from beyond the playground to the internet as students spend more and more time online.

Bullying contributes to emotional and mental health problems for children across this country and, in far too many cases, has driven kids to suicide. In fact, a recently released CDC report stated that suicide of youth ages 10 to 24 has increased by nearly 60 percent in the last 10 years.

This is an issue that deserves our consideration, deserves research, and deserves action. We simply must do more to prevent bullying and its devastating consequences.

Danny’s Law would establish an antibullying roundtable, a commission tasked with studying bullying in elementary and secondary schools and producing a report with best practices to address it.

While we cannot bring back those we have lost to bullying and suicide, this commission will give schools and educators the tools to end bullying—something I hear from my constituents far too often, from my schools, from my educators—and it will ensure that every student can grow and learn in a safe and welcoming environment.

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

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 3659, Danny’s Law, bipartisan legislation that would establish an antibullying roundtable to examine bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States.

One-third of the world’s youth are bullied. This is a saddening statistic.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, students who are bullied are more likely to experience low self-esteem and isolation, perform poorly in school, have fewer friends, have a negative view of academics, and experience physical symptoms and mental health issues.

We all agree that no child should be bullied in any school, and as elected representatives, we are in a position to coordinate on our efforts to support our schools in preventing such mistreatments.

The legislation before us today is named in honor of Daniel Fitzpatrick, a 13-year-old boy who tragically died by suicide in August 2016 after being bullied by his peers.

Before taking his own life, Daniel wrote a note to his family detailing the struggles he faced with bullying and the lack of response by his teachers. This is heartbreaking, and it is unacceptable.

Unfortunately, devastating stories like Daniel’s are becoming far too common throughout our country and have lasting impacts on American families and our communities.

Today, we are here to act.

Under Danny’s Law, Members of Congress and the Secretary of Education will appoint 15 individuals representing a variety of community members with insight into bullying and its effects on children. These parents, school leaders, teachers, school security, and psychologists will serve on an antibullying roundtable to consult with State and local educational agencies regarding the growing issue of bullying and to discuss prevention measures to reduce its increasing toll on our Nation’s youth.

By addressing the mistreatment and harassment of school-age children, we can help create a safe learning environment for students. They are our future. We have a vested interest in giving families, schools, and communities the tools they need to shape young Americans to be successful leaders.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for taking action to combat bullying in our Nation’s elementary and secondary schools, and I urge a “yes” vote on H.R. 3659 for children like Danny and millions of others who face bullying every single day.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE), the author of this bill.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank, of course, the chairman of this committee and my wonderful colleague from Michigan for her friendship and her extraordinary leadership.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 3659, otherwise known as Danny’s Law.

This bill will establish a roundtable of experts and stakeholders to study and report on the problem of bullying in our schools.

This isn't a new problem, but it is one that is increasingly more prevalent and increasingly more complex. Kids today don't just face bullying at school. They bring it home with them as well, home on their phones, home on their computers. It is all over social media.

Addressing this problem will require a head-on commitment nationwide to end bullying, one that involves not just lawmakers as ourselves, but every single person in this Nation, private sector, public sector, everyone.

I hope this bill will be a first step toward instilling emotional literacy in our young people so that they can see the common humanity amongst each other and grow to be empathetic adults.

I sincerely hope that we can model that behavior as well for them. In times like this, when our country is growing ever more divided, we need to be teaching our children not the art of division but how to accept one another, respect each other, work with each other.

Danny Fitzpatrick was one of those people. He was a boy who loved to love. He accepted each person as they are and always found in them a shared humanity.

Society, our society, allowed a beautiful young boy like Danny to be bullied so horribly that he took his own life at 13 years old.

This should not happen in America. This cannot happen in America, not to any family. But his mother, Danny's mother, took her pain and she made it her mission to ensure that no other family experiences this agony.

We cannot get Danny back. We cannot erase his family's pain.

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, we cannot get Danny back. We cannot erase his family's pain. But what we can do right here is give Danny's life meaning and protect all of America's children, our children, by passing this bill.

Madam Speaker, I once again want to thank the staff, Chairman SCOTT, and Ranking Member FOXX for bringing this overdue bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues, on behalf of America's children, to vote "yes."

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD).

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3659, Danny's Law, and I thank my friends and colleagues, MAX ROSE and HALEY STEVENS, for introducing this important bill.

Across our communities, a national epidemic of suicide has devastated far too many families. One of the most heartbreaking aspects of this crisis concerns the loss of children to suicide, often a result of pervasive, overwhelming bullying by their peers.

Danny's Law was named for Daniel Fitzpatrick, a 13-year-old boy whose experiences with bullying led him to take his own life.

By directing the President to establish an antibullying roundtable to make recommendations pertaining to bullying in elementary and secondary schools, this legislation would make ending bullying a national priority.

People of all ages, including children, suffer from the effects of unmet mental health needs, with consequences that can be dire. In taking the issue of suicide among children out of the shadows, we can begin to overcome the stigma around mental health challenges, which remain far too prevalent in our society.

In addition to the sometimes extreme consequences of pervasive bullying, students who are bullied by their classmates are not able to fully pursue their education or receive equal access to the academic and social opportunities their schools provide. Preventing and ending bullying will remove this major barrier.

Together, Republicans and Democrats alike, let us pass this bill in remembrance of Daniel Fitzpatrick and in support of his family.

To every young person in our communities who may feel judged or alone, you will never be alone. You are free to be who you are.

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership, and I thank the outstanding co-sponsors of this legislation, my friend Mr. ROSE and my colleague from New Jersey, for coming together around a concept that I have had the disappointment and sadness to work on for most of my tenure in the United States Congress, and that is bullying.

I am so saddened that we have to name bills after young people, precious young people, who have taken their lives.

Bullying—breaking news—destroys our children. It not only destroys the person that is bullied—many times, unbeknownst to their friends or their family so that someone could provide them comfort and reaffirm their dignity and their worth because that is what bullying does, it says that you are not worth anything—but it also destroys the bully.

So, I am excited about a commission, a roundtable established by the President to study bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States. Their report will make rec-

ommendations for combating bullying and educating school officials in recognizing it.

I know how hard school officials work. I talk to my superintendents and teachers all the time. But they miss these things, and that means the child suffers alone.

This bill is named after Daniel Fitzpatrick, a 13-year-old boy who died on August 11, 2016. He was a loving and generous kid who embodied kindness and empathy to all.

He was also the victim of relentless physical, mental, verbal, and emotional bullying. No child should have to go through that.

I have worked on this for a very long period of time. In 2019, I was able to pass H.R. 494, the Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act.

I think these bills need to be passed immediately by the United States Senate and, really, go to the President of the United States.

A child is bullied every 7 seconds. Approximately 11 percent of students simply do not go to school at least 1 day during the school year because they feel unsafe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DELBENE). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her kindness.

In the last year alone, an estimated 160,000 students across the country skipped school because they feared being bullied.

I started out by saying, and let me specifically note, in 2018, 7.1 percent of LGBTQ students were verbally bullied because of their sexual orientation. Twenty-eight or 30 percent of those students were physically bullied.

Let me just say this. This is an excellent bill. It brings us all together. It announces our attempt to respond to Danny's mother, to attack an epidemic of bullying in our schools.

We don't know where it starts. We don't know where these children come from. But we have to help them because bullying destroys the lives of the bully and of the one bullied.

Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor and senior member of the Judiciary and Homeland Committees, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3659, "Danny's Law," which requires the President to establish an Anti-Bullying Roundtable to study bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States.

The 13-member roundtable will consist of relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to teachers, parents of schoolchildren, and guidance counselors, who will submit a report to Congress on best practices concerning bullying upon 270 days of convening.

This report will provide recommendations for combating bullying, educating school officials on how to recognize bullying, as well as helping parents to address the early warning signs

of bullying with their children, so that we can take a well-informed step forward in the fight against childhood bullying.

This bill is named after Daniel Fitzpatrick, a 13-year-old boy who died by suicide on August 11, 2016.

Danny was a loving and generous kid who embodied kindness and empathy to all.

He was also the victim of relentless physical, mental, verbal, and emotional bullying at school.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been an active advocate for anti-bullying initiatives.

In January 2019, I was able to achieve broad bipartisan support for my bill, H.R. 494, the Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act, which was later passed in the House.

Although some people may dismiss bullying as a normal part of growing up, bullying can be detrimental to a child's education and have lifelong consequences.

It is an epidemic that plagues our country and too often claims the lives of our youth.

In Houston, Texas, a child is bullied every seven seconds and approximately 11 percent of students do not go to school at least one day during the school year because they feel unsafe.

On a national level, 90 percent of students between the fourth and eighth grades report being victims of some type of bullying.

In the last year alone, an estimated 160,000 students across the country skipped school because they fear being bullied by their peers, and many more attended school in a state of anxiety and depression, affecting their ability to effectively learn.

Students who are chronically absent between grades 8 and 12 are over seven times more likely to drop out before graduation and long-term consequences include poverty as well as diminished mental and physical health.

Furthermore, students who identify or are perceived as LGBTQ are often at an increased risk of being bullied.

In 2018, 70.1 percent of LGBTQ students were verbally bullied because of their sexual orientation while 28.9 percent of LGBTQ students were physically bullied.

Youth with disabilities and those who are socially isolated are also considered as vulnerable populations when it comes to being targets for bullying.

Cyber bullying adds an additional layer of complexity when trying to build a safe environment for all youth.

In today's world, our children are exposed to technology at a much younger age, which raises the likelihood of them being subjected to cyberbullying.

Over 80 percent of teens use a cell phone regularly, making it the most popular form of technology and a common medium for cyber bullying.

According to the i-SAFE foundation, over 50 percent of adolescents and teens have been bullied online.

Yet, well over half of young people do not tell their parents when they are being bullied online.

By passing Danny's Law today, we are taking a tremendous, nonpartisan step towards eliminating childhood bullying and promoting more inclusive and tolerant environments for the next generation.

I am proud to be a leader on this important legislation that will undoubtably improve the educational experiences of the next generation, and I ask all members from both parties to join me in voting to pass H.R. 3659.

□ 1200

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

Today, we are here for one reason, and that is to take action to ensure that children like Danny never feel as if they have nowhere to turn. No child should be subject to cruel treatment from his or her peers under any circumstances, especially in the classroom. H.R. 3659, Danny's Law, is a unified effort to combat bullying and to ensure students have a safe and healthy environment to learn and to grow.

I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for taking a stand against bullying for our Nation's children. I strongly urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 3659 so we can move this bill swiftly through the legislative process and to President Trump's desk for signature.

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I urge my colleagues today to support H.R. 3659.

Once again, I want to thank and commend my colleague, Congressman MAX ROSE, for his incredible leadership. He has taken tragedy and turned it into action.

Our colleagues are absolutely right that this deserves the full attention of our government, and it is why we are taking this to the highest level of our government, to combat bullying.

This bill honors the life of Danny Fitzpatrick, and it recognizes what so many families are working to prevent, what so many families and communities across this country never want to see happen. It will help end bullying. It will protect students across this country, and I look forward to seeing this bill become law.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3659, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS CORONAVIRUS RELIEF ACT OF 2020

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8162) to express the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Education

should provide certain waivers to community learning centers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8162

*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 "21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020".

**SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING FLEXIBLE USE OF SUBGRANT FUNDS.**

It is the sense of Congress that for school year 2020–2021, notwithstanding each provision in part B of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7171 et seq.) that requires activities under such part be carried out during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session, the Secretary of Education should carry out the exceptions included in the notice entitled "Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; 21st CCLC 4201(b)(1) Waiver Request", published by the Department of Education in the Federal Register on September 3, 2020 (85 Fed. Reg. 55002) by providing that each eligible entity that is awarded a subgrant under section 4204 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7174) for community learning centers may use such subgrant funds—

(1) to carry out activities described in section 4205 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7175), regardless of whether such activities are conducted in-person or virtually, or during school hours or when school is in session; and

(2) to provide in-person care during—

(A) the regular school day for students eligible to receive services under part B of title IV of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7171 et seq.); and

(B) a period in which full-time in-person instruction is not available for all such students served by such eligible entity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to speak in support of passing the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020, which I recently introduced.

This pandemic and economic crisis have disrupted every aspect of life in our society. As a result of the pandemic, many school districts will provide academic instruction through remote or hybrid learning models this school year. Estimates suggest that this fall, nearly 24 million workers with children between the ages of 6 and 14 will have no at-home childcare option.

For parents struggling to care for their children while maintaining their professional responsibilities or trying to return to the workforce, this time has been an unprecedented challenge. Those of us who have the honor of representing our communities in Congress must act. My commonsense, bipartisan legislation offers a path forward.

My bill expresses a sense of Congress that the flexibility provided to States through the Department of Education's recent waiver for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, the only federally funded initiative dedicated to supporting after-school, before-school, and summer learning programs, allows subgrantees to provide virtual programming and school-aged childcare during the workday to help meet the need of students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These learning centers, which typically operate out of Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, schools, and other community centers, have existing trusted partnerships with the school districts that they serve. The flexibility expressed in my legislation will help school districts leverage these partnerships to create options for families and to cultivate environments in which K-12 students could receive additional academic support, school-aged children could receive safe care during the workday, schoolday, and working parents would be able to return to and stay in the workforce.

Over the last several months, I have heard from dozens of parents across my community who are concerned about how they are going to tackle this school year, how they will find affordable childcare, how they make sure their children don't fall behind academically, and how they will stay in the workforce. I am proud that my legislation supports flexible, affordable, school-aged childcare options to create safe, structured learning environments for students to thrive and to enable parents to get back to work.

Right now, families need options and flexibility. Without it, our students, our workers, and our economy will all pay the price. Putting forward solutions to these issues is a national priority, not just for the sake of children and families across our communities, but also for businesses trying to retain employees or hire new workers.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in passing this legislation with a resounding, bipartisan vote.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

MR. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8162, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act, bipartisan legislation that expresses Congress' support for actions the Department of Education is taking to expand access to in-person care and academic support for students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2020-2021 school year looks very different for parents, teachers, and students. Schools are operating on varying schedules of in-person, remote, and hybrid instruction to ensure that students remain safe while not falling behind academically.

Most students will be saddled with the challenges of beginning a new year of school while making up for lost learning caused by the disruptions from COVID-19.

Working parents of school-aged children face unique challenges during the pandemic. Finding childcare when in-person instruction is not offered has become a burdensome task for many families, especially low-income families.

If these hardworking families aren't able to return to work, our Nation's economic recovery will be severely impeded. Today, we are here to address this growing problem by passing the bipartisan 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act.

The 21st Century Community Learning Center, CCLC, program, is a federally funded after-school program. The grantees are locally operated, often by school districts and community-based organizations, and primarily serve students attending schools with high concentrations of low-income families.

Students at 21st CCLCs participate in academic and enrichment programs, receive support services such as tutoring and mentoring, and their families are encouraged to actively participate in their children's studies.

Since after-school program staff have established relationships with students and have experience providing supportive services, they are uniquely qualified to assist students during the 2020-2021 school year.

Under current law, 21st CCLCs must operate during "non-school hours," such as before and after school or during summer breaks. The Department of Education announced plans to address this by offering waivers to States to allow 21st CCLCs to expand their hours of operation during the 2020-2021 school year.

The legislation under consideration today expresses Congress' support for the Department of Education to grant flexibility for 21st CCLCs to operate outside of this year's constraint for the upcoming school year.

With these new flexibilities, 21st CCLCs will be able to provide programming during regular school hours and offer in-person care to students who cannot be in school throughout the regular day. Further, 21st CCLCs will be able to serve students in person or virtually in order to better accommodate the various needs of the families during the year.

I thank Representative WILD for leading this important legislation, and I strongly urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 8162.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

MS. WILD. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE).

MRS. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Nevada's Third Congressional District, I rise today in support of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act.

We are now over 3 weeks into the school year in my district, and it is clear that we need to do so much more to support our students, parents, and schools.

Whether it is at-home or in-person learning, the pandemic is throwing challenges at our kids that make learning more difficult and, in some cases, nearly impossible. This isn't just a struggle for students, but also for parents who are also juggling work while supervising remote learning for their kids.

We can't just ask parents to make the best of a bad situation. It should be on Congress to help our working families. Whether in a school building or in a living room, we need to create a supportive, engaging environment for our students, while giving parents the flexibility to still work and provide for their families—and that is what this bill does.

It will provide additional academic support for K-12 students by offering access to safe, supervised learning during the day to take some weight off the shoulders of working parents. This will be done by bringing together schools, community organizations, nonprofits, local government, and after-school providers to expand access to academic resources and create flexibility for families.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act to give our students and parents the flexibility and the resources they need to make this school year count.

MR. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

MS. WILD. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

MR. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8162, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, schools throughout Rhode Island and all across America have been forced to close their doors, some for the rest of the year.

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This trend means that high-quality after-school and summer programs will be even more necessary to provide young people with a safe, enriching place to learn and grow. We have an obligation to ensure that these programs have the resources and flexibility needed to meet the needs of America's children.

Currently, more than 2 million children and families rely on NITA M.

LOWEY 21st Century Community Learning Centers for after-school and summer learning programming. With schools across the country closing, many students are unable to obtain services provided by out-of-school programs, including academic assistance, a safe place to be when their parents are working, and access to a hot meal or healthy snack.

We know after-school programming provides one of the most effective ways to keep children safe in the late afternoon and early evening hours and keeps them on the right path to completing school. These programs help students develop essential life skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and healthy living.

Additional flexibility for 21st Century Community Learning Centers will help improve access to these critical programs and will make sure that after-school programming is available to students and families to keep children safe and engaged and to strengthen families and communities throughout the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, working parents across the country are currently grappling with the challenge of finding affordable childcare as COVID-19-related school closures force many students to stay home. Parents are eager to return to work, but without reliable, affordable childcare options, students, workers, and the economy will be impacted significantly.

H.R. 8162, the bipartisan 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act, supports the Department of Education's efforts to extend a commonsense solution that will help parents return to the workforce by increasing access to safe, supportive environments for students. By giving 21st CCLCs greater flexibility to provide normal programming during school hours and in-person care to students during the regular school day, parents can return to work with peace of mind, knowing that their children are in good hands and not falling behind academically.

Again, Madam Speaker, I thank Representative WILD for introducing this legislation. I strongly urge a “yes” vote on H.R. 8162, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague across the aisle, Mr. VAN DREW, for supporting this very important piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 8162. It is legislation that will provide vital support for students, for parents, for employers, for schools, and for our economy as we all grapple with the effects of this pandemic.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 8162, the “21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act”.

H.R. 8162, expands the allowable uses for subgrants provided under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program for the 2020–2021 school year.

Specifically, the bill allows eligible entities that are awarded program subgrants for community learning centers to use these subgrants to: (1) carry out activities that advance student academic achievement and support student success, regardless of whether such activities are conducted in person, virtually, during school hours, or when school is in session; and (2) provide in-person care during the regular school day and when full-time in-person instruction is not available to students. (Currently, the program only supports academic enrichment opportunities for children during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session.)

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 threat to health, the spring of 2020, saw the forced closure of all K-12 and post-secondary education institutions in the Nation.

There is an urgent need to meet the education crisis the Nation is facing with an adequate response.

Data from the National Center for Education Statistics shows that one out of every four households in Texas does not have access to broadband internet, and some 8 million homes do not have a computer or a smartphone.

Because of this bill, Community Learning Centers will provide academic enrichment opportunities during school and non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools.

The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

Technological difficulty is just one of the reasons students could become disengaged from the virtual learning environment.

Learning Centers are needed because despite being one of the most developed countries in the world, the United States has one of the highest rates of childhood poverty globally.

Preliminary data on the Houston Independent School District (HISD) from the Texas Education Agency shows 23.4 percent of students lost contact or stopped engaging with learning during the Spring.

This is more than twice statewide average, the total statewide for unengaged students is nearly 500,000.

One key factor is poverty, children born or raised in poverty face a number of disadvantages, most evidently in education.

Poverty reduces a child's readiness for school because it leads to poor physical health and motor skills, diminishes a child's ability to concentrate and remember information, and reduces attentiveness, curiosity and motivation.

Children in poverty are also finding the challenge of keeping up with school work more difficult due to COVID-19.

One of the most severe effects of poverty in the United States is that poor children enter

school with this readiness gap, and it grows as they get older.

Children feel alienated from society; suffer insecurities because of their socioeconomic status; fear the consequences of their poverty; endure feelings of powerlessness; and are angry at society's inability to aid in their struggles.

Children from lower-income families are more likely than students from wealthier backgrounds to have lower test scores, and they are at higher risk of dropping out of school.

Students with low income backgrounds who complete high school are less likely to attend college than students from higher-income families.

For some children, the effects of poverty on education present unique challenges in breaking the cycle of generational poverty and reduce their chances of leading rewarding, productive lives.

In addition to these challenges' children living in poverty often do not have access to necessary computer technology, broadband internet connection to participate in remote learning, or the nutritional support that provides adequate food, which is essential to learning.

We know that this crisis created by COVID-19 was difficult for the Nation's approximately 56.6 million students, 3.5 million full- and part-time public school teachers, and parents.

This bill is necessary as the beginning of the fall school year continues to pose challenges to educating the nation's children.

To meet the challenges created by COVID-19, the HISD school board passed a budget amendment earlier this month to spend \$31 million on devices for students. By the end of the year, the district says it plans to have distributed nearly 125,000 devices and hotspots to students.

The statute being amended only allows learning centers and related grants to be funded when schools are in session.

At a time when learning centers are more important to education because COVID-19 is impacting schools' functioning as the primary source of full time learning we need to act to support this education resource.

Children are depending on Congress to make education possible during COVID-19.

There are: 50.8 million students in public schools, and 5.8 million students in private schools.

Among the 50.8 million students enrolled in elementary and secondary public schools: 1.4 million were in prekindergarten; 3.7 million were in kindergarten; 35.5 million attended elementary through middle school (K and 8th grade); and 15.3 million attended high school (9 through 12th grade).

Through 2028, enrollment is projected to increase to 51.4 million.

In 2018, 3.3 million students graduated from high school, marking nearly a 1 percent increase from 2017; 3.7 million were expected to graduate in 2020; 3.3 million from public high schools; and 0.4 million from private schools.

The average per-student expenditure in public schools is \$13,440.

In 2019, there are approximately 16,800 school districts in the United States.

13 percent of all public school students were served by the Individuals with Disabilities Act for the 2015–2016 school year.

Between 2000 and 2016, total public school enrollment increased for 32 states.

The following saw increases of 15 percent or more: Florida, Delaware, North Carolina, Idaho, Georgia, Colorado, Arizona, Texas, Utah, and Nevada.

The following states saw decreases of 10 percent or more: Michigan, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

In 2018, 7 million or 13.7 percent of public school students received special education services.

In 2017, 9.6 percent of public school students were learning English as a second language.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 8162.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8162, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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**PROMOTING RESEARCH AND OBSERVATIONS OF SPACE WEATHER TO IMPROVE THE FORECASTING OF TOMORROW ACT**

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 881) to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 881

*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 “Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act” or the “PROSWIFT Act”.

**SEC. 2. SPACE WEATHER.**

(a) POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States to prepare and protect against the social and economic impacts of space weather phenomena by supporting actions to improve space weather forecasts and predictions including: sustaining and enhancing critical observations, identifying research needs and promoting opportunities for research-to-operations and operations-to-research collaborations both within and outside of the Federal Government, advancing space weather models, engaging with all sectors of the space weather community, including academia, the commercial sector, and international partners, and understanding the needs of space weather end users.

(b) AMENDMENT TO TITLE 51, UNITED STATES CODE.—Subtitle VI of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding after chapter 605 the following:

**“CHAPTER 606—SPACE WEATHER**

- “Sec.
- “60601. Space weather.
- “60602. Integrated strategy.
- “60603. Sustaining and advancing critical space weather observations.
- “60604. Research activities.
- “60605. Space weather data.
- “60606. Space weather knowledge transfer and information exchange.

“60607. Pilot program for obtaining commercial sector space weather data.

“60608. Space weather benchmarks.

**“§ 60601. Space weather**

“(a) FINDINGS.—

“(1) SPACE WEATHER.—Congress makes the following findings with respect to space weather:

“(A) Space weather phenomena pose a significant threat to ground-based and space-based critical infrastructure, modern technological systems, and humans working in space.

“(B) The effects of severe space weather on the electric power grid, satellites and satellite communications and information, aviation operations, astronauts living and working in space, and space-based position, navigation, and timing systems could have significant societal, economic, national security, and health impacts.

“(C) Space-based and ground-based observations provide crucial data necessary to understand, forecast, and prepare for space weather phenomena.

“(D) Clear roles and accountability of Federal departments and agencies are critical for efficient and effective response to threats posed by space weather.

“(E) Space weather observation and forecasting are essential for the success of human and robotic space exploration.

“(F) In October 2015, the National Science and Technology Council published a National Space Weather Strategy and a National Space Weather Action Plan seeking to integrate national space weather efforts and add new capabilities to meet increasing demand for space weather information.

“(G) In March 2019, the National Science and Technology Council published an updated National Space Weather Strategy and Action Plan to enhance the preparedness and resilience of the United States to space weather.

“(2) ROLE OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Congress makes the following findings with respect to the role of Federal agencies on space weather:

“(A) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provides operational space weather monitoring, forecasting, and long-term data archiving and access for civil applications, maintains ground-based and space-based assets to provide observations needed for space weather forecasting, prediction, and warnings, provides research to support operational responsibilities, and develops requirements for space weather forecasting technologies and science.

“(B) The Department of Defense provides operational space weather research, monitoring, and forecasting for the Department’s unique missions and applications.

“(C) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration provides increased understanding of the fundamental physics of the Sun-Earth system through basic research, space-based observations and modeling, developing new space-based technologies and missions, and monitoring of space weather for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s space missions.

“(D) The National Science Foundation provides increased understanding of the Sun-Earth system through ground-based measurements, technologies, and modeling.

“(E) The Department of the Interior collects, distributes, and archives operational ground-based magnetometer data in the United States and its territories, works with the international community to improve global geophysical monitoring, and develops crustal conductivity models to assess and mitigate risks from space weather-induced electric ground currents.

“(F) The Federal Aviation Administration provides operational requirements for space

weather services in support of aviation and for coordination of these requirements with the International Civil Aviation Organization, and integrates space weather data and products into the Next Generation Air Transportation System.

“(b) COORDINATION BY OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall—

“(1) coordinate the development and implementation of Federal Government activities conducted with respect to space weather to improve the ability of the United States to prepare for, avoid, mitigate, respond to, and recover from potentially devastating impacts of space weather; and

“(2) coordinate the activities of the interagency working group on space weather established under subsection (c).

“(c) SPACE WEATHER INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the National Science and Technology Council shall establish an interagency working group on space weather (in this chapter referred to as the ‘interagency working group’) to coordinate executive branch actions that improve the understanding and prediction of and preparation for space weather phenomena, and coordinate Federal space weather activities.

“(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The following entities shall be members of the interagency working group:

“(A) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(B) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

“(C) The National Science Foundation.

“(D) The Department of Defense.

“(E) The Department of the Interior.

“(F) Such other Federal agencies as the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy deems appropriate.

“(2) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—

“(A) The members of the interagency working group may enter into one or more interagency agreements providing for cooperation and collaboration in the development of space weather spacecraft, instruments, technologies, and research to operations and research in accordance with this chapter.

“(B) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall enter into one or more interagency agreements providing for cooperation and collaboration in the development of space weather spacecraft, instruments, and technologies in accordance with this chapter.

“(3) INTERNATIONAL, ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, AND COMMERCIAL SECTOR COLLABORATION.—Each Federal agency participating in the space weather interagency working group established under this subsection shall, to the extent practicable, increase engagement and cooperation with the international community, academic community, and commercial space weather sector on the observational infrastructure, data, and scientific research necessary to advance the monitoring, forecasting, and prediction of, preparation for, and protection from, space weather phenomena.

“(d) SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY GROUP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies, shall establish a space weather advisory group (in this chapter referred to as the ‘advisory group’) for the purposes of receiving advice from the academic

community, the commercial space weather sector, and space weather end users that informs the interests and work of the interagency working group.

“(B) COMPOSITION.—The advisory group shall be composed of not more than 15 members appointed by the interagency working group, of whom—

“(i) 5 members shall be representatives of the academic community;

“(ii) 5 members shall be representatives of the commercial space weather sector; and

“(iii) 5 members shall be nongovernmental representatives of the space weather end user community.

“(C) CHAIR.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the last member of the advisory group is appointed under subparagraph (B), the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall appoint 1 member as the Chair of the advisory group.

“(D) TERMS.—The length of the term of each member of the advisory group shall be 3 years beginning on the date on which the member is appointed.

“(E) TERM LIMITS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the advisory group may not serve on the advisory group for more than 2 consecutive terms.

“(ii) CHAIR.—A member of the advisory group may not serve as the Chair of the advisory group for more than 2 terms, regardless of whether the terms are consecutive.

“(2) DUTIES.—The advisory group shall advise the interagency working group on the following:

“(A) Facilitating advances in the space weather enterprise of the United States.

“(B) Improving the ability of the United States to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from space weather phenomena.

“(C) Enabling the coordination and facilitation of research to operations and operations to research, as described in section 60604(d).

“(D) Developing and implementing the integrated strategy under section 60602 including subsequent updates and reevaluations.

“(3) USER SURVEY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the advisory group, the advisory group shall conduct a comprehensive survey of the needs of users of space weather products to identify the space weather research, observations, forecasting, prediction, and modeling advances required to improve space weather products.

“(B) SURVEY CONSIDERATIONS.—The survey conducted under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) assess the adequacy of current Federal Government goals for lead time, accuracy, coverage, timeliness, data rate, and data quality for space weather observations and forecasting;

“(ii) identify options and methods to, in consultation with the academic community and the commercial space weather sector, improve upon the advancement of the goals described in clause (i);

“(iii) identify opportunities for collection of new data to address the needs of the space weather user community;

“(iv) identify methods to increase coordination of space weather research to operations and operations to research;

“(v) identify opportunities for new technologies, research, and instrumentation to aid in research, understanding, monitoring, modeling, prediction, forecasting, and warning of space weather; and

“(vi) identify methods and technologies to improve preparedness for potential space weather phenomena.

“(C) COORDINATION WITH AGENCIES.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, the advisory group shall communicate and coordinate with the interagency

working group to ensure the needs of the governmental space weather user community are adequately and appropriately identified by the survey under subparagraph (A).

“(D) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the survey under subparagraph (A), the advisory group shall provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a briefing on the results of the survey under subparagraph (A).

“(E) PUBLICATION.—Within 30 days of the briefing to Congress, the advisory group shall make the results of the survey under subparagraph (A) publicly available.

“(F) REEVALUATION.—The advisory group shall review and assess the survey under subparagraph (A) not less than every 3 years and update, resubmit, and republish the survey in accordance with the requirements of subparagraphs (D) and (E).

“(4) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory group.

#### **§ 60602. Integrated strategy**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in collaboration with the interagency working group and upon the advice of the advisory group, shall develop a strategy for coordinated observation of space weather among members of the interagency working group (in this chapter, referred to as the ‘integrated strategy’). The integrated strategy shall identify—

“(1) observations and measurements that must be sustained beyond the lifetime of current ground-based and space-based assets, as described under section 60603, that are essential for space weather research, models, forecasting, and prediction;

“(2) new observations and measurements that may significantly improve space weather forecasting and prediction; and

“(3) plans for follow-on space-based observations under section 60603.

“(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the integrated strategy in subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall consider, as appropriate, the following:

“(1) Potential contributions of commercial solutions, prize authority, academic and international partnerships, microsatellites, small satellite options, ground-based instruments, and hosted payloads for observations identified in section 60602(a)(2).

“(2) Work conducted before the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act by the National Science and Technology Council with respect to space weather.

“(3) The survey under section 60601(d).

“(4) Any relevant recommendations from the most recent National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Decadal Survey for Solar and Space Physics (Heliophysics).

“(c) REVIEW OF INTEGRATED STRATEGY.—

“(1) REVIEW.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with Federal agencies participating in the interagency working group, shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to review the integrated strategy developed in this section.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The review from paragraph (1) shall also consider the current state, capability, and feasibility of the commercial space weather sector to provide new and supplemental observations and measurements that may significantly improve space weather forecasting and prediction.

“(3) TRANSMITTAL.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall transmit the integrated strategy and the results of the review required under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 1 year after the date of the completion of the survey under section 60601(d)(3). The integrated strategy and its review shall be made publicly available within 30 days of submittal to Congress.

“(d) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after delivery of the review of the integrated strategy in subsection (c)(3), the interagency working group shall develop a plan to implement the integrated strategy, including an estimate of the cost and schedule required for implementation. Upon completion, the interagency working group shall submit the implementation plan to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Armed Services of the Senate. The implementation plan shall be made publicly available within 30 days of submittal to Congress.

“(e) REEVALUATION.—The Director, in collaboration with the interagency working group, shall update the integrated strategy not later than 1 year after the reevaluation of the user survey from section 60601(d)(3)(F) in accordance with the requirements of subsections (a) through (d).

#### **§ 60603. Sustaining and advancing critical space weather observations**

“(a) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to—

“(1) establish and sustain a baseline capability for space weather observations and to make such observations and data publicly available; and

“(2) obtain enhanced space weather observations, as practicable, to advance forecasting and prediction capability, as informed by the integrated strategy in section 60602.

“(b) SUSTAINING BASELINE SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONAL CAPABILITIES.—

“(1) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall, in cooperation with the European Space Agency and other international and interagency partners, maintain operations of the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory/Large Angle and Spectrometric Coronagraph (referred to in this section as ‘SOHO/LASCO’) for as long as the satellite continues to deliver quality observations.

“(2) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall prioritize the reception of SOHO/LASCO data.

“(3) The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall maintain, for as long as is practicable, operations of current space-based observational assets, including but not limited to the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites system, and the Deep Space Climate Observatory.

“(c) BACKUP SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONAL CAPABILITY.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall work with Federal and international partners in order to secure reliable backup baseline capability for near real-time coronal mass ejection imagery, solar wind,

solar imaging, coronal imagery, and other relevant observations required to provide space weather forecasts.

“(d) SOHO/LASCO OPERATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall develop an operational contingency plan to provide continuous space weather forecasting in the event of an unexpected SOHO/LASCO failure, and prior to the implementation of the backup space-based baseline observational capability in section 60603(c).

“(e) BRIEFING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the plan to secure reliable backup baseline capability described in subsection (c) and the SOHO/LASCO operational contingency plan developed under subsection (d).

“(f) SUSTAINING GROUND-BASED OBSERVATIONAL CAPABILITY.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, the Secretary of the Air Force, and, as practicable in support of the Air Force, the Secretary of the Navy, shall each—

“(1) maintain and improve ground-based observations of the Sun, as necessary and advisable, to help meet the needs identified in the survey under section 60601(d)(3); and

“(2) continue to provide space weather data through ground-based facilities, including radars, lidars, magnetometers, neutron monitors, radio receivers, aurora and airglow imagers, spectrometers, interferometers, and solar observatories.

“(g) CONSIDERATIONS.—In implementing subsections (b), (c), and (d), the Administrators of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Directors of the National Science Foundation and United States Geological Survey, and the Secretaries of the Air Force and the Navy shall prioritize cost-effective and reliable solutions.

“(h) GROUND-BASED OBSERVATIONAL DATA.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall—

“(1) make available to the public key data streams from the platforms and facilities described in subsection (d) for research and to support space weather model development;

“(2) develop experimental models for scientific purposes; and

“(3) support the transition of the experimental models to operations where appropriate.

“(i) ENHANCED SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, should develop options to build and deploy space-based observational capabilities, beyond the baseline capabilities referenced in subsection (b), that may improve space weather measurements and observations. These supplemental observational capabilities could include commercial solutions, prize authority, academic partnerships, microsatellites, ground-based instruments, and opportunities to deploy the instrument or instruments as a secondary payload on an upcoming planned launch.

#### § 60604. Research activities

“(a) BASIC RESEARCH.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Secretary of Defense, shall—

“(1) continue to carry out basic research on heliophysics, geospace science, and space weather; and

“(2) support competitive, peer-reviewed proposals for conducting research, advancing modeling, and monitoring of space weather and its impacts, including the science goals outlined in decadal surveys in solar and space physics conducted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

#### “(b) MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH.—

“(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the multidisciplinary nature of solar and space physics creates funding challenges that require coordination across scientific disciplines and Federal agencies.

“(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that science centers could coordinate multidisciplinary solar and space physics research. The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Director of the National Science Foundation should support competitively awarded grants for multidisciplinary science centers that advance solar and space physics research, including research-to-operations and operations-to-research processes.

“(3) MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall each pursue multidisciplinary research in subjects that further the understanding of solar physics, space physics, and space weather.

“(c) SCIENCE MISSIONS.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should implement missions that meet the science objectives identified in solar and space physics decadal surveys conducted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

“(d) RESEARCH TO OPERATIONS; OPERATIONS TO RESEARCH.—The interagency working group shall, upon consideration of the advice of the advisory group, develop formal mechanisms to—

“(1) transition the space weather research findings, models, and capabilities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the United States Geological Survey, and other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate, to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Defense;

“(2) enhance coordination between research modeling centers and forecasting centers; and

“(3) communicate the operational needs of space weather forecasters of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Department of Defense, as appropriate, to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the United States Geological Survey.

#### § 60605. Space weather data

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Director of the National Science Foundation shall continue to—

“(1) make space weather-related data obtained for scientific research purposes available to space weather forecasters and operations centers; and

“(2) support model development and model applications to space weather forecasting.

“(b) RESEARCH.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall make space weather-related data obtained from operational forecasting available for research.

#### § 60606. Space weather knowledge transfer and information exchange

“Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Ad-

ministrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in collaboration with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Director of the National Science Foundation, shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to establish a Space Weather Government-Academic-Commercial Roundtable to facilitate communication and knowledge transfer among Government participants in the space weather interagency working group established under section 60601(c), the academic community, and the commercial space weather sector to—

“(1) facilitate advances in space weather prediction and forecasting;

“(2) increase coordination of space weather research to operations and operations to research; and

“(3) improve preparedness for potential space weather phenomena.

#### § 60607. Pilot program for obtaining commercial sector space weather data

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may establish a pilot program under which the Administrator will offer to enter into contracts with one or more entities in the commercial space weather sector for the provision to the Administrator of space weather data generated by such an entity that meets the standards and specifications published under subsection (b).

“(b) DATA STANDARD AND SPECIFICATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, may publish standards and specifications for ground-based, ocean-based, air-based, and space-based commercial space weather data and metadata.

#### “(c) CONTRACTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 12 months after the date of transmission of the review of the integrated strategy to Congress under section 60602(c)(3) and taking into account the results of the review, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may offer to enter, through an open competition, into at least one contract with one or more commercial space weather sector entities capable of providing space weather data that—

“(A) meets the standards and specifications established for providing such data under subsection (b); and

“(B) is provided in a manner that allows the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to calibrate and evaluate the data for use in space weather research and forecasting models of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Defense, or both.

“(2) ASSESSMENT.—If one or more contract is entered into under paragraph (1), not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall assess, and submit to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Armed Services of the Senate, a report on the extent to which the pilot program has demonstrated data provided under contracts described in paragraph (1) meet the standards and specifications established under subsection (b) and the extent to which the pilot program has demonstrated—

“(A) the viability of assimilating the commercially provided data into National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration space weather research and forecasting models;

“(B) whether, and by how much, the data so provided add value to space weather forecasts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Defense; and

“(C) the accuracy, quality, timeliness, validity, reliability, usability, information technology security, and cost-effectiveness of obtaining commercial space weather data from commercial sector providers.

**§ 60608. Space weather benchmarks**

“The interagency working group established under section 60601(c) shall periodically review and update the benchmarks described in the report of the National Science and Technology Council entitled ‘Space Weather Phase 1 Benchmarks’ and dated June 2018, as necessary, based on—

“(1) any significant new data or advances in scientific understanding that become available; or

“(2) the evolving needs of entities impacted by space weather phenomena.”

**(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—**

(1) The table of chapters of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to chapter 605 the following:

“606. Space Weather ..... 60601”.

(2) Section 809 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18388) and the item relating to that section in the table of contents under section 1(b) of that Act (Public Law 111-267; 124 Stat. 2806) are repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 881, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I am very excited we are here today to pass S. 881, the PROSWIFT Act, a bill that I have been working on for almost 5 years.

Space weather is the electromagnetic activity that comes from the Sun, and it can have significant societal, economic, national security, and health implications both here on Earth and in space.

About 5 years ago, Dr. Dan Baker from the University of Colorado Boulder testified in front of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee about the dangers of space weather events on the electric grid. At that hearing, he said that had an observed July 2012 space weather event actually hit Earth, we would “still be picking up the pieces.”

That testimony stuck with me, and when Senators GARY PETERS and CORY

GARDNER introduced the first version of this bill a few months later, I was eager to start working on the House companion.

Over the last 4 years, the House and the Senate have been working toward the shared goal of passing this legislation into law, but we have had a few differences we have had to work out. I am glad we finally worked through those differences and can send this bill to the President’s desk today.

In 2015, the Office of Science and Technology Policy pulled together the best and brightest from within the various agencies working on space weather to produce the National Space Weather Strategy and Action Plan. These documents helped renew our focus on the critical research and operational needs to improve our space weather enterprise, and OSTP updated the strategy and action plan in 2019.

The PROSWIFT Act builds upon this work by providing the structures needed for the continued advancement of heliophysics research, collection of new data and observations, and improvements to our modeling and forecasting.

This bill also, for the first time, clearly delineates the roles and responsibilities of the key Federal agencies involved in space weather, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the United States Geological Survey, as well as the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Importantly, our legislation brings in new voices from the academic community, commercial space weather sector, and space weather forecast end-users. These communities will participate in the space weather advisory group created in the bill as well as on a new government-academia-commercial roundtable we create to be facilitated by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Finally, the bill also sets up formal research-to-operations and operations-to-research mechanisms to help break down barriers between the research community and operational forecasters by encouraging sharing of information and requirements to improve the pipeline of new observations, technologies, models, and forecasts.

This bill will improve our understanding of space weather and better prepare us for its impacts on the electric power grid, communications networks, satellite operations, and airlines. It will also help NASA understand the radiation environment for our astronauts on the International Space Station, on their way back to the Moon, and, most importantly, on their journey to Mars by 2033.

We have been working on this bill for a long time now, and I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama, Representative Mo BROOKS, for his help

pushing for this bipartisan legislation. I also want to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and her staff for their support over the years, getting us to where we are today, and Ranking Member FRANK LUCAS for his support of the bill. I also want to thank my friend, Senator GARY PETERS from Michigan, who happens to be in the House Chamber today, for all the work he and his staff have put into this effort over the years.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 881, the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act, commonly referred to as the PROSWIFT Act.

Fluctuations in solar magnetic activity create variations in the environment between Earth and the Sun that can affect technologies in space and here on Earth. This phenomenon is what we refer to as space weather.

For the most part, space weather has a minimal effect here, but increased solar activity and severe events can create widespread problems and even disrupt our electric grid. Satellites that have less protection from Earth’s magnetic field are especially vulnerable.

Significant space weather events are not a new phenomenon, and we have evidence dating back more than 150 years of severe space weather events affecting human activity. However, the impact of these events is much greater now that we rely on satellites and remote sensing for everything from cell phone communication to energy production to GPS navigation.

For example, farmers in Oklahoma have been at the forefront of utilizing precision agriculture to help ensure the most effective use of our resources when planting crops, a technology dependent on GPS.

Space weather is also a national security issue. Our military has a variety of assets in orbit around the Earth, which could potentially be harmed by electromagnetic interference. They rely on satellites built by NASA and operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, for timely and accurate information about potential space weather events.

It is not only technology that is threatened by space weather events. There are the astronauts who currently work on the International Space Station more than 200 miles above the Earth’s surface and will one day serve on missions to the Moon and Mars. While we have developed techniques and technology to reduce the threats posed by increased radiation exposure due to a severe solar event, we have more work to do to mitigate these hazards to our astronauts as we venture beyond low-Earth orbit.

In short, severe space weather can have significant effects on each and

every one of us. That is why timely and accurate information from agencies like NASA and NOAA is so important. These agencies play an important role in better monitoring and forecasting space weather.

The bill before us today represents a good faith effort by the House and Senate to provide a framework that will provide for better coordination across the Federal Government. This is especially timely given that we are about to enter a period of increased solar activity, which will create more space weather events.

I am pleased this legislation includes an amendment I introduced during the markup of this legislation. My amendment creates a pilot program that will ensure that emerging private-sector companies will have a seat at the table and will be able to provide monitoring and forecast data, which the Federal Government can purchase and utilize in their space weather forecasts.

I thank the sponsors of this legislation for their work on this important topic. I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

□ 1230

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN), my friend, the chair of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. PERLMUTTER for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I begin by saying, I rise in strong support of S. 881, the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow, or the PROSWIFT Act, and recognize my colleague, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for all of his efforts on this, as well as my fellow Oklahoman and ranking member of the committee, Mr. LUCAS, and particularly, too, recognize Senator PETERS for all of his work on this important issue, which I think can often go underrecognized and unappreciated.

I was proud to cosponsor the House version of the PROSWIFT Act, H.R. 5260, with Mr. PERLMUTTER and many others, which passed out of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and I would like to, again, recognize the leadership on this bipartisan and bicameral bill, including Mr. BROOKS and others for the committee's work to advance an understanding of and the importance of predictive capabilities of space weather.

The PROSWIFT Act is really the culmination of years of work and reflects input from hearings, including joint hearings, the Subcommittee on Environment and the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, which I chair.

Though, it can feel remote, space weather can have a significant impact on us right here on Earth, as you have heard. Space weather, such as solar flares, solar wind and geomagnetic storms of energized, charged particles

can affect everything from our electric power grids, to satellites, to aviation operations, human spaceflight operations, and much more.

In short, severe space weather events pose significant risks to our infrastructure, and in turn, our economy and our national security. This is an important time and an important thing to take action on.

Madam Speaker, space weather forecasting is years, if not decades, behind the maturity of terrestrial forecasting, and that is why S. 881, the PROSWIFT Act, is critical.

Without improvements in space weather forecasts and prediction, we run the risk of potential disruptions to our critical infrastructure. The PROSWIFT Act establishes U.S. policy to help prepare and protect us against the social and economic impacts of space weather phenomena by supporting actions to improve space weather forecasts and predictions.

This act makes clear the importance of federal agency contributions, and their effective coordination, including NASA. To carry out research on the Sun and its effects on near-Earth environments, NASA operates research satellites whose measurements are also essential to NOAA's operational space weather forecasts.

The PROSWIFT Act moves us forward from relying, in part, on these research assets, some of which have been operating for over two decades, to developing a strategic and coordinated approach to sustaining a baseline of space weather operations and better predicting space weather events.

It is also important to enabling our future goals of space, including exploration goals to send humans to the Moon and to Mars, as laid out in H.R. 5666, the bipartisan NASA Authorization Act of 2020. Improvements in space weather forecasts will help keep our astronauts safe from harmful space radiation, which can be elevated during solar storms.

In addition, H.R. 5666 complements S. 881, the PROSWIFT Act, by directing the NASA administrator to establish a space weather research and applications program.

Madam Speaker, the Senate passed S. 881 on July 27, 2020, and now the House must act to make sure this important legislation becomes law.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS).

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I support the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act, called the PROSWIFT Act.

I thank Congressman PERLMUTTER for his leadership on this important issue and for working with me in the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology to advance the Senate bill, which is identical to the House version we have worked so long and hard on.

The PROSWIFT Act advances America's understanding of potentially se-

vere weather events and damaging consequences.

Space weather is a collection of physical processes beginning at the Sun with solar winds and ultimately affecting human activities on Earth and in space. Humanity needs a better understanding of these solar winds and their interaction with Earth's atmosphere. The PROSWIFT Act is a step towards that better understanding.

In Alabama's Marshall Space Flight Center, scientists and engineers are at the forefront of space weather research. Under the PROSWIFT Act, their enhanced research will advance our understanding of and ability to forecast space weather.

The PROSWIFT Act recognizes that space weather not only impacts us on Earth, it can and will impact us in deep space exploration.

For example, before we launch NASA's Artemis man-to-Moon-missions that pave the way to Mars missions, it is best that we should better understand how space weather phenomena impacts life in space, satellites, and other space instrumentation.

Madam Speaker, it is critical that we properly forecast space weather and prepare for and protect astronauts from the dangers of solar radiation.

Madam Speaker, I, again, thank my colleague, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for his leadership on space weather and his partnership on the PROSWIFT Act.

I encourage my colleagues to vote for Senate Bill 881 and send it to President Trump to sign.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Alabama for being a good partner and really working with me and with the Senate to refine and get this thing into an excellent product.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters of support we received for the PROSWIFT Act: a letter from the University of Colorado at Boulder; a letter from the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research; a letter from the American Commercial Space Weather Association; a letter from the American Astronomical Society; a letter from the American Geophysical Union; a letter from the University of Michigan; a letter from the University of New Hampshire; and a letter from the Pennsylvania State University.

LASP,  
January 8, 2020.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER: On behalf of my colleagues at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) and the University of Colorado Boulder, I write in support of the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act (PROSWIFT) Act (H.R. 5260). Given the continued threat and vulnerabilities facing our world from solar interactions with the Earth, we applaud the bipartisan approach Congress is taking to address the challenges we face with respect to enhancing our nation's space weather forecasting capabilities.

Throughout the Space Age, we have discovered and accumulated a vast knowledge on the governing physical processes of the various regions of both deep space as well as the space surrounding near-Earth. This knowledge has provided an opportunity to expand our reach into the solar system and beyond, as well as increase our Earth observation capabilities. Over time, the increased utilization of satellites continues to have a broad reach across our society, including within the security, public safety and commercial realms. The data we acquire from these satellites is vital in order to protect our national security and economic interests, and interruptions stemming from increased solar activity could prove detrimental in carrying out these important functions.

As a result, the call to increase our space weather forecasting and mitigation capabilities was amplified by the National Academies Decadal Survey in Solar and Space Physics in 2012, and again through the Office of Science and Technology Policy's Space Weather Action Plan that was released in October 2015. Through these calls, it has become a national imperative to streamline the mechanisms designed to help develop and maintain a forecasting system that not only help to predict space weather events, but to respond to them. We believe the PROSWIFT Act will provide a collaborative framework for the federal government and its agencies to work together alongside academic, international and commercial space communities to advance this critical undertaking.

An important component of space weather research and monitoring is collaboration and cooperation among its many stakeholders. The legislation's call for the development of a Space Weather Government-Academic-Commercial Roundtable in addition to a Space Weather Advisory Group will foster collaboration among academic, commercial and space weather end users designed to provide the federal interagency working group with guidance from key constituent groups. In addition, the renewed expansion of basic and multidisciplinary research as well as the federal partnership with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to "implement missions that meet the science objectives identified in solar and space physics decadal surveys" is a great step forward toward increasing our nation's future forecasting and responsive capabilities. Finally, the strong focus on research and operational capacity within this legislation underscores the important role academic institutions will continue to play in addressing the needs of federal agencies. Here at LASP (and I, daresay, across all of CU-Boulder), we take great pride in our expertise in research to operations and operations to research (R2O/O2R) capabilities, and we stand ready to assist in the cooperative model outlined in the H.R. 5260 to advance our national space weather forecast and response capabilities.

Again, we applaud this legislation and its aim to streamline federal efforts working in conjunction with academic and commercial space partners in order to better understand and predict space weather activities and their impacts on our national interests. Thank you for your outstanding support and leadership, and please continue to think of us as a resource and partner going forward.

Sincerely,

DANIEL N. BAKER, Ph.D.,  
Distinguished Professor of Planetary & Space Physics, Moog-BRE Endowed Chair of Space Sciences, Director, Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space

Physics; Professor, Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences; Professor, Department of Physics; Professor, Aerospace Engineering Sciences.

UCAR,  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,  
January 8, 2020.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PERLMUTTER: As a research organization committed to better understanding the earth system, including the critical role of the sun in geospace sciences, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) would like to thank you for proposing H.R. 5260—Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act—and voice our strong support for PROSWIFT. H.R. 5260 will enhance the integration of existing national efforts to understand, predict, prepare for, and mitigate space weather and will strengthen economic and national security as a result.

Scientists are just beginning to understand the interactions between our sun and the Earth. Given the growing national importance and reliance on technology, it is critical that we expand our scientific understanding of the interactions between the sun and Earth so that we may improve forecasting and mitigate the effects of space weather events. Coupled with the National Space Weather Strategy and National Space Weather Action Plan, this legislation sets national priorities to increase and improve space weather observations, science, and forecasting abilities.

H.R. 5260 lays out a clear road map for the space weather enterprise which consists of the public, private and academic sectors, and in so doing will enable better research to operations transitions that will benefit all communities that rely on technology both on the ground and in space that can be affected by these sun-driven events. The creation of the Space Weather Advisory Group is to be lauded as an excellent first step as it will establish the necessary linkages between government, academia and the private sector in an organized way that is currently done in an ad hoc fashion. This new approach will allow Congress to be kept up to date on the latest advances in science that are translated into operations and will help to identify the highest priority areas that are in need of resources in both the research and operational realms.

Most of our understanding of space weather is based on experience and knowledge gained over the last 30 years, though the historical record indicates space weather events of much greater severity have occurred within the last 150 years. Impacting airlines, GPS, and electric utilities, space weather events in recent history resulted in economic consequences in the tens of millions of dollars. Estimates for damage resulting from a repeat of the worst known event of the last 150 years range from \$1–2 trillion in the first year alone. Scientists do not know the likelihood of such an event recurring, or even whether such an event is the worst-case scenario. Thus, predictability of such events needs to be the driver for all research in the space weather domain. As part of the need to organize the research optimally to meet this threat, and in line with input from your recent hearing, UCAR encourages the committee to establish the Geosciences Directorate within the National Science Foundation (NSF) to be the lead within NSF for all space weather research activities.

Additionally, we commend H.R. 5260 for its emphasis on "Sustaining Ground-Based Observational Capability" and we believe it is imperative to draw the distinction between astronomy and space weather research in this regards. Ground-based observations are less costly and are the appropriate way to prove an observational capability and ensure risk reduction for instruments that may later be flown in space. Current ground-based telescopes used in astronomy are inadequate for space weather research so this section is vital to ensure a robust "ground to space" strategy.

H.R. 5260 would provide clear roles and responsibilities to the various federal agencies responsible for understanding, predicting, and forecasting space weather, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Department of Defense (DOD). As these are all agencies with which we work regularly, this clarity would enable us to pursue research that will have the best impact on society's ability to predict and respond to space weather events.

Again, thank you for your tireless work supporting the science community in Colorado and across the United States. We appreciate your efforts on this bill and many other endeavors.

Best regards,

DR. ANTONIO J. BUSALACCHI,  
President, University Corporation  
for Atmospheric Research.

AMERICAN COMMERCIAL SPACE  
WEATHER ASSOCIATION,  
December 6, 2019.

JEFF O'NEIL,

Legislative Director, Office of Congressman Ed Perlmutter (C0-07), Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. O'NEIL: On behalf of the American Commercial Space Weather Association (ACSWA), we are writing to express our strong support for H.R. 5260, Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act. The current version of the bill highlights the growing importance of space weather across a broad range of technology areas. We are pleased to see references to the expanding role of the commercial sector in addressing gaps in fundamental knowledge, providing the means to develop and improve observational resources, enabling the research to operations and operations to research enterprise, and mitigating the impacts of space weather threats. ACSWA stands ready to aid federal agencies in undertaking this critically important enterprise.

The studies and survey mandated by the bill will be extremely helpful to the space weather community as it mobilizes to address the high priority science and technology objectives that continue to drive space weather activities in federal laboratories, academic institutions, and the private sector. ACSWA member companies strive to continue agency and academia close partnerships that have been established and strengthened through the years. We fully anticipate that the five members of the PROSWIFT Advisory Committee from the commercial sector will ensure that ACSWA expertise, assets, and resources will be fully integrated in the space weather strategies emerging from the PROSWIFT-mandated actions.

ACSWA fully supports the observational priorities outlined in the PROSWIFT bill. More specifically, ACSWA feels it is important to continue L1 observations with a follow-on mission while simultaneously working aggressively toward developing an L5

platform. The combination of solar observations from L1 and L5 orbits provide an unprecedented view of the disturbances from which most space weather effects at Earth originate. Additionally, the rapidly improving capabilities in monitoring the ionosphere using radio occultation techniques will address a long-standing challenge in mitigating space weather effects on navigation and communication systems. The data sets generated by these observations will offer many opportunities for commercial sector companies to develop tailored products for government and industry customers.

We note that the PROSWIFT bill provides some latitude to federal agencies in how the commercial sector will be involved in space weather research and operations. ACSWA hopes that the language in the bill provides sufficient encouragement for agencies to overcome long-standing barriers that inhibit full cooperation and involvement with the commercial sector, not all of which are based on fiscal constraints. Again, the commercial sector members of the PROSWIFT Advisory Committee will have an important role to play in identifying strategies for taking full advantage of the private sector in meeting space weather goals. The pilot program removed from the earlier version of this bill would have effectively demonstrated the merits of such strategies. ACSWA looks forward to seeing such pilot programs implemented by federal agencies as they strive to meet space weather research and operational goals.

While we don't want to jeopardize the passage of the bill, there are additional small changes we believe could be added to the bill to ensure that all available technologies and processes are applied to reduce space weather hazards:

Page 7, lines 23-24 (Section 60601(d)(3)): change "Each Federal agency participating in the space weather . . ." to "All Federal agencies participating in the space weather . . ."

p. 18., line 19 in section 60603(d)(2)): ". . . airflow imagers, spectrometers, interferometers, airborne radiation instrumentation, and . . ."

ACSWA agrees with the Agency changes of Page 21-22; 23-5: ". . . transition National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Science Foundation, United States Geological Survey, and other relevant Federal agencies space weather research findings, models, and capabilities, as appropriate, to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Defense" to: "transition space weather research findings, models, and capabilities, as appropriate, from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Science Foundation, United States Geological Survey, other relevant Federal agencies, the academic community, and the commercial space weather sector to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Defense"

ACSWA agrees with the Agency changes of Page 22, 9-15: ". . . communicate National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Department of Defense operational needs of space weather forecasters, as appropriate, to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation and United States Geological Survey," to: "communicate National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Department of Defense operational needs of space weather forecasters, as appropriate, to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, United States Geological Survey, other relevant Federal agencies, the academic community, and the commercial space weather sector."

ACSWA appreciates all the hard work and careful thought devoted to crafting the PROSWIFT bill. It not only provides a tremendous boost to the entire space weather enterprise, but also takes a huge step toward protecting the nation from threats to technological infrastructure that is becoming ever more susceptible to space weather disturbances. We hope that this vital bill is quickly approved and federal agencies move forward with the activities so carefully delineated in the document.

Sincerely,

DEVRIE INTRILIGATOR,  
W. KENT TOBISKA,  
BOB ROBINSON  
(SciencePrime, LLC),  
on behalf of the ACS  
WA Executive Committee:

Geoff Crowley (Atmospheric and Space Technology Research Associates),

Alec Engell (NextGen),  
Jennifer Gannon (Computational Physics, Inc.),

Janet Green (Space Hazards Applications),  
Devrie Intriligator (Carmel Research Center, Inc.),

Bob Robinson (SciencePrime, LLC),  
Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., VADM USN (ret.) (GeoOptics),

Bob Schunk (Space Environment Corporation),

W. Kent Tobiska (Space Environment Technologies).

American Commercial Space Weather Association (ACSWA) [www.ACSWA.us](http://www.ACSWA.us).

AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY,  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,  
December 12, 2019.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington DC.

Hon. MO BROOKS,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES PERLMUTTER AND BROOKS: On behalf of the over 8,500 members of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) and its Solar Physics Division (SPD), we write to express our strong support for the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Bill and to thank you for your leadership on this vitally important topic. The legislation that you have introduced in the House is comprehensive in its scope, addressing key aspects of space weather and its significance for national security, communications, and human and robotic space operations in low Earth orbit and interplanetary space.

In particular, we endorse the following components of the bill, all of which are essential to further our understanding of the causes and effects of space weather, as well as to advance our ability to reliably forecast space weather events:

The recognition of the wide impact of space weather and the concomitant call for strong cooperation between stakeholder agencies such as NOAA, NSF, NASA, FAA, and the Departments of Defense and the Interior through the establishment of an interagency working group through the National Science and Technology Council on space weather, with accountability to Congress through the submission of pertinent reports;

The call for the formation of a space weather advisory group with broad representation across the academic, commercial, and non-governmental end-user communities to identify new technologies to aid in understanding and forecasting space weather;

The implementation of an integrated strategy that identifies the observation capabilities necessary for near-real-time solar and

coronal mass ejection imaging and that must be sustained beyond the lifetime of current ground-based and space-based assets in order to maintain capability;

The development of space weather instrumentation and competitive, peer-reviewed proposals for conducting research, including interdisciplinary research, in subjects that further the understanding of solar physics, space physics, and space weather and its impacts; and

Increased engagement and cooperation with the international, academic, and commercial space weather communities on the observational infrastructure and scientific research necessary to advance the forecasting of and preparation and protection from space weather phenomena.

Thank you for your attention to this timely and important issue. The membership of the SPD, which includes the nation's foremost experts in many of the areas addressed in this legislation, stands ready to assist in any way it can. If there is anything we can do, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

MEGAN DONAHUE,  
President, AAS.  
DALE GARY,  
Chair, SPD.

AGU 100,  
January 8, 2020.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. MO BROOKS,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMEN PERLMUTTER AND BROOKS: On behalf of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and its 60,000 members, I am writing to endorse H.R. 5260, The Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act, and to thank you for crafting this important legislation.

Space weather has the potential to inflict trillions of dollars of damage on our economy, weaken our national security, and alter our way of life. The National Research Council estimates that a severe space weather event has the potential to inflict \$1-2 trillion dollars of economic and societal damage in the first year alone and impact more than 130 million people. To recover from such an event could take from 4-10 years. Moreover, space weather fluctuations are not limited to rare catastrophic events but regularly impact our society and economy. It's estimated that the average economic impact of moderate geomagnetic events on the electric power grid in the U.S. is \$7 to \$10 billion per year. Additionally, advancing our understanding of the Sun is essential for the United States to realize its space exploration ambitions.

Given the economic and opportunity costs associated with space weather, we support the bill's approach of creating a national, coordinated plan to advance our understanding of the relationship between the Sun and Earth and to ensure the development of new technologies and forecasting capabilities to mitigate the threat posed by space weather. We appreciate the bill's recognition that a partnership between industry, academia, and federal agencies is needed to further our understanding and capacity to address the impacts of space weather. As a community dedicated to advancing the understanding of Earth and space science, we applaud the bill's intent to further scientifically informed action towards disaster preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery.

AGU looks forward to working with you as this legislation advances.

With best wishes,

CHRISTINE W. MCENTEE,  
CEO/Executive Director,  
American Geophysical Union.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH,  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN,  
January 7, 2020.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER: On behalf of the University of Michigan Office of Research, I write to thank you for introducing the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act (H.R. 5260).

As this legislation notes, severe space weather events “could have significant societal, economic, national security, and health impacts.” This bipartisan legislation is essential to helping us predict and mitigate such events that could drastically disrupt our economy and national security.

We are pleased this legislation outlines clear roles and responsibilities for the relevant federal agencies that are involved with improving our understanding, prediction and forecasting of space weather events. Importantly, PROSWIFT recognizes the necessity of engagement and cooperation with the academic community, among other sectors, by establishing a Space Weather Advisory Group whose membership will be equally comprised of a diverse stakeholder group including the academic community. Additionally, this bill creates a Space Weather Government-Academic-Commercial Roundtable to facilitate advances in space weather prediction and forecasting, among other items, which is necessary to efficiently advance our understanding of space weather.

The University of Michigan is focused on helping to improve the characterization, prediction, and mitigation of space weather events. Researchers on our campus study the effects of large solar eruptions and coronal mass ejections, and develop high-performance computational models to describe and predict hazardous conditions. If any of our experts on campus can ever be a resource, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Once again, thank you for your leadership on this legislation. We appreciate your continued commitment to improving efforts to predict and mitigate space weather events and we hope the full House of Representatives will approve this legislation expeditiously.

Sincerely,  
REBECCA CUNNINGHAM, M.D.,  
*Interim Vice President for Research.*

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,  
January 7, 2020.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,  
*Chair, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. FRANK LUCAS,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIR JOHNSON AND RANKING MEMBER LUCAS: We are writing on behalf of the University of New Hampshire (UNH) to voice our strong support for the PROSWIFT Act (H.R. 5260). UNH urges swift approval of this bipartisan legislation critical to ensuring that the United States is equipped to predict, mitigate, and respond to the hazards that space weather poses to our national security and economic wellbeing.

Federal support for research and technology development is essential to improving the Nation’s space weather readiness. Current space weather monitoring capabilities rely on an observational infrastructure that is incapable of providing the lead time required to undertake proper space weather mitigation measures. We applaud the Committee’s recognition of the importance of

fundamental research into the physical processes behind space weather. Such research will enable more sophisticated prediction capabilities and equip decision-makers with the information and tools necessary to avert crippling damage to our satellites, electric power grid, and other sensitive assets that underpin our economy and national security apparatus.

UNH is especially supportive of Sections 60603 and 60604. The former would strengthen support for critical ground-based and space-based space weather observational platforms while the latter would identify specific roles and responsibilities for research, development, and R20/02R activities at relevant agencies such as NASA, NSF, and NOAA. Particularly important to UNH and many of its peer institutions is the legislation’s commitment to advancing the consensus-based priorities identified by the scientific community and articulated in the National Academies Solar and Space Physics Decadal Survey.

We thank you for putting forward this important piece of legislation, and we hope that UNH can serve as a resource for you as you continue working to address the pressing issue of space weather.

Sincerely,

DR. KEVIN GARDNER,  
*Vice Provost for Research, University of New Hampshire.*

DR. HARLAN SPENCE,  
*Director, Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space, University of New Hampshire.*

PENN STATE,  
January 8, 2020.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PERLMUTTER: I write to express support for H.R. 5260, the Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act, and appreciation for your leadership on this legislation that aims to improve efforts for predicting and mitigating space weather events.

By delineating clear roles and responsibilities to federal agencies that study and predict space weather, the legislation will improve resources and make critical measurement data available for the research community to model the frequency and severity of space weather events. This information will be helpful for monitoring space weather events, particularly coronal mass ejections and geomagnetic disturbances that can cause interruptions to the power grid and in satellites, affecting critical infrastructure that is dependent on communications technology and electricity.

With an increase in focus and attention to space weather activities provided by this legislation, researchers with expertise in data assimilation and big data analysis at Penn State and around the nation can conduct risk analysis and plan for responses to space weather events before they occur. Penn State researchers and educators in meteorology, geoinformatics, energy business and engineering, as well as social science, look forward to the data opportunities made available through this legislation.

If I or any of our experts in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences can be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact my federal relations colleagues.

Sincerely,

LEE R. KUMP,  
*John Leone Dean.*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I also include in the RECORD an op-ed

from The Hill dated September 10, 2020, by Dr. Antonio Busalacchi, who supports this bill.

[From the Hill, Sept. 10, 2020]

CONGRESS NEEDS TO FINALIZE SPA WEATHER BILL AS SOLAR STORMS POSE HEIGHTENED THREAT

(By Antonio J. Busalacchi)

The COVID-19 pandemic has left us more dependent than ever on advanced information and communication technologies, with many businesses and schools relying on a range of remote services. In this environment, building resilience to potential threats that can disrupt society’s essential daily activities is critical.

For this reason, it is heartening to see Congress advancing legislation to better protect the nation from solar storms that spew millions of tons of charged matter toward Earth. Such space weather events can distort GPS signals, scramble satellite operations, and disable communications and power systems, with serious consequences for our economy and armed services—a particularly major concern as the Pentagon prepares for future space-based conflicts.

Significant space weather events occur every decade or so with far-reaching and destructive consequences. A powerful solar storm in 1989 cut off power to millions of Canadians, and major storms in 2003 affected more than half of Earth-orbiting spacecraft. Just three years ago, solar flares caused radio blackouts for hours during critical emergency response efforts to approaching hurricanes in the Caribbean and nearby regions.

A solar superstorm poses even greater risks. The so-called Carrington Event in 1859, which ignited fires in telegraph offices, would have catastrophic impacts on today’s society, potentially resulting in widespread damage to power grids, communication networks, and other technologies that would take weeks, months, or even years to repair. Even before COVID-19 led to an increased reliance on e-based technologies, the National Academy of Sciences estimated that such an event could result in as much as \$2 trillion in damages—or more than 10 times the costs of Hurricane Katrina.

Despite a growing array of advanced satellites that monitor the sun, forecasters cannot accurately predict when a major storm will erupt from the sun and begin its one- to four-day journey toward Earth. Observations provide only limited information about where the storm will hit and its potential for damage until it is within about a half-hour of Earth. This does not leave satellite operators and utility managers with sufficient notice to fully shield vulnerable electronics and power down critical hardware.

To improve its forecasting capability, the nation needs to invest in a new generation of space- and ground-based instruments that can provide continual measurements of magnetic fields throughout the solar atmosphere. These measurements would alert us to conditions that are conducive for storms and help us determine whether an incoming storm will penetrate our atmosphere and target certain regions on Earth, or harmlessly glance off.

Scientists are also working toward more advanced computer models of the sun. One of their primary goals is to stimulate the build-up of energy in twisted magnetic fields within the solar atmosphere, enabling forecasters to predict when the fields will erupt and spew tons of charged particles toward Earth.

Fortunately, Congress is starting to take action on this important issue. The Senate last month unanimously passed legislation to improve scientific understanding and forecasting of space weather. The Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to

Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow (PROSWIFT) Act would break down barriers between the nation's researchers and forecasters, coordinate the efforts of key federal agencies, and establish an integrated strategy across the federal government to address space weather research and observational needs.

This legislation, appropriately, has strong bipartisan support. Sens. Gary Peters (D-Mich.) and Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) co-sponsored the Senate bill. In the House of Representatives, Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-Colo.) is working with eight co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle to advance the measure.

With just months remaining on the calendar of the current Congress, the House must provide the final passage of this important legislation.

**CONGRESS NEEDS TO PROVIDE FLEXIBLE FUNDING TO STATES TO DEPLOY**

Our solar forecasting capabilities at present are comparable to terrestrial weather prediction before the Second World War when communities had little warning of incoming storms. Since then, government agencies, private companies, and university researchers have collaborated on landmark advances in weather prediction, which have saved countless lives, fostered economic growth, and supported military operations.

We have now arrived at a pivotal moment in forecasting solar storms. At a time when society is more dependent than ever on advanced e-based technologies, the PROSWIFT Act lays out a clear road map for bringing together expertise in government, the private sector, and academia to forecast these damaging events. If Congress and the administration successfully enact the legislation, this predictive capability will provide a critical safeguard for America's economic competitiveness and national security, and for the business and school technologies that we have all come to rely upon.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, just reading quickly from the op-ed as to why we are doing this:

"Significant space weather events occur every decade or so with far-reaching and destructive consequences. A powerful solar storm in 1989 cut off power to millions of Canadians, and major storms in 2003 affected more than half of the Earth-orbiting spacecraft. Just 3 years ago, solar flares caused radio blackouts for hours during critical emergency response efforts to approaching hurricanes in the Caribbean and nearby regions.

"A solar superstorm poses even greater risks. The so-called Carrington Event in 1859, which ignited fires in telegraph offices, would have catastrophic impacts on today's society, potentially resulting in widespread damage to power grids, communication networks, and other technologies."

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I, again, would like to thank the sponsors of this legislation for their hard work on this important topic.

I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for

supporting this legislation and for both sides of the Capitol. We have been working on it for a long time. There has been a lot of serious interest in this piece of legislation because of the potential for damage that a space weather event can have.

As I said before, we have worked together on the Committee on Science, Space and Technology and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to advance this bill for almost 5 years.

Each iteration of the bill brought new perspectives and new ideas, and we worked across two administrations. We put all that work together into the bill before us today, and I, again, thank the Members and staff who helped make this possible.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to vote "aye" on this space weather bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 881 "The Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow, or PROSWIFT, Act."

Space weather is something the American public may not yet have an awareness of, but it has the potential to impact society across the world—every single day.

Geomagnetic storms or solar flares can cause disturbances in both space and the near-Earth environment.

These effects can reach the Earth's surface and pose significant risks to humans operating in space, some aircraft flights, space communications, GPS-based services, the electric grid, pipelines, and other space-based and ground-based infrastructure.

In short, space weather events can have major societal, national security, economic, and health impacts.

That is why I was an original co-sponsor of Mr. PERLMUTTER's H.R. 5260, "The PROSWIFT Act," which is the basis of the text of the Senate-passed space weather bill we are voting on today. H.R. 5260 was widely supported by the space weather community, including academia, industry, and not-for-profit entities.

I want to commend my colleague on the House Science Committee, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for tirelessly pushing to make this legislation a reality for over five years.

He and his dedicated staff worked closely with my Committee staff, with the staff of the Committee's Ranking Member, as well as staff of our colleagues in the Senate, to bring this legislation to the floor today.

Unlike previous attempts to move this legislation, I am proud that the bill being voted on today came out of regular order in the House Science Committee.

This bill took into consideration feedback from major stakeholders in the space weather community and was strengthened during our markup process to include a commercial space weather pilot program. It was further strengthened following negotiations with our colleagues in the Senate.

I am pleased that this bill represents both bicameral and bipartisan agreement on this important issue.

I have supported the overall agenda to advance the space weather enterprise and en-

sure capabilities for space weather observation and forecasting for many years and Congresses before this. I am looking forward to finally passing this legislation today, and have it enacted after years of hard work.

Being able to better understand and predict space weather events is vitally important to protecting our society, our economy, and our critical national infrastructure. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan and good governance bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 881.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**RURAL STEM EDUCATION ACT**

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4979) to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support STEM education and workforce development research focused on rural areas, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4979

*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 "Rural STEM Education Act".

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds the following:

(1) The supply of STEM workers is not keeping pace with the rapidly evolving needs of the public and private sector, resulting in a deficit often referred to as a STEM skills shortage.

(2) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States will need one million additional STEM professionals than it is on track to produce in the coming decade.

(3) Many STEM occupations offer higher wages, more opportunities for advancement, and a higher degree of job security than non-STEM jobs.

(4) The 60,000,000 individuals in the United States who live in rural settings are significantly under-represented in STEM.

(5) According to the National Center for Education Statistics, nine million students in the United States—nearly 20 percent of the total K-12 population—attend rural schools, and for reasons ranging from teacher quality to shortages of resources, these students often have fewer opportunities for high-quality STEM learning than their peers in the Nation's urban and suburban schools.

(6) Rural areas represent one of the most promising, yet underutilized, opportunities for STEM education to impact workforce development and regional innovation, including agriculture.

(7) The study of agriculture, food, and natural resources involves biology, engineering, physics, chemistry, math, geology, computer science, and other scientific fields.

(8) Employment in computer and information technology occupations is projected to grow 11 percent from 2019 to 2029. To help meet this demand, it is important rural students have the opportunity to acquire computing skills through exposure to computer

science learning in grades PreK - 12 and in informal learning settings.

(9) More than 293,000,000 individuals in the United States use high-speed broadband to work, learn, access healthcare, and operate their businesses, while 19,000,000 individuals in the United States still lack access to high-speed broadband. Rural areas are hardest hit, with over 26 percent of individuals in rural areas in the United States lacking access to high-speed broadband compared to 1.7 percent of individuals in urban areas in the United States.

**SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RURAL STEM ACTIVITIES.**

**(a) PREPARING RURAL STEM EDUCATORS.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide grants on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof) for research and development to advance innovative approaches to support and sustain high-quality STEM teaching in rural schools.

**(2) USE OF FUNDS.—**

(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this section shall be used for the research and development activities referred to in paragraph (1), which may include—

(i) engaging rural educators of students in grades Pre-K through 12 in professional learning opportunities to enhance STEM knowledge, including computer science, and develop best practices;

(ii) supporting research on effective STEM teaching practices in rural settings, including the use of rubrics and mastery-based grading practices to assess student performance when employing the transdisciplinary teaching approach for STEM disciplines;

(iii) designing and developing pre-service and in-service training resources to assist such rural educators in adopting transdisciplinary teaching practices across STEM courses;

(iv) coordinating with local partners to adapt STEM teaching practices to leverage local natural and community assets in order to support in-place learning in rural areas;

(v) providing hands-on training and research opportunities for rural educators described in clause (i) at Federal Laboratories, institutions of higher education, or in industry;

(vi) developing training and best practices for educators who teach multiple grade levels within a STEM discipline;

(vii) designing and implementing professional development courses and experiences, including mentoring, for rural educators described in clause (i) that combine face-to-face and online experiences; and

(viii) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

(B) RURAL STEM COLLABORATIVE.—The Director may establish a pilot program of regional cohorts in rural areas that will provide peer support, mentoring, and hands-on research experiences for rural STEM educators of students in grades Pre-K through 12, in order to build an ecosystem of cooperation among educators, researchers, academia, and local industry.

**(b) BROADENING PARTICIPATION OF RURAL STUDENTS IN STEM.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide grants on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof) for—

(A) research and development of programming to identify the barriers rural students face in accessing high-quality STEM education; and

(B) development of innovative solutions to improve the participation and advancement

of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM studies.

**(2) USE OF FUNDS.—**

(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this section shall be used for the research and development activities referred to in paragraph (1), which may include—

(i) developing partnerships with community colleges to offer advanced STEM course work, including computer science, to rural high school students;

(ii) supporting research on effective STEM practices in rural settings;

(iii) implementing a school-wide STEM approach;

(iv) improving the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technology Education program's coordination and engagement with rural communities;

(v) collaborating with existing community partners and networks, such as the cooperative research and extension services of the Department of Agriculture and youth serving organizations like 4-H, after school STEM programs, and summer STEM programs, to leverage community resources and develop place-based programming;

(vi) connecting rural school districts and institutions of higher education, to improve precollegiate STEM education and engagement;

(vii) supporting partnerships that offer hands-on inquiry-based science activities, including coding, and access to lab resources for students studying STEM in grades Pre-K through 12 in a rural area;

(viii) evaluating the role of broadband connectivity and its associated impact on the STEM and technology literacy of rural students;

(ix) building capacity to support extracurricular STEM programs in rural schools, including mentor-led engagement programs, STEM programs held during nonschool hours, STEM networks, makerspaces, coding activities, and competitions; and

(x) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

(c) APPLICATION.—An applicant seeking a grant under subsection (a) or (b) shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require. The application may include the following:

(1) A description of the target population to be served by the research activity or activities for which such grant is sought.

(2) A description of the process for recruitment and selection of students, educators, or schools from rural areas to participate in such activity or activities.

(3) A description of how such activity or activities may inform efforts to promote the engagement and achievement of rural students in grades Pre-K - 12 in STEM studies.

(4) In the case of a proposal consisting of a partnership or partnerships with one or more rural schools and one or more researchers, a plan for establishing a sustained partnership that is jointly developed and managed, draws from the capacities of each partner, and is mutually beneficial.

(d) PARTNERSHIPS.—In awarding grants under subsection (a) or (b), the Director shall—

(1) encourage applicants which, for the purpose of the activity or activities funded through the grant, include or partner with a nonprofit organization or an institution of higher education (or a consortium thereof) that has extensive experience and expertise in increasing the participation of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM;

(2) encourage applicants which, for the purpose of the activity or activities funded through the grant, include or partner with a

consortium of rural schools or rural school districts; and

(3) encourage applications which, for the purpose of the activity or activities funded through the grant, include commitments from school principals and administrators to making reforms and activities proposed by the applicant a priority.

(e) EVALUATIONS.—All proposals for grants under subsections (a) and (b) shall include an evaluation plan that includes the use of outcome oriented measures to assess the impact and efficacy of the grant. Each recipient of a grant under this section shall include results from these evaluative activities in annual and final projects.

**(f) ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.—**

(1) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—The Director shall evaluate the portfolio of grants awarded under subsections (a) and (b). Such evaluation shall—

(A) use a common set of benchmarks and tools to assess the results of research conducted under such grants and identify best practices; and

(B) to the extent practicable, integrate the findings of research resulting from the activity or activities funded through such grants with the findings of other research on rural student's pursuit of degrees or careers in STEM.

(2) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes—

(A) the results of the evaluation; and

(B) any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the grants awarded under this section.

**(g) REPORT BY COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the first report required by section 36(e) of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885c(e)) transmitted to Congress after the date of enactment of this Act, the Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering shall include—

(A) a description of past and present policies and activities of the Foundation to encourage full participation of students in rural communities in science, mathematics, engineering, and computer science fields; and

(B) an assessment of trends in participation of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in Foundation activities, and an assessment of the policies and activities of the Foundation, along with proposals for new strategies or the broadening of existing successful strategies towards facilitating the goals of this Act.

**(2) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—**

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 313 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 114-329) is amended by striking “Section 204(e) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988” and inserting “Section 36(e) of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act”.

(B) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 313 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 114-329).

(h) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall, for purposes of enhancing program effectiveness and avoiding duplication of activities, consult, cooperate, and coordinate with the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agencies.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director—

(1) \$8,000,000 to carry out the activities under subsection (a) for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025; and

(2) \$12,000,000 to carry out the activities under subsection (b) for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

**SEC. 4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ONLINE EDUCATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall, subject to appropriations, award competitive grants to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof, which may include a private sector partner) to conduct research on online STEM education courses for rural communities.

(b) RESEARCH AREAS.—The research areas eligible for funding under this subsection shall include—

(1) evaluating the learning and achievement of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM subjects;

(2) understanding how computer-based and online professional development courses and mentor experiences can be integrated to meet the needs of educators of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12;

(3) combining computer-based and online STEM education and training with apprenticeships, mentoring, or other applied learning arrangements;

(4) leveraging online programs to supplement STEM studies for rural students that need physical and academic accommodation; and

(5) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

(c) EVALUATIONS.—All proposals for grants under this section shall include an evaluation plan that includes the use of outcome oriented measures to assess the impact and efficacy of the grant. Each recipient of a grant under this section shall include results from these evaluative activities in annual and final projects.

(d) ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.—

(1) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—The Director shall evaluate the portfolio of grants awarded under this section. Such evaluation shall—

(A) use a common set of benchmarks and tools to assess the results of research conducted under such grants and identify best practices; and

(B) to the extent practicable, integrate findings from activities carried out pursuant to research conducted under this section, with respect to the pursuit of careers and degrees in STEM, with those activities carried out pursuant to other research on serving rural students and communities.

(2) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes—

(A) the results of the evaluation; and

(B) any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the grants awarded under this section.

(e) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall, for purposes of enhancing program effectiveness and avoiding duplication of activities, consult, cooperate, and coordinate with the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agencies.

**SEC. 5. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES EVALUATION.**

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy agrees to conduct an evaluation and assessment that—

(1) evaluates the quality and quantity of current Federal programming and research

directed at examining STEM education for students in grades Pre-K through 12 and workforce development in rural areas;

(2) assesses the impact of the scarcity of broadband connectivity in rural communities has on STEM and technical literacy for students in grades Pre-K through 12 in rural areas;

(3) assesses the core research and data needed to understand the challenges rural areas are facing in providing quality STEM education and workforce development; and

(4) makes recommendations for action at the Federal, State, and local levels for improving STEM education for students in grades Pre-K through 12 and workforce development in rural areas.

(b) REPORT TO DIRECTOR.—The agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall require the National Academy of Sciences, not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, to submit to the Director a report on the study conducted under such subsection, including the National Academy's findings and recommendations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

**SEC. 6. GAO REVIEW.**

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the engagement of rural populations in Federal STEM programs and submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of how Federal STEM education programs are serving rural populations;

(2) a description of initiatives carried out by Federal agencies that are targeted at supporting STEM education in rural areas;

(3) an assessment of what is known about the impact and effectiveness of Federal investments in STEM education programs that are targeted to rural areas; and

(4) an assessment of challenges that state and Federal STEM education programs face in reaching rural population centers.

**SEC. 7. CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH EPSCOR.**

Section 517(f)(2) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) to increase the capacity of rural communities to provide quality STEM education and STEM workforce development programming to students, and teachers; and”.

**SEC. 8. NIST ENGAGEMENT WITH RURAL COMMUNITIES.**

(a) MEP OUTREACH.—Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking “community colleges and area career and technical education schools” and inserting the following: “secondary schools (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)), community colleges, and area career and technical education schools, including those in underserved and rural communities;”; and

(B) in paragraph (7)—

(i) by striking “and local colleges” and inserting the following: “local high schools and local colleges, including those in underserved and rural communities.”; and

(ii) by inserting “or other applied learning opportunities” after “apprenticeships”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(3) by striking “, community colleges, and area career and technical education schools,” and inserting the following: “and local high schools, commu-

nity colleges, and area career and technical education schools, including those in underserved and rural communities.”.

**(b) RURAL CONNECTIVITY PRIZE COMPETITION.**

(1) PRIZE COMPETITION.—Pursuant to section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719), the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”), shall, subject to appropriations, carry out a program to award prizes competitively to stimulate research and development of creative technologies in order to deploy affordable and reliable broadband connectivity to underserved rural communities.

(2) PLAN FOR DEPLOYMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.—Each proposal submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include a plan for deployment of the technology that is the subject of such proposal in an underserved rural community.

(3) PRIZE AMOUNT.—In carrying out the program under paragraph (1), the Secretary may award not more than a total of \$5,000,000 to one or more winners of the prize competition.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which a prize is awarded under the prize competition, the Secretary shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that describes the winning proposal of the prize competition.

(5) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may consult with the heads of relevant departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

**SEC. 9. NITR-D BROADBAND WORKING GROUP.**

Title I of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 103. BROADBAND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a broadband research and development working group to address national research challenges and opportunities for improving broadband access and adoption across the United States.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—The working group shall identify and coordinate key research priorities for addressing broadband access and adoption, including—

“(1) promising research areas;

“(2) requirements for data collection and sharing;

“(3) opportunities for better alignment and coordination across Federal agencies and external stakeholders; and

“(4) input on the development of new Federal policies and programs to enhance data collection and research.

“(c) COORDINATION.—The working group shall coordinate, as appropriate, with the Rural Broadband Integration Working Group established under section 6214 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture.

“(d) REPORT.—The working group shall report to Congress on their activities as part of the annual report submitted under section 101(a)(2)(D).

“(e) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the Rural STEM Education Act.”.

**SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the National Science Foundation established under section 2 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861).

(2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term “Federal laboratory” has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(3) FOUNDATION.—The term “Foundation” means the National Science Foundation established under section 2 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861).

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) STEM.—The term “STEM” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

(6) STEM EDUCATION.—The term “STEM education” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 4979, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4979, the Rural STEM Education Act.

I thank Ranking Member LUCAS and Representative MCADAMS for introducing this important bill, which I am proud to cosponsor.

The COVID-19 crisis has revealed and exacerbated the many harmful inequities that persist in our society. Rural communities have not been spared.

Broadband access and the so-called digital divide have long been a barrier to high quality STEM education for students in rural areas. STEM teachers in rural communities are stretched thin, often teaching multiple STEM subjects at multiple grade levels. While dedicated and hardworking, these teachers have limited resources and support, including training that is up-to-date and optimized for schools in a rural setting.

Rural school districts also have limited access to library equipment to provide students with hands-on experiences and a glimpse of what it is like to actually do science.

The sudden transition to remote education across the Nation that has occurred due to the pandemic has amplified these challenges for rural communities.

School districts are getting creative. Some are setting up internet hotspots

in the parking lot. Some students can download assignments and submit homework. Others are sending out paper packets for students without reliable transportation. While these stopgap measures are helpful, they are not enough.

And students are falling behind. If we had invested in improving remote teaching and mentoring and improving broadband access before the pandemic hit, rural communities would have been better prepared to weather this crisis.

The Rural STEM Education Act provides for research and development to improve access to evidence-based STEM education opportunities in rural schools and provide teachers with the support and tools they need to teach more effectively.

I am particularly excited about the NIST rural connectivity prize competition and the Broadband Research and Development Working Group, which would advance research and technology development to expand broadband access across the country.

The bill also provides for a much-needed assessment of Federal investments in rural STEM education through the National Academies of Science and the Government Accountability Office.

This bill is a critical step forward to ensuring that more students have access to a high-quality STEM education and that we are equipped with the STEM workforce we need to face future challenges like this pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Mr. LUCAS, for introducing this bill, and also for working collaboratively with me and the staff to ensure it was a bipartisan effort.

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

#### □ 1245

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4979, the Rural STEM Education Act. I am pleased to be leading this important bipartisan bill and would like to thank Congressman MCADAMS, Congressman BAIRD, Congresswoman JOHNSON, and the other 43 Members of Congress who cosponsored this bill for their support.

Now more than ever, America’s prosperity and security depend on an effective, inclusive science, technology, engineering, math, and computer science workforce, or STEM.

Nationally, 80 percent of the fastest growing occupations depend upon mastery of STEM skills. The number of STEM jobs is growing three times faster than non-STEM jobs. Over the next decade, the STEM shortage is anticipated to reach 1 million positions, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

To succeed in this job market, our students need to be equipped with solid skills in science and engineering.

Meeting this demand starts in the classroom. With STEM education becoming so fundamental to success in any industry, finding ways to improve the quality of STEM learning everywhere is of critical importance.

Over 9 million students in the United States, nearly 20 percent of the K-12 population, attend rural schools. In Oklahoma, that number is even higher. One-third of our students attend rural schools.

These students face a number of barriers to accessing high-quality STEM learning, including a shortage of trained science and math teachers, single teachers teaching multiple grade levels, a lack of access to advanced STEM courses, and few local university and industry partners.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, we have seen even further proof that rural students are at a disadvantage, given the unreliability or nonexistent broadband access many must deal with while currently distance learning.

The Rural STEM Education Act supports research and development activities to improve our understanding of the challenges rural communities are facing in providing and sustaining quality STEM education programs and take steps to address them.

H.R. 4979 helps develop best practices for accessing and using computer-based and online STEM education courses. It will help schools combine online STEM education with hands-on training and apprenticeships, to give students both theoretical and practical understanding of science and math skills.

This bill will also take steps to address one of the great key obstacles to rural STEM education: reduced connectivity and, in particular, the lack of broadband access. Of the 21 million Americans who lack access to broadband, the majority live in rural areas. With the increase in online learning, we need to prioritize connectivity for all students.

This bill directs the National Institutes of Standards and Technology to establish a prize competition to stimulate innovations in technologies to deploy broadband connectivity to underserved rural communities.

It also establishes a working group to set key research priorities for improving broadband access so rural communities can enjoy the same connectedness as the rest of the country.

This bill includes a number of provisions to help provide rural educators with the tools they need to be successful, both in the classroom and online.

It supports opportunities for rural educators to refresh and enhance their own STEM knowledge, such as training in computer science and research opportunities at Federal laboratories and universities. These experiences provide rural educators with high-quality STEM skills and practices they can take back to their classrooms and pass on to their students.

Lastly, the major focus of the bill is broadening the participation of rural

students in STEM. One way we can do this is by emphasizing place-based learning, which gives students direct access to the STEM knowledge in their communities and local environments.

Place-based learning connects students to the science that is right outside their doors, whether it is studying animal science with FFA, learning about local ecosystems out on the prairies or in forests, or developing the technological skills required to operate increasingly complex and computerized farm equipment.

That direct experience engages students and helps them understand that STEM skills matter to everyone, not just scientists in white lab coats.

Taken together, the measures in this bill will dramatically improve rural STEM education. I believe rural areas represent one of the greatest yet most underutilized opportunities for talented students to enhance the United States' future STEM workforce.

I am pleased this bill has gained the endorsement of the STEM Education Coalition, the Afterschool Alliance, Battelle and STEM-X, National Science Teaching Association, American Chemical Society, American Geophysical Union, Microsoft, Girl Scouts of the USA, National FFA Organization, and Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

I again would like to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON, Representative MCADAMS, Representative BAIRD, and their staff for working with me on this bill.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" to better STEM education for America's rural students, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS).

Mr. MCADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bipartisan bill with Representative LUCAS, the Rural STEM Education Act.

More than 9 million students nationwide attend a rural school. And in my home State of Utah, 15 percent of our students live in rural communities.

Unfortunately, there are many barriers to receiving quality STEM education for rural community students. There is a shortage of math and science teachers and a high rate of teacher turnover. Plus, access to high-speed and reliable internet is more limited in these areas.

Today, as we live through this pandemic, we know how important reliable internet is for kids and teachers. This bill would provide effective online teaching tools that educators can use in our rural areas.

It will also increase teacher recruitment and improve internet access. It will task several government agencies to work together to advance research and provide teachers with what they need to effectively teach STEM to more students in rural communities.

When bright young minds have the opportunity to explore science, tech-

nology, engineering, and math, you never know where their intelligence and their curiosity might lead them or what new discoveries we will be able to trace back to the education they received starting in their hometown.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I thank my friend from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) for championing this.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4979, the Rural STEM Education Act. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

As one of only two Members of Congress with a Ph.D. in science, I understand the importance of teaching science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science at an early age.

Quality STEM education is essential to train the next generation of American minds. Fostering children's natural curiosity is critical to expanding their interest in STEM.

More than 9 million students in the United States attend rural schools, so investing in rural areas represents one of the most significant opportunities for STEM education.

H.R. 4979 will support research and development to identify the barriers rural students face in accessing high-quality STEM education, and it will develop innovative solutions to improve rural students' participation and advancement in the STEM fields.

In a time when our rural students are facing more barriers than ever before because of COVID, this bill can play an important role in helping these students remain in the STEM pipeline.

With the shift to online learning in recent months, it is more important than ever that we invest in the best practices and the scalability of online STEM education courses for our rural communities.

In addition to examining opportunities for online education, this legislation also promotes the importance of place-based learning. Place-based learning is a tremendous tool to broaden participation by rural students in STEM.

It uses local heritage, geography, and opportunities to study STEM. By connecting them with the science that is right outside their front door, rural students will have hands-on learning opportunities, even while the courses remain online.

I would be remiss if I did not mention one of the greatest barriers our rural students face, which is broadband access. Over 20 million Americans lack access to broadband, and the majority live in these rural areas. This bill prioritizes connectivity for all students and supports technologies to deploy broadband to these underserved rural areas.

We must also recognize the key role educators play, especially rural teach-

ers who teach multiple grade levels within a STEM discipline. H.R. 4979 provides rural STEM educators with resources and experiences that they can bring back to the classroom and use with their students.

I would like to thank Ranking Member LUCAS for his leadership on this bill. By improving access to STEM opportunities in rural schools, the Rural STEM Education Act will ensure that communities in less populated areas are not overlooked and that the intellectual power of our next generation continues to grow.

I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

In closing, I again want to thank Chairwoman JOHNSON, Representative MCADAMS, Representative BAIRD, and their staff for working with me on this bill.

I am grateful to my colleagues for helping me move this forward in a bipartisan way. I want rural students to have every opportunity to compete and contribute STEM skills both to their communities and to the national workforce.

The Rural STEM Education Act gives teachers better tools to teach science and math, leverages local resources to engage students in key subjects, and addresses the lack of broadband access in rural communities.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would like to take a moment again to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) for working with the members of this committee on this legislation and thank Mr. MCADAMS and Dr. BAIRD.

It is my hope that we can pass this bill out of the House today and, hopefully, work with our colleagues in the Senate to get this bipartisan bill, as well as many others, of course, we have sent over there passed into law.

This bill is needed more now than it was when we started out, so I would hope that the Senate will see the need to pass this bill as soon as possible.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4979, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1300

**ELECTION TECHNOLOGY  
RESEARCH ACT OF 2020**

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4990) to direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Science Foundation to carry out research and other activities to promote the security and modernization of voting systems, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4990

*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 “Election Technology Research Act of 2020”.

**SEC. 2. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.**

(a) **VOTING SYSTEMS RESEARCH.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in collaboration with the National Science Foundation as appropriate, shall carry out a program of research on voting systems, including—

- (1) the cybersecurity of different components of such systems;
- (2) end-to-end verifiable systems;
- (3) Internet-enabled voting;
- (4) the accessibility and usability of different components of such systems;
- (5) voter privacy and data protection;
- (6) methods for auditing elections;
- (7) the interoperability of system technologies;
- (8) means for providing voters with the ability to easily check whether a ballot sent by mail has been dispatched to the voter and whether the voter’s marked ballot has been received and accepted by the appropriate election official;
- (9) the reliability of various approaches to voter authentication; and

(10) such other areas of research as the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology determines to be appropriate and related to the security and integrity of elections for Federal office.

**(b) ELECTIONS SYSTEMS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall make an award to an institution of higher education or an eligible nonprofit organization (or a consortium thereof) to establish a Center of Excellence in Election Systems.

(2) **COLLABORATIONS.**—The Director shall ensure that the Center of Excellence includes a collaboration of institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, private sector entities, and State and local election officials.

(3) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the Center of Excellence shall be to—

(A) conduct measurement research and statistical analyses to inform the development of standards for technologies and processes that contribute to more secure, fair, and accessible elections;

(B) test and evaluate the security, usability, and accessibility of the technologies of voting systems, including the accessibility of poll book data by voters;

(C) research testing methods that could be used for the certification of voting system technologies;

(D) educate and train students studying in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields to conduct measurement

science and standards research relevant to such systems; and

(E) foster collaboration among academic researchers, private sector vendors of election technology, and State and local election officials.

**(4) REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An institution of higher education or an eligible nonprofit organization (or a consortium thereof) seeking funding under this subsection shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

(B) **APPLICATIONS.**—Each application under subparagraph (A) shall include a description of—

(i) how the Center will work with other research institutions, industry partners, and State or local election officials to identify the measurement, testing, and standards needs of voting systems and to leverage the expertise of election practitioners; and

(ii) how the Center will promote active collaboration among researchers in multiple disciplines involved in ensuring the security and integrity of such systems.

(C) **SELECTION AND DURATION.**—Each Center established under this section is authorized to carry out activities for a period of 5 years, renewable for an additional 5 years at the discretion of the Director.

(C) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$12,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

**SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.**

(a) **RESEARCH GRANTS.**—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in collaboration with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and other relevant agencies, as appropriate, shall award basic research grants to increase the understanding of cyber and other threats to voting systems and to inform the development of technologies, processes, and policies that contribute to more secure, fair, and accessible elections, including research on—

(1) the cybersecurity of different components of such systems;

(2) end-to-end verifiable systems;

(3) the risks and benefits of Internet-enabled voting;

(4) the human-technology interface, including the usability, accessibility, and comprehensibility of ballot design, ballot marking devices, and other components of such systems;

(5) voter privacy and data protection;

(6) voter practices regarding the verification of ballots generated by ballot marking devices and the likelihood that voters, both with and without disabilities, will recognize errors or omissions with respect to such ballots; and

(7) such other topics as the Director determines to be appropriate and related to the integrity of elections.

**(b) ELECTIONS SYSTEMS RESEARCH CENTER.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Secretary of Homeland Security, as appropriate, shall award grants to institutions of higher education or eligible nonprofit organizations (or consortia thereof) to establish at least 1 multidisciplinary center for elections systems research and education.

(2) **CONSORTIA.**—A consortium receiving an award under this subsection may include institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, private sector entities, and State and local election officials.

(3) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of a center established with a grant awarded under this subsection shall be to—

(A) conduct basic research to advance understanding of cyber and other threats to election systems and the conduct of secure, fair, and accessible elections;

(B) conduct research that may inform the development of technologies, processes, and policies that contribute to more secure, fair, and accessible elections;

(C) educate and train students studying in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields to conduct research relevant to election systems;

(D) design curricula that address the growing organizational management and information technology needs of the election community; and

(E) foster collaboration among academic researchers, private sector vendors of election technology, and State and local election officials.

**(4) REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An institution of higher education or an eligible nonprofit organization (or a consortium thereof) seeking funding under this subsection shall submit an application to the Director of the National Science Foundation at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

(B) **APPLICATIONS.**—Each application under subparagraph (A) shall include a description of—

(i) how the center established with a grant awarded under this subsection will work with other research institutions, industry partners, and State and local election officials to identify research needs and leverage the expertise of election practitioners; and

(ii) how the center will promote active collaboration among researchers in multiple disciplines involved in elections systems security, including computer science, data science, and social and behavioral sciences.

(5) **SELECTION AND DURATION.**—Each center established with a grant awarded under this section is authorized to carry out activities for a period of 5 years, renewable for an additional 5 years at the discretion of the Director.

(C) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

**SEC. 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY TO PROMOTE SECURITY AND MODERNIZATION OF VOTING SYSTEMS.**

(a) **COMMON DATA FORMAT.**—The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish and make publicly available common data format specifications for auditing, voter registration, and other elements of voting systems, and provide the specifications to the Technical Guidelines Development Committee of the Election Assistance Commission under section 221(e) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(e)).

(b) **ELECTIONS SYSTEMS CERTIFICATIONS.**—The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall work in collaboration with the Election Assistance Commission to update the process under which voting systems are certified pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002 so that State and local election officials will be better able to carry out updates and otherwise modernize such systems.

(c) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall—

(1) provide technical assistance to State and local election officials on the implementation of cybersecurity standards, privacy standards, risk assessments, risk-limiting audits, and technologies which are incorporated in the voluntary voting system guidelines issued under the Help America Vote Act of 2002; and

(2) in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security and the Election Assistance Commission, as appropriate, conduct outreach to State and local election officials in order to disseminate best practices for the implementation of such voluntary voting system guidelines.

#### SEC. 5. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) addresses the extent to which efforts by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to assist the Technical Guidelines Development Committee of the Election Assistance Commission in the development of voluntary voting systems guidelines have resulted in market-ready standardized voting equipment and software, and addresses the resources made available to NIST to carry out these activities;

(2) addresses efforts by NIST to monitor and review the performance of laboratories accredited by the Elections Assistance Commission and to make recommendations for continuing accreditation, increased voting technology reliability, and the number of accredited private laboratories, and addresses resources made available to NIST to carry out these activities; and

(3) addresses the extent to which the annual list of suggestions required to be submitted by NIST to the Election Assistance Commission for research issues for grants and pilot programs under section 271(d) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21041) and the evaluation of grants and programs by NIST has improved voting technology and been successful in encouraging the implementation of new technologies in voting systems and equipment.

#### SEC. 6. AMENDMENTS TO THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002.

Section 301(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “this section” and inserting “this Act”;

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

(3) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (6); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

“(2) any other paper or electronic technologies or processes for collecting, storing, or transmitting personal information of voters for use in the administration of elections for Federal office, including electronic poll books with respect to an election;

“(3) voter registration databases and systems, including online interfaces;

“(4) systems for carrying out post-election auditing;

“(5) chain-of-custody procedures; and”.

#### SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “voting system” has the meaning given such term in section 301(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(b)), as amended by section 6; and

(2) the term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4990, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act. This bipartisan legislation, which I was proud to introduce alongside my friend Representative GONZALEZ, Chairwoman JOHNSON, and Ranking Member LUCAS, is a practical, commonsense bill that would yield important results for the security of our elections.

Madam Speaker, 48 days from today, Americans will exercise one of their most important duties in a democratic society and vote. Amidst a global pandemic, targeted attacks on our democracy by our adversaries, and political unrest, Americans deserve to know that our elections are secure.

Last summer, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee held a hearing with voting technology and election administration experts to discuss U.S. election system technologies and research recommendations made in the 2018 National Academies report, Securing the Vote: Protecting American Democracy. This report and the input we received during that hearing made it clear that targeted research designed to protect our voting systems is not only wise but necessary.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has put stress on our healthcare system, caused nearly 200,000 deaths in the United States, devastated our economy, and underscored racial inequities in our society. But Americans are resilient. They will mail in their ballots or go to their polling stations to cast their vote. Why? Because they care deeply about our country and our democracy. In return, one of our jobs in government is to ensure the American people have confidence in the integrity of our election process.

Nearly 20 years ago, Congress enacted the Help America Vote Act. HAVA provided funding for States to purchase new voting equipment and created the Election Assistance Commission. It also included provisions to advance research, technology, and standards development for voting systems.

There are more than 10,000 voting jurisdictions across the United States. HAVA mandated that the National Institute of Standards and Technology work with the EAC to develop voluntary voting systems guidelines for voting machines.

Today, all U.S. States and territories look to those guidelines to make decisions about technology procurement

and securing their elections. My legislation modernizes the 20-year-old provisions in HAVA to reflect the state of today’s technology and the nature of today’s election security challenges.

The most important new areas of research and standards development this bill supports are online voter registration systems and electronic poll books. Forty States now offer online voter registration, and many States also use e-poll books on election day for quick access to voter information.

The Election Technology Research Act also creates centers of excellence at NIST and the National Science Foundation to further study a range of important election technology challenges, including cybersecurity, privacy, reliability, and interoperability.

We must strive to ensure the highest standards are in place for all technologies used in the election process. And while the overwhelming majority of election experts agree that the technology is not yet ready for secure voting over the internet, this bill does support continued research on internet voting.

In addition to the security and integrity of voting equipment, voting accessibility is also important. Keeping security at the forefront, we should make it as easy as possible for all voters to cast their ballots. H.R. 4990 supports research at NSF to study ways to improve the voter interface with different voting technologies, including accessibility, ballot design, and ballot-marking devices.

Beyond the ballot box, this bill supports education and training of students and design of curricula focused on organizational management and informational technology needs of the election community.

Finally, H.R. 4990 directs NIST to provide technical assistance to States for their election needs, including risk assessments and risk-limiting audits.

This is a bipartisan piece of legislation. The Members of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee worked to put together a bipartisan bill that represents our values and our commitment to protecting our democracy. It recognizes the simple fact that technology advances quickly. So, when it comes to something as fundamental as ensuring the security and the sanctity of our elections, it is incumbent upon Congress to pass legislation to make sure our election technology is modern, secure, and state of the art.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely thank Representative GONZALEZ, Chairwoman JOHNSON, and Ranking Member LUCAS for joining me as cosponsors on this bill, as well as my other colleagues on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and in the House for adding their names to this legislation.

I urge all Members to support the Election Technology Research Act, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to see it enacted in law.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.  
Washington, DC, February 10, 2020.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,  
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space, and  
Technology, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN JOHNSON: I am writing to you regarding H.R. 4990, the “Election Technology Research Act of 2019.” This measure, introduced on November 8, 2019, was referred to your committee as well as the Committee on House Administration.

The Committee on House Administration agrees to waive further consideration of H.R. 4990. The Committee does so with the understanding that by waiving further consideration of this bill it does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over similar measures. In addition, the Committee reserves its right to seek conferees on any provisions within its jurisdiction which are considered in a House-Senate conference and requests your support if such a request is made.

I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter and a copy of your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4990 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

ZOE LOFGREN,  
Chairperson.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,  
Washington, DC, February 10, 2020.

Chairperson ZOE LOFGREN,  
Committee on House Administration,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRPERSON LOFGREN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4990, the “Election Technology Research Act of 2019,” which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration on November 8, 2019.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this bill. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on House Administration. I appreciate that your Committee will waive further consideration of H.R. 4990 and that this action is not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims by the Committee on House Administration over this subject matter.

I will make sure to include our exchange of letters in the legislative report for H.R. 4990 and in the Congressional Record. Thank you for your cooperation on this legislation.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,  
Chairwoman, Committee on Science,  
Space, and Technology.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act of 2020. I am proud to join Representatives SHERRILL and GONZALEZ and Chairwoman JOHNSON as an original cosponsor of this bill.

The security and integrity of elections is fundamental to American democracy and should not be a partisan issue. To that end, this bipartisan bill takes necessary and appropriate steps to update research activities at the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to promote the security and the modernization of U.S. voting systems.

The bill also establishes an election systems center of excellence at NIST

to foster collaborations between NIST, universities, and State and local election officials to address election security challenges.

The U.S. Constitution vests the responsibility of administering elections with State and local governments, and we in Congress should respect the boundaries of this well-established system of federalism.

However, the Federal Government has an important role to play in providing guidance and assistance to States on election systems. The Federal Government can and should work closely with States and local government officials to deal with foreign and domestic cyber threats.

This bill provides the research tools to do just that, and it does so without imposing costly or burdensome mandates on States. Instead, this bill leverages an established system to provide voluntary guidelines to State and local election officials to use as they see fit.

I appreciate Chairwoman JOHNSON and her staff for working with us to produce a good, bipartisan bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON).

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act of 2020. I am proud to join my colleagues, Representatives SHERRILL and GONZALEZ, in introducing this bipartisan bill.

Just a few weeks from now, Americans will begin casting their ballots in the 2020 election. They will also do so in the midst of a global pandemic and a divided country. The stakes could not be higher. We face many threats to our democratic institutions, including to our most sacred right and responsibility as citizens: our vote.

Unfortunately, the greatest threats today are the spread of misinformation and the active disenfranchisement of American citizens. Those are human vulnerabilities that are amplified by technology. However, we must not lose sight of the vulnerabilities inherent to the technologies that we use to cast and count our votes.

As it has across all aspects of our lives and society, technology has become an integral part of the election process. The use of technology in elections has changed significantly since the enactment of Help America Vote nearly 20 years ago.

H.R. 4990 authorizes research and standards development activities at the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to help modernize and secure our election systems and ensure that they are accessible to all.

The legislation also includes a small amendment to HAVA to ensure that the standards and guidelines developed to help States secure their election systems cover all of the election technologies in use today.

This legislation represents just a tiny piece of what is needed in terms of policy, leadership, and funding to ensure free, fair, transparent, and secure elections, but it is an important piece, if not in time for this election, then for all future elections.

I want to again thank my colleagues, Representatives SHERRILL and GONZALEZ, for their hard work and our colleagues on the House Administration Committee for their support in getting this bill to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this good, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Madam Speaker, election security is an issue essential to our democracy, and I am glad to see the House taking up legislation today to address it in a bipartisan manner.

My colleague, Representative SHERRILL, and I have been working together on this issue since being sworn in, and I am glad to join her, as well as Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS, in supporting H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act.

This legislation would modernize and secure U.S. voting systems by authorizing NIST and the National Science Foundation to conduct research on ways to improve and secure voting systems. Importantly, any standards recommended by NIST under this act are voluntary, and adoption of the standards remain in the purview of the Election Assistance Commission.

H.R. 4990 also provides grant funding to establish a center of excellence in election systems to promote the research and modernization of election practices. A stated purpose of this center will be to foster collaboration between universities, nonprofits, private organizations, and State and local election officials. Encouraging communication and collaboration between these groups is vital to make sure the voices of States and local election officials are heard.

The Election Research Technology Act also amends the Help America Vote Act to update the definition of voting systems to match modern technology encompassing electronic poll books and voter registration databases. There is bipartisan consensus that an update of the definition is necessary to reflect the modern election technology used by States today.

With new threats facing our electoral systems, it is imperative that we continue to update our election laws and improve our election security by passing bipartisan election security legislation.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON, Ranking Member LUCAS, and the Science, Space, and Technology staff for their hard work on this legislation, and also Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose’s office for their input throughout the process.

Madam Speaker, I also want to thank my friend, Ranking Member DAVIS, for his dedicated work on election issues. I look forward to continuing working with him to ensure the administration of our elections are safe and secure.

The Election Technology Research Act will update Federal laws to reflect today's technology, encourage basic research and innovation on the State and local level to secure our election systems, and streamline collaboration between private and public stakeholders.

This bill is a simple, bipartisan piece of legislation that will take a step forward in improving our election security. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 4990.

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from New Jersey.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4990, which I am proud to cosponsor. This is a bipartisan bill introduced by my Science, Space, and Technology Committee colleagues, Representatives SHERRILL and ANTHONY GONZALEZ.

Technology in elections is necessary to provide convenience, speed, accuracy, and accessibility. However, our country needs to modernize this technology from time to time to ensure security, privacy, reliability, and transparency.

For the past 20 years, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 was instrumental in the development of voluntary voting system guidelines and the advancement of voting technologies to improve the security and integrity of our elections. Unfortunately, the law has not kept pace with the rapid advances in technology.

□ 1315

H.R. 4990 authorizes activities and makes investments at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Science Foundation to support research to help secure and modernize our election systems. This legislation also supports critical standards development work carried out by NIST in collaboration with the Election Assistance Commission to improve the cybersecurity, privacy, reliability, and interoperability of voting systems technologies.

Voting is one of our most cherished rights as Americans, and without sacrificing security, we must make it as easy as possible for all voters to cast their ballots this year and every year.

I thank my colleagues, Representative MIKIE SHERRILL and Representative GONZALEZ, for their bipartisan leadership on this bill.

H.R. 4990 will help improve the security of our elections, and I urge all my colleagues to vote "aye."

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), a fellow ranking member on a full committee and always an insightful individual.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Oklahoma for yielding and for the glowing recommendation there. I think I could have gotten a better one from Mr. PERLMUTTER over there. It is great to be here. It is great to be among friends and great to see bipartisanship.

This is an example of what the House of Representatives should do on a regular basis, have fun, joke around, like Ranking Member LUCAS and I do on regular occasions. This is what we should do on a wide variety of other pieces of legislation, including what we want to do before the end of this month, how we want to fill the holes in the stimulus bill that we passed back months and months ago in a very bipartisan way.

I have to raise some concerns about this piece of legislation because the House Administration Committee got this bill sent to the committee last November and, unfortunately, as has been the norm in this Congress and on this committee, we didn't hold one meaningful hearing or markup on this bill.

The Chair waived our jurisdiction in February, and now 7 months later this bill is on the House floor without ever being discussed by the committee with jurisdiction over Federal election issues.

H.R. 4990 allocates over \$100 million over the next 5 years to the National Institute of Standards and Technology in order to conduct election system research and distribute grants to higher-education institutions and nonprofits.

Funding expanded research at NIST, a nonregulatory agency of the Department of Commerce, would allow the agency to circumvent policy priorities set by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, a politically balanced agency.

This is especially concerning when we know there have already been calls for more transparency when it comes to the work that NIST does on behalf of the EAC. Currently, EAC commissioners are not regularly updated on the projects that they task NIST with. There is no timeline for completion and no reporting structure. H.R. 4990 further empowers NIST without proportional accountability to the EAC.

I have addressed this issue previously in my bill H.R. 5707, the Protect American Voters Act, PAVA, by calling election-related work of NIST to be more accessible and visible by directing them to issue a report to Congress every year containing the status, timeline, and estimated completion of activities that they are tasked with under HAVA.

Additionally, H.R. 4990 would expand the voting system definition to include nonvoting technology in the already overwhelmed voluntary voting system guidelines process.

We have been waiting for updated HAVA guidelines, or VVSG 2.0, for over a decade now. So while I absolutely believe guidelines for nonvoting equip-

ment, such as e-poll books are needed, adding more to the VVSG process likely isn't going to get this done.

My bill, PAVA, addresses this by bypassing the costly and time-consuming VVSG process and calls for the EAC to establish a separate process for testing and certifying guidelines for nonvoting election equipment.

The bottom line, H.R. 4990 does not update HAVA, and allocates over \$100 million to the discretion of NIST, rather than investing in the bipartisan independent government agency created by Congress. And that agency is well-versed in elections. The EAC provides guidance, not mandates. Keeping power at the EAC preserves States' primary and constitutional role in administering Federal elections.

This House should work in a real, bipartisan fashion to create the election reform that the American people deserve. I am willing and ready whenever my colleagues on both sides of the aisle would like to do this.

I am happy we see bipartisanship today as this bill works its way through the process after it passes today. I certainly hope that the sponsors and my colleagues can work with us to address some of the concerns that I raise today.

I thank, again, Ranking Member LUCAS. I will give him a glowing recommendation, too, of nothing.

And I thank the sponsors of this bill, Ms. SHERRILL and Mr. GONZALES, for your work in this field. I would like to work with you to address some of these concerns as we move it to the Senate. Thank you for your time today.

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN).

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I thank my colleagues Congresswoman SHERRILL, Ranking Member LUCAS, Chairwoman JOHNSON, and Congressman GONZALES for all of their work on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act, a strong bipartisan bill that I am proud to support and also proud to cosponsor.

Madam Speaker, in less than 2 months, Americans will head to the polls and exercise their fundamental right as Americans to vote and to have a voice in their government. Our elections are foundational to our democracy, and Americans deserve to know that their vote is secure.

The Help America Vote Act, which became law nearly two decades ago, included a much-needed investment in election technologies, security systems, electronic poll books, and others supported by HAVA are in common use today.

But as we all know, technology advances quickly, and it is critical that our election technology advances with it. Given the varied and widespread election technologies in use across our country, it is vitally important that we

examine the risks, find opportunities for modernization, and pursue secure updates to protect the sanctity and security of our elections.

We must make investments in research to improve cybersecurity of our voting systems. Cyber warfare is an ever-escalating program, and our right to vote is foundational and must be protected.

This bipartisan bill will initiate important research into the security of election technology, enabling us to take the necessary steps for every American to trust that their vote is counted.

Madam Speaker, I am glad to support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON, Chairwoman SHERRILL, and Representative ANTHONY GONZALEZ for working together in a bipartisan manner to produce measured legislation that will help secure and modernize America's voting systems.

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, this is a practical, bipartisan piece of legislation that will work to secure our elections.

The administration committee discharged this bill in February, and I hope I can count on robust support from my colleagues there.

When the House passed the Help America Vote Act nearly 20 years ago, we recognized that our election systems need protection. That is why that landmark legislation included the provisions I already mentioned to advance research, technology, and standards development for voting systems.

We are in a new technological landscape today, and our voting systems need to be updated accordingly, and this is the first step in that direction.

NIST already has a team of experts working with the Election Assistance Commission on standards for voting technology, and they are absolutely qualified to pursue this research.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues today. Thank you to Representative GONZALEZ for his work on this bill.

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

Mr. CASE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor.

My return to Congress in 2019 was prompted in part by my membership in Issue One's ReFormers Caucus, a nonpartisan group of more than 200 former Members of Congress, governors, ambassadors and cabinet members. This committed Caucus, whose slogan is "fix democracy first", is focused on a range of reforms essential to returning government to the people.

Central to these reforms are much higher and broader participation in our elections and enhanced faith in the validity of our election

results. Election security is in turn the critical foundation of participation and faith. It should be and largely is a universal goal, especially given continuing, emerging and expanding threats to our election systems.

This bipartisan measure would help ensure that our elections are secured by the most advanced and best voting technology. It authorizes federal research to establish and maintain the highest standards possible, and establishes a Center of Excellence in Election Systems to regularly and thoroughly test the security and accessibility of voting systems and certify voting system technology.

This measure passed our House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with unanimous support because the Committee recognized the critical need for federal resources and leadership on this issue. It also was endorsed by my Blue Dog Coalition because it advances our own commitment to national security and accessible democracy.

I thank Congresswoman SHERRILL for her leadership on this important issue, and urge full House passage.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4990.

Voting is the bedrock of our representative democracy. The integrity of our election infrastructure is essential to free and fair elections. Votes are cast and counted using a variety of systems, from hand-marked paper ballots to direct-recording electronic machines. There is a whole host of other technology that also supports the process, including electronic pollbooks, voter registration databases, and other components of comprehensive systems.

I support H.R. 4990, the Election Technology Research Act of 2019, because it invests in science to bolster the resilience of election technology, and commend its sponsor, Representative SHERRILL, for authoring the bill. This legislation is in keeping with other bills this House has passed in the 116th Congress to protect our democratic institutions, including H.R. 1 (the For the People Act), H.R. 2722 (the SAFE Act), and H.R. 4617 (the SHIELD Act).

Russia attacked our democracy in 2016. Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation confirmed that Russian GRU officers "targeted individuals and entities involved in the administration of the elections. Victims included U.S. state and local entities, such as state boards of elections (SBOEs), secretaries of state, and county governments, as well as individuals who worked for those entities. The GRU also targeted private technology firms responsible for manufacturing and administering election-related software and hardware, such as voter registration software and electronic polling stations."

In July 2020, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) published an election infrastructure risk assessment. It found that "compromises to the integrity of state-level voter registration systems, the preparation of election data (e.g., ballot programming), vote aggregation systems, and election websites present particular risk to the ability of jurisdictions to conduct elections."

Our elections remain under threat from foreign adversaries. In August 2020, the Director of the United States Counterintelligence and Security Center said that foreign states may use the 2020 elections to "seek to compromise our election infrastructure for a range of possible purposes, such as interfering with

the voting process, stealing sensitive data, or calling into question the validity of the election results."

H.R. 4990 is commonsense, bipartisan legislation that responds to these ongoing threats. It authorizes new research and standards for election infrastructure security. It directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to carry out research that will increase the understanding of cyber and other threats to voting systems. It will lead to the development of technology, processes, and policies for more secure and accessible elections. This includes the cybersecurity of different components of voting systems, end-to-end verifiable systems, voter privacy and data protection, election auditing, interoperability of system technologies, and ballot tracking.

Importantly, the bill also amends the Help America Vote Act to expand the definition of voting systems to include electronic pollbooks, voter registration databases, systems for carrying out post-election auditing, and related technology. This will lead to improved guidance to election administrators for these systems by the Election Assistance Commission and its partners, which include NIST.

I am pleased to support H.R. 4990 and urge its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4990, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ENSURING CHILDREN AND CHILD CARE WORKERS ARE SAFE ACT OF 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRIST). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7909) to facilitate access to child care services safely and securely during the COVID-19 pandemic, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 387, nays 33, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 190]  
YEAS—387

Abraham	Baird	Bishop (NC)
Adams	Balderson	Bishop (UT)
Aderholt	Bair	Blumenauer
Aguilar	Barragán	Blunt Rochester
Allen	Bass	Bonamici
Allred	Beatty	Bost
Amodei	Bera	Boyle, Brendan
Armstrong	Bergman	F.
Axne	Beyer	Brady
Babin	Bilirakis	Brindisi
Bacon	Bishop (GA)	Brooks (IN)

Brown (MD)	Gooden	McBath	Speier	Torres (CA)	Wasserman
Brownley (CA)	Gottheimer	McCarthy	Stanton	Torres Small (NM)	Schultz
Buchanan	Granger	McCaull	Stauber	Trahan	Waters
Bucshon	Graves (GA)	McCullom	Stefanik	Trone	Watkins
Budd	Graves (LA)	McEachin	Steil	Stevens	Watson Coleman
Bustos	Graves (MO)	McGovern	Stewart	Turner	Weber (TX)
Butterfield	Green, Al (TX)	McKinley	Stivers	Underwood	Webster (FL)
Byrne	Grijalva	McNerney	Suozzi	Upton	Welch
Calvert	Grothman	Meeks	Swalwell (CA)	Van Drew	Westrenup
Carbajal	Guest	Meng	Takano	Vargas	Wexton
Carson (IN)	Guthrie	Meuser	Taylor	Veasey	Wild
Carter (GA)	Haaland	Mfume	Thompson (CA)	Velazquez	Williams
Carter (TX)	Hagedorn	Miller	Thompson (MS)	Wagner	Wilson (FL)
Cartwright	Harder (CA)	Mitchell	Thompson (PA)	Visclosky	Wilson (SC)
Case	Hartzler	Moolenaar	Thornberry	Wittman	
Casten (IL)	Hastings	Mooney (WV)	Tiffany	Walberg	
Castor (FL)	Hayes	Moore	Tipton	Walden	
Castro (TX)	Heck	Morelle	Titus	Walker	
Chabot	Hern, Kevin	Moulton	Tlaib	Walorski	
Chu, Judy	Herrera Beutler	Mucarsel-Powell	Tonko	Waltz	
Cicilline	Higgins (NY)	Mullin			
Cisneros	Hill (AR)	Murphy (FL)			
Clark (MA)	Himes	Napolitano			
Clarke (NY)	Holding	Neal	Amash	Davidson (OH)	Lamborn
Clay	Hollingsworth	Neguse	Arrington	Gaetz	Massie
Cleaver	Horn, Kendra S.	Newhouse	Banks	Gohmert	McClintock
Clyburn	Horsford	Norcross	Biggs	Gosar	Murphy (NC)
Cohen	Houlahan	Nunes	Brooks (AL)	Green (TN)	Norman
Cole	Hoyer	Ocasio-Cortez	Buck	Griffith	Posey
Collins (GA)	Hudson	Olson	Burchett	Harris	Rose, John W.
Comer	Huffman	Omar	Burgess	Hice (GA)	Roy
Conaway	Huizenga	Pallone	Cheney	Higgins (LA)	Sensenbrenner
Connolly	Hurd (TX)	Palmer	Cline	Jordan	Steube
Cook	Jackson Lee	Panetta	Cloud	King (IA)	Yoho
Cooper	Jacobs	Pappas			
Correa	Jayapal	Pascrall			
Costa	Jeffries	Payne	Cárdenas	O'Halleran	Timmons
Courtney	Johnson (GA)	Pence	DeFazio	Palazzo	Wright
Cox (CA)	Johnson (LA)	Perlmutter	McHenry	Riggleman	
Craig	Johnson (OH)	Perry	Nadler	Rooney (FL)	
Crawford	Johnson (SD)	Peters			
Crenshaw	Johnson (TX)	Peterson			
Crist	Joyce (OH)	Phillips			
Crow	Joyce (PA)	Pingree			
Cuellar	Kaptur	Pocan			
Cunningham	Katko	Porter			
Curtis	Keating	Pressley			
Davids (KS)	Keller	Price (NC)			
Davis (CA)	Kelly (IL)	Quigley			
Davis, Danny K.	Kelly (MS)	Raskin			
Davis, Rodney	Kelly (PA)	Reed			
Dean	Kennedy	Reschenthaler			
DeGette	Khanna	Rice (NY)			
DeLauro	Kildee	Rice (SC)			
DelBene	Kilmer	Richmond			
Delgado	Kim	Roby			
Demings	Kind	Rodgers (WA)			
DeSaulnier	King (NY)	Roe, David P.			
DesJarlais	Kinzinger	Rogers (AL)			
Deutch	Kirkpatrick	Rogers (KY)			
Diaz-Balart	Krishnamoorthi	Rose (NY)			
Dingell	Kuster (NH)	Rouda			
Doggett	Kustoff (TN)	Rouzer			
Doyle, Michael F.	LaHood	Royal-Allard			
Duncan	LaMalfa	Ruiz			
Dunn	Lamb	Ruppertsberger			
Emmer	Langevin	Rush			
Engel	Larsen (WA)	Rutherford			
Escobar	Larson (CT)	Ryan			
Eshoo	Latta	Sánchez			
Espalliat	Lawrence	Sarbanes			
Estes	Lawson (FL)	Scalise			
Evans	Lee (CA)	Scanlon			
Ferguson	Lee (NV)	Schakowsky			
Finkenauer	Lesko	Schiff			
Fitzpatrick	Levin (CA)	Schneider			
Fleischmann	Levin (MI)	Schrader			
Fletcher	Lieu, Ted	Schriner			
Flores	Lipinski	Schweikert			
Fortenberry	Loebssack	Scott (VA)			
Foster	Lofgren	Scott, Austin			
Fox (NC)	Long	Scott, David			
Frankel	Loudermilk	Serrano			
Fudge	Lowenthal	Sewell (AL)			
Fulcher	Lowey	Shalala			
Gabbard	Lucas	Sherman			
Gallagher	Luetkemeyer	Sherrill			
Gallego	Luján	Shimkus			
Garamendi	Luria	Simpson			
Garcia (CA)	Lynch	Sires			
Garcia (IL)	Malinowski	Slotkin			
Garcia (TX)	Maloney	Smith (MO)			
Gianforte	Maloney, Carolyn B.	Smith (NE)			
Gibbs	Maloney, Sean	Smith (NJ)			
Golden	Marchant	Smith (WA)			
Gomez	Mast	Smucker			
Gonzalez (OH)	Matsui	Soto			
Gonzalez (TX)	McAdams	Spanberger			
		Spano			

□ 1422

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MFUME) at 2 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.

## EQUITY AND INCLUSION ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 2574) to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to restore the right to individual civil actions in cases involving disparate impact, and for other purposes, offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 255, nays 164, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 191]

YEAS—255

Abraham	Davidson (OH)	Horsford
Aderholt	Davis, Rodney	Hudson
Allen	Delgado	Huizenga
Amodei	Demings	Hurd (TX)
Armstrong	DesJarlais	Jackson Lee
Arrington	Deutch	Jacobs
Babin	Diaz-Balart	Johnson (LA)
Bacon	Doggett	Johnson (OH)
Baird	Duncan	Johnson (SD)
Balderson	Dunn	Jordan
Banks	Emmer	Joyce (OH)
Barr	Engel	Joyce (PA)
Bergman	Espaillat	Katko
Biggs	Estes	Keller
Bilirakis	Ferguson	Kelly (MS)
Bishop (NC)	Finkenauer	Kelly (PA)
Bishop (UT)	Fitzpatrick	Kim
Bost	Fleischmann	Kind
Boyle, Brendan F.	Flores	King (IA)
	Fortenberry	King (NY)
Brady	Foxx (NC)	Kinzingher
Brindisi	Frankel	Kustof (TN)
Brooks (AL)	Fulcher	LaHood
Brooks (IN)	Gabbard	LaMalfa
Buchanan	Gaetz	Lamb
Buck	Gallagher	Lamborn
Bucshon	Garcia (CA)	Latta
Budd	Gianforte	Lawson (FL)
Burchett	Gibbs	Lesko
Burgess	Gohmert	Levin (CA)
Butterfield	Golden	Long
Byrne	Gonzalez (OH)	Lucas
Calvert	Gooden	Luetkemeyer
Carbajal	Gosar	Luján
Carter (GA)	Gottheimer	Luria
Carter (TX)	Granger	Malinowski
Cochran	Graves (GA)	Maloney, Carolyn B.
Collins (GA)	Graves (LA)	Maloney, Sean
Comer	Grenes (MO)	Marshall
Conaway	Green (TN)	Mast
Connolly	Cisneros	McAdams
Cook	Green, Al (TX)	McBath
Correa	Cloud	McCarthy
Craig	Griffith	McCaul
Craig	Chabot	McClintock
Craig	Guthrie	McKinley
Craig	Hagedorn	Murphy (FL)
Craig	Horn, Kendra S.	Murphy (NC)

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MFUME). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palmer  
Pappas  
Pence  
Perry  
Peters  
Peterson  
Posey  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rooney (FL)  
Rose (NY)  
Rose, John W.  
Rouda  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Scalise  
Schneider  
Schrader  
Schweikert

Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Shalala  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Shimkus  
Simpson  
Slotkin  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Spano  
Stauber  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Suoza  
Taylor  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiffany  
Tipton  
Titus  
Tonko

## NAYS—164

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Amash  
Axne  
Barragán  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Cooper  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Cuellar  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Dean  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
DeSaulnier  
Dingell  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Evans  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Fudge  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)

Gomez  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Grijalva  
Haaland  
Hastings  
Hayes  
Heck  
Higgins (NY)  
Himes  
Houahan  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (TX)  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kirkpatrick  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster (NH)  
Kushner  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Levin (MI)  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loebssack  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lynch  
Massie  
McCullum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Mfume  
Moore  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse

Norcross  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Perlmutter  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Richmond  
Rovalb-Allard  
Ruy  
Ruiz  
Ruppertsberger  
Rush  
Ryan  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sires  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Tlaib  
Torres (CA)  
Trahan  
Underwood  
Vargas  
Velasco  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wexton  
Yarmuth

## NOT VOTING—11

Bass  
DeFazio  
Loudermilk  
Marchant

McHenry  
O'Halleran  
Palazzo  
Riggleman

Roe, David P.  
Timmons  
Wright

## □ 1510

Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RYAN, and Ms. FUDGE changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Torres Small (NM)  
Trone  
Turner  
Upton  
Van Drew  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Waltz  
Wasserman  
Schultz

Messrs. ROUDA, COSTA, DOGGETT, CARBAJAL, GREEN of Texas, SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, PETERSON, and LUJÁN changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to recommit was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE  
RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Beyer)	Langevin	Pocan (Raskin)
Blumenauer (Beyer)	Blumenauer (Lynch)	Porter (Wexton)
Butterfield (Kildee)	Lawrence (Kildee)	Pressley (Lee)
Chu, Judy (Takano)	Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Rooney (FL) (Beyer)
Clay (Davids)	Lipinski (Cooper)	Royal-Allard (Aguilar)
Cohen (Beyer)	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Rush (Underwood)
Davis, Danny K. (Underwood)	Cohen (Beyer)	Serrano
DeSaulnier (Matsui)	Lowey (Tonko)	(Jeffries)
Frankel (Clark)	McEachin (Wexton)	Sewell (AL)
Grijalva (Raskin)	Meng (Clark)	(DelBene)
Hastings	Pingree (Clark)	Trahan (Hayes)
	Moore (Beyer)	(McGovern)
	Napolitano (Correa)	Watson Coleman (Pallone)
	Payne	Welch
Jayapal (Raskin)	Wasserman (McGovern)	
Khanna (Gomez)	Schultz	Wilson (FL)
Kirkpatrick	Pingree (Clark)	
	(Gallego)	

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the instructions of the House in the motion to recommit, I report the bill, H.R. 2574, back to the House with an amendment.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

Page 4, line 11, strike the quotation mark and period at the end.

Page 4, after line 11, insert the following:

"(c) ANTISEMITISM CONSIDERED DISCRIMINATION.—In carrying out the responsibilities of the recipient under this title, the employee or employees designated under this section shall consider antisemitism to be discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin as prohibited by this title."

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

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

The amendment was 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.

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.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.)

## □ 1523

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MFUME) at 3 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION  
ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 2574) to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to restore the right to individual civil actions in cases involving disparate impact, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 232, nays 188, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 192]

## YEAS—232

Adams	Davis, Danny K.	Johnson (TX)
Aguilar	Dean	Kaptur
Allred	DeGette	Katko
Amash	Axne	Keating
Axne	DeLauro	Kelly (IL)
Barragán	Bacon	DelBene
Beatty	Barragán	Kennedy
Bera	Demings	Khanna
Beyer	DeSaulnier	Kildee
Bishop (GA)	Deutch	Kilmer
Blumenauer	Dingell	Kim
Blunt Rochester	Doggett	Kind
Bonamici	Blumenauer	Kirkpatrick
Brown (MD)	F.	Krishnamoorthi
Brownley (CA)	Fitzpatrick	Kuster (NH)
Bustos	Butterfield	Lamb
Cárdenas	Carbajal	Langevin
Carson (IN)	Frankel	Larsen (WA)
Cartwright	Fudge	Larson (CT)
Case	Gabbard	Lawrence
Casten (IL)	Gallego	Lawson (FL)
Castro (TX)	Garamendi	Lee (CA)
Chu, Judy	Castor (FL)	Lee (NV)
Cicilline	García (IL)	Lofgren
Clark (MA)	García (TX)	Lowenthal
Clarke (NY)	Garcia (TX)	Golden
Clay	Gómez	Lowe
Cleaver	Cisneros	Luján
Clyburn	Gonzalez (TX)	Luria
Cohen	Clark (MA)	Lynch
Cooper	Clarke (NY)	Malinowski
Courtney	Clay	Maloney, Carolyn B.
Cox (CA)	Cleaver	Maloney, Sean
Cuellar	Clyburn	Matsui
Davids (KS)	Harder (CA)	McAdams
Davis (CA)	Cohen	McBath
Davis, Danny K.	Hastings	McCullum
Dean	Connolly	McEachin
DeGette	Cooper	McGovern
DeLauro	Correa	Meeks
DelBene	Costa	Meng
DeSaulnier	Courtney	Mfume
Dingell	Cox (CA)	Morelle
Doyle, Michael F.	Craig	Moulton
Escobar	Crist	Mucarsel-Powell
Eshoo	Crow	
Evans	Cuellar	
Fletcher	Cunningham	
Foster	Davids (KS)	
Fudge	Davis (CA)	
Gallego	Davis (GA)	
Garamendi		
Garcia (IL)		
Garcia (TX)		

Murphy (FL)	Royal-Allard	Suozzi
Nadler	Ruiz	Swalwell (CA)
Napolitano	Ruppersberger	Takano
Neal	Rush	Thompson (CA)
Neguse	Ryan	Thompson (MS)
Norcross	Sánchez	Titus
Ocasio-Cortez	Barbanes	Tlaib
Omar	Scanlon	Tonko
Pallone	Schakowsky	Torres (CA)
Panetta	Schiff	Torres Small (NM)
Pappas	Schneider	Trahan
Pascarel	Schrader	Trone
Payne	Schrirer	Underwood
Perlmutter	Scott (VA)	Vargas
Peters	Scott, David	Veasey
Peterson	Serrano	Vela
Phillips	Sewell (AL)	Velázquez
Pingree	Shalala	Visclosky
Pocan	Sherman	Wasserman
Porter	Sherrill	Schultz
Pressley	Sires	Waters
Price (NC)	Slotkin	Watson Coleman
Quigley	Smith (WA)	Soto
Raskin	Spanberger	Welch
Rice (NY)	Speier	Wexton
Richmond	Stanton	Wild
Rose (NY)	Stevens	Wilson (FL)
Rouda		Yarmuth

## NAYS—188

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

## NOT VOTING—10

DeFazio	Palazzo	Timmons
Marchant	Riggleman	Wright
McHenry	Sensenbrenner	
O'Halleran	Smith (NJ)	

## □ 1602

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

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 2020, I did not have a chance to cast my vote for two bills on the floor of the House of Representatives. I would like the record to reflect that I would have voted in favor of H.R. 7909, the Ensuring Children and Child Care Workers Are Safe Act, legislation that I have cosponsored. Additionally, I would have voted against the motion to recommit and in favor of final passage for H.R. 2574, the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act.

## MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Beyer)	Langevin	Pocan (Raskin)
Blumenauer (Beyer)	(Lynch)	Porter (Wexton)
Butterfield (Kildee)	Lawrence	Pressley (Lee)
Chu, Judy (Takano)	Lawson (FL)	Rooney (FL)
Clay (Davids (KS))	Lieu, Ted (Beyer)	Royal-Allard
Cohen (Beyer)	Lipinski (Cooper)	(Aguilar)
Davis, Danny K. (Underwood)	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Rush
DeSaulnier (Matsui)	Lowenthal	(Underwood)
Frankel (Clark (MA))	(Beyer)	Serrano
Grijalva (Raskin)	Lowey (Tonko)	(Jeffries)
Hastings (Wasserman Schultz)	McEachin	Sewell (AL)
Jayapal (Raskin)	Meng (Clark (MA))	Trahan
Khanna (Gomez)	Moore (Beyer)	(McGovern)
Kirkpatrick (Gallego)	Napolitano	Watson Coleman
	(Correa)	(Pallone)
	Payne	Welch
	(Wasserman Schultz)	(McGovern)
	Pingree (Clark (MA))	Wilson (FL)
		(Hayes)

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, September 16, 2020.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 16, 2020, at 2:19 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 92.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
Clerk.

## SAVE OUR HOMES—SAVE OUR PLANET

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, over this August break, my family and I left our house, not because it was vacation season but because it was wildfire sea-

son, and we were some of the thousands of people that were evacuated from our homes. Now, thanks to the amazing work of firefighters and first responders, we had a house to come home to, but as we know, many others were not as lucky.

You see, the American West, including my district on the Central Coast of California, is experiencing destructive wildfires where we are not just victims of these conflagrations, but we are also witnesses to the climate crisis.

Our climate is hotter. Our landscapes are drier, and our communities are more vulnerable to this type of devastation. We can't ignore it. We can't deny it, but we can pass the Climate Action Rebate plan to reduce our carbon output. We can pass the bipartisan Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act, and we can pass the bipartisan REPLANT Act.

This is not a binary choice. We can do both. If we don't act, our fire seasons will turn into fire years. But if we do act with commonsense legislation in Congress, we will save not just our homes, we will save this planet.

## MAINLAND REGIONAL HS

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the special education staff at Mainland Regional High School in Linwood in South Jersey.

After being given approval by the State and the health department, students went back to school this summer after being gone since March 13 because of coronavirus. The students received instruction in English, math, social-emotional skills, and physical education and health.

The education and instruction that these students received was much-needed and was greatly appreciated by the students and the educators alike. Students were able to receive face-to-face instruction, which for some students is the key to their success.

Thank you to the educators, assistants, and administrators for being so engaged and involved in the success of our students. It is appreciated. It is very much appreciated. You are appreciated. You are very much appreciated.

Thank you for all that you do and what you continue to do for our community. May God bless you and God bless all those students.

## HONORING ARMY COMBAT VETERAN KARI PADILLA

(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 to honor Army combat veteran and medic Sergeant Kari Padilla.

Sergeant Padilla honorably served our Nation from 2005 to 2013 with tours

in Iraq and Germany and helped establish a vital aviation field hospital supporting Middle East and Afghanistan deployments.

Though no longer in uniform, she continues to serve, having been the community outreach coordinator for the Post 9/11 Veterans Corps the past 4 years. In this capacity, she increased Veterans Corps participation by 35 percent annually and their social media following by 4,000 percent. It is this level of dedication and excellence that exemplifies her concern for other servicemembers.

More recently, Ms. Padilla was named president of the 9/11 Veterans Corps, a well-deserved recognition. I know she will do an amazing job in this capacity and build upon her past successes.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot thank her enough for her service, passion, and dedication. She continues to make the 15th District in our country a better place to live, work, and play.

Kari, you represent the best our Nation has to offer and, today, I salute you for your many sacrifices.

#### EMERGENCY WILDFIRES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, 4 of the 10 largest wildfires in California history are currently burning as we speak—3 of which are in my district.

For decades, our national forests have been mismanaged, turning them into tinderboxes that can ignite in an instant should lightning strike. As a result, there are more dead trees in the State of California than there are people.

This is a serious problem with serious consequences. If there is a time for this body to pass a comprehensive forestry package, it is now.

Today, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will consider the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act. This bipartisan bill, led by my colleague, JIMMY PANETTA, and I in the House, and Senator FEINSTEIN and DAINES in the Senate, take great steps to proactively manage our forests and minimize wildfire risk in the West.

Mr. Speaker, over three million acres in California have burned this year as a result of disastrous wildfires. We have 150 million dead trees in California. It is critical that the House considers the Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act immediately.

#### RECOGNIZING ISLAM AS ONE OF THE GREAT RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCADAMS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the grandson of a Methodist preacher, and I would also add, whose wife—my grandmother—was a missionary, I am proud to rise today to present H. Res. 1090, recognizing Islam as one of the great religions of the world.

I am proud to acknowledge that this resolution was introduced on August 21, 2020, with three original cosponsors: The honorable RASHIDA TLAIB, the honorable ILHAN OMAR, and my friend who is with me today, the honorable ANDRÉ CARSON.

I will say much more about the resolution, but I do want to at this time acknowledge my friend who's present from the Seventh Congressional District of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON), a wordsmith par excellence.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. GREEN, Congressman GREEN, Chairman GREEN, Judge GREEN, Pastor GREEN, public servant AL GREEN.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my colleagues' resolution recognizing Islam as one of the great religions of the world.

I commend my friend, Representative GREEN, for honoring Islam. This action helps to honor the millions of Muslims of many different backgrounds who proudly call America home.

Mr. Speaker, as one of three Muslims currently serving in Congress, it is my great privilege to speak here today in the people's House about a special faith. Though we are a minority in this country, we have participated fully in the story of our Nation since its earliest days. Even before America's founding and our Declaration of Independence, this brilliant declaration enshrined freedom of faith and religion for all of us.

Today, there are Muslims in all parts of the country who are business owners, who are teachers, construction workers, engineers, lawyers, judges, elected officials.

The first Muslim in Congress, my friend, comes to mind—Keith Ellison. We now have sisters ILHAN OMAR and RASHIDA TLAIB, and the list goes on, statewide and locally.

□ 1615

Throughout this COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Speaker, you would be hard-pressed to find a hospital in this great Nation without a Muslim healthcare worker on the front lines serving fellow Americans, not just in urban centers, but in suburbia, in rural parts of our country.

As more and more Muslims call America home, Mr. Speaker, we will continue working tirelessly, guided by our faith, to ensure our great country lives up to the principles of equality, compassion, and opportunity for all. Our faith keeps us motivated every day to advance these great goals.

Around the world, billions of Muslims are also engaged in this struggle,

also using their faith as a guide. We have seen what has happened with Uighur Muslims. We are seeing the dispute in Kashmir. We are seeing conflict dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian question. And, sadly, we still see Muslims who endure hurtful stereotypes and discrimination on this journey.

But our faith teaches us to be bold, to be brave, and to always choose love over hate. We will not be deterred, Mr. Speaker.

I am a proud Muslim. I am a proud American. I am honored to be a member of a very diverse and growing global community, and I am thankful to live in a country that enshrines the right to practice this faith.

We wouldn't have the foundation for American Muslims in this country, Mr. Speaker, were it not for the contribution of African-American Muslims. Scholars say 30, 40, maybe even 50 percent of the slaves who were brought here from West Africa were Muslim.

We see Muslims as first responders. I was one of them. We see Muslims who were a part of responding to the call to fight against terrorism in the post-9/11 reality, oftentimes thwarting potential attacks that you will never hear about in the news. Muslims are on the front lines in our law enforcement community and in our intelligence services.

Muslims have been critical in this country with establishing Islam and promoting self-respect, self-determination, creating your own enterprises and businesses. We hear terms now like "stay woke." I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that that terminology came from the contributions and the foundations laid by African-American Muslims.

It began as a kernel in the inception of this country, and it started to blossom in the early 1920s and 1930s, during the Great Depression. During those times, you had variations of Islam that was not Arabized. Because if it was an Arab presenting Islam, it wouldn't have been attractive. It certainly wouldn't have been attractive to me.

But the Islam that was presented was created in a way to fight against the poison and toxicity of white supremacy. Now, you have a beautiful religion with an interfaith coalition with Christian brothers and sisters, Jewish brothers and sisters, Sikhs, Hindus, atheists, Buddhists, all coming together to make America a better place.

Now, some people are comfortable with talking about Islam, and in their critiques of Islam, they overlook the hypocrisy of their own faith. You cannot really call yourself a lover of God and show hate for others of a different faith. You cannot call yourself an elected official and a representative of the people if you are only committed to serving and representing one segment of the population. You certainly can't call yourself a true public servant without recognizing the contributions that have been made by this wonderful community.

I salute Representative GREEN for his bold leadership, for his visionary leadership, as a proud Christian man in the tradition of Jesus Christ, knowing that in my Father's house, there are many mansions.

To stand up and recognize the wonderful religion of Islam, I command him, I thank him, because we are America.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very kind words. He is more than generous. I also thank him for his service in Congress.

He and I started out together on the Financial Services Committee. He has since moved on to the Intelligence Committee and is doing an outstanding job serving his country as an American Muslim.

Mr. Speaker, I indicated that I am the grandson of a Methodist preacher, but I am also a very proud Baptist. My grandfather would not hold it against me.

Religion is something that each person has to make decisions about for himself or herself. It is not something that we impose on people. This is a free country, a country wherein you have the right to be whatever you choose to be, within the spirit of what the law allows.

This is the case with religion. You can be whatever you choose to be, be associated with whichever religion you choose to, within the spirit of what the law allows.

I want to just say a few words about why I have brought this resolution. I have lived in this country all of my life. I love my country. It means something to me. I respect the words "liberty and justice for all" in the Pledge of Allegiance. I respect the concept in the Gettysburg Address: "government of the people, by the people, for the people."

It means something to me to know that a person who came from what I consider humble beginnings has had the opportunity to stand in the well of the House of Representatives. So, I love my country.

But it doesn't mean that I overlook some of the things that have happened to me along life's way that were not so pleasant.

I had persons who called themselves Christians to burn a cross in my yard. I don't consider them Christians. They called themselves Christians.

I have had persons who called themselves Christians to say some very ugly things to me and do some very ugly things to me.

But let me tell you what it did not do to me. Those persons who wore the hoods, who came to my yard, burned the cross, it did not cause me to conclude that Christianity was represented in what they did. The people who said ugly things and did ugly things to me in the name of Christianity, they did not cause me to conclude that that is what Christianity is all about.

I am mentioning this because, quite candidly, I want other people to under-

stand that Islam is a peaceful religion, that there are people who abuse others in the name of religion, but that doesn't mean that the religion is about the abuse that is being perpetrated.

I am honored today to present this resolution, and I rise in solidarity with my Muslim brothers and sisters around the world. I do so because I have seen them in action.

In Houston, Texas, we have storms. When these storms have come through our city—Hurricane Harvey being one example—the Muslim community was right there to do all that was necessary to help others.

One of the greatest callings that you have in any religion is to help somebody. They have adhered to the call for justice. They have been there to march in protest for freedom and justice for other people.

This community has been there with aid and comfort for people who have been left homeless. They have been there with aid and comfort for people who have suffered harm by way of their physical well-being.

Muslim doctors have helped people, and I have seen the evidence of it. There is a clinic in Houston, the Ibn Sina Clinic, and they have been assisting people with the COVID virus. Free tests are being administered.

This community has been helpful in my city. Persons from the community have served in public office, on city council. We have persons who are serving as precinct judges.

The community is there and a part of the greater Houston community. Houston is a very diverse city. The Muslim community enhances the diversity of the city of Houston.

This religion is a complete system of strong moral convictions that promotes peace, equality, and social justice. Islam is the second largest and fastest growing religion in the world.

America is home to one of the most diverse Muslim populations. It has within it almost every ethnicity, country, and school of thought. There are approximately 3.45 million Muslims of all ages living in the United States of America. This is as of 2016; this is the last information available to me.

In an overwhelming measure, Muslims make a significant, positive, and growing contribution to our Nation. We have successful Muslims in all areas of our national life. Names that come to mind, for a good many Americans, would include Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, would include one who was known as Cassius Clay but became Muhammad Ali. There are Muslims in all areas of life, including business, sport, media, culture, medicine, law, and politics.

Although American Muslims make up approximately 1 percent of the U.S. population, most Americans can name some of these prominent Muslims that I have called to your attention.

Another is Malcolm X. Many persons don't revere Malcolm X, but I am proud to say that the United States of Amer-

ica has had Malcolm X on a postage stamp. Of course, his name moved from X to Shabazz.

The Nation has honored many American Muslims for their service and sacrifice, including Salman Hamdani. Mr. Hamdani was there for 9/11. He made sacrifices on 9/11 as a first responder.

Many American Muslims are also civically engaged, working with their neighbors to better their communities. They are members of the Rotary Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Yes, Muslims served in the military of the United States of America.

They are members of school boards, and they volunteer in our communities. They actively engage in charitable giving. And I say this with some understanding of it, as I have seen it in action. I have seen the Muslim community not only give their in-kind services but their American dollars to worthy causes.

In short, American Muslims and the organizations they create are a part of the fiber and fabric of the great country that I love.

Today, during this pandemic, many Muslims work on the front lines, as was said by my dear brother, ANDRÉ CARSON, Congressman CARSON. They work on the front lines. They work as essential workers. They put their lives on the line to help others through the pain of the pandemic.

I believe that we must acknowledge and appreciate that Muslims further the diversity and success of our great country.

□ 1630

To this end, I trust that persons will join me in demonstrating solidarity with and support for Muslim members of the community throughout the world by recognizing Islam as one of the great religions of the world.

I hold in my hand the actual resolution that has been filed. I will not go through the whereases, but I do want to go to the be it resolved: ". . . be it resolved . . . to demonstrate solidarity and support for members of the community of Islam in the United States and throughout the world, the House of Representatives recognizes the Islamic faith as one of the great religions of the world."

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time, but I also want to thank the House leadership for the time. I do so because there was a time in the history of this country when a person who was born into poverty, who had to suffer the slings and arrows of invidious discrimination, would not be allowed to stand in the House of Representatives and present a resolution honoring Islam. We have come a long way.

I would like to acknowledge the fact that we have come a long way, because too many proclaim the notion that nothing has changed. The mere fact that I am standing here bringing this resolution means that things have changed. Many may not agree, but things have changed to the extent that

I have got the freedom to speak my mind with this resolution on the floor of the House of Representatives.

So I thank all of the leadership for acknowledging the change and allowing the resolution to be presented. With this said, I kindly and respectfully yield back the balance of my time.

#### RECOGNIZING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for very graciously allowing me to speak and for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Police Officer Tamarris L. Bohannon, who gave his life and service to his city on August 30 of 2020. His untimely and tragic killing is a profound loss to the people of St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, according to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, there have been nine-nine-St. Louis police officers shot since June 1 of 2020. We grieve Officer Bohannon's sacrifice, and we honor him for his sense of duty, his dedication, his generosity, and his heroism.

Known as "T" by his family and "Bo" by his squad, Officer Bohannon was a loyal St. Louisan and a hard worker who inspired admiration for his diligent service. With his wife, Alexis, he lived and raised his three wonderful children—Tamara, Ayden, and Tylor—in the city that he protected as a police officer of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. He was a veteran of the force, serving with distinction for more than 3 years.

Officer Bohannon's heroic actions to keep the citizens of St. Louis safe are the truest example of selfless service. I extend my deepest condolences to his fellow officers, his many friends, his loving wife and parents, and the rest of his family. We cannot repay him for his sacrifice, but we will always remember his love for our city and the people who live there.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I will begin by recognizing the heroic men and women who serve in the L.A. County Sheriff's Department as well.

This week, our country witnessed a cowardly evil attack on two L.A. County deputies. As the two county deputies were sitting inside of their parked car in Compton, California, a thug approached their vehicle and shot them point-blank. We are grateful that both of them are expected to survive. We regret that ambush, totally without justification, and we need to bring them to justice.

I am reminded of what the British moralist C. S. Lewis described in his book, "The Abolition of Man," where he said of shallow and heartless people as being "men without chests."

Perhaps, now, we are seeing that from the vicious criminals who are attempting to single out and overthrow our cities and, specifically, attack our police force.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support our First Amendment. I want to support the ability of people to assemble peacefully, but I also want to address the mobs that we have seen in our streets and, fundamentally, to defend our police.

What is it that the mob wants? It is hard to answer. There is a disparate set of views. Some have called them anarchists. They don't really have anarchy in mind; they just don't agree on which leftwing ideology they want to support. But they also are obeying their leaders. They are doing what their leaders have sent them to do.

One of our House colleagues, in June of 2018, said: "You get out and you create a crowd. And you push back on them, and you tell them they are not welcome anymore, anywhere."

Isn't that exactly what the mob is doing? Little old ladies trying to have a meal on a sidewalk here in our Nation's Capital have people shouting at them—mob intimidation.

And it gets much worse, as my colleague, Mrs. WAGNER, just highlighted. Nine police officers shot just in St. Louis alone. We all saw the horrific attacks in Los Angeles over the weekend—unprovoked, unjustified, unjustifiable, indefensible, yet people defend them and are reluctant to condemn them. This is what the mob is doing.

This is not the First Amendment. This is not the right of the people to assemble peacefully. And our law enforcement protect that right. They defend freedom. They protect and defend our communities. They do it heroically with bravery every day and, so often, thanklessly.

We are right to give them thanks. They put their lives in harm's way. And they call out their colleagues when they can when they break the trust of their departments.

We do need to reform some laws. We do need to hold some individuals accountable, but the idea that we can lay at the feet of all police these charges that are made is abhorrent.

So we need to defend our police. We need to defend our First Amendment freedoms to assemble peacefully, and we need to reject the cries of the mobs.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, last week, a husband and wife awoke to see, through their bedroom window, a brazen burglar breaking into their car. The dad retrieved a gun and tried to protect his family. He knew that the console of the car being burglarized contained another gun, and he saw the burglar retrieve it. They exchanged fire, and the confrontation had become more than even that prepared father could handle. So it became the responsibility of Ryan Hendrix.

The 8-year veteran of the Henderson County Sheriff's Department arrived with two other deputies at 2:54 a.m. last Thursday. They spotted the suspect, and at first he appeared to comply with commands, and then suddenly raised a weapon and fired.

The first shot struck Deputy Hendrix in the face before his fellow officers returned fire and shot the gunman dead. Investigation revealed that the gunman was a career criminal, wanted by South Carolina Probation, with arrests in four States.

Ryan Philip Hendrix, 35, Marine Corps vet, was declared brain dead the next day. Ryan's 6-year-old son and 9-year-old daughter will live with only fragmentary memories of their father. Ryan's fiancee will not have that October wedding that they planned.

This murder is not an isolated story. Two hundred law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty in 2020, up 90 percent.

Nothing I say can ennoble the sacrifices of those lost nor of the many others injured. Those sacrifices, that service, speak for themselves.

But I can speak to a fast-growing cancer in our civic spirit, an activism that exploits the wound to our national psyche born of racial injustice in our history, an activism that draws explicitly on Marxism and attacks core foundations of our society, including, and perhaps foremost, the consensus of support for law enforcement, a consensus that abides in every nation capable of surviving. It manifests itself in riots, looting, arson, destruction, shootings, and killings.

I can contend against it along with you. I have introduced into Congress the No Riots Act to criminalize injuries not only for Federal but, also, State and local law enforcement officers and to extend the death penalty for killing an officer in the course of interstate rioting.

But we cannot return to law enforcement officers the protection they deserve if leadership of our country is divided on the institution of police—indeed, if the people are divided. All

must back the blue. If we do not, then God have mercy on us, because the criminals and thugs like the one who took Ryan Hendrix's life assuredly will not spare yours or those of your loved ones.

This country is exceptional, the recognition that every human is special and has fundamental rights. Our Nation is a story of refining those rights in practice so that everyone gets a fair shake, that everyone's life is protected and respected.

But elemental to that, what we cannot do without are those who defend us from chaos and keep order, those whose service, whose sacrifice most Americans understand and honor.

Most Americans know that Ryan Hendrix is a hero and so are all who serve in blue. Most Americans know that the they are highest caliber among us and that they deserve our respect and support.

I back the blue.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, in the sweltering heat of Arizona deserts, we have multiple jurisdictions of police officers who come to the rescue, not just armed with guns, but they will save those who are fighting through the desert, fighting through the heat, whether they are here in this country illegally or not. Whether they are with the Customs and Border Patrol, whether they are with ICE, whether they are with the county sheriff's department or our local municipal police departments, they provide first aid assistance and lifesaving assistance, and I pay homage to them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

□ 1645

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

There is no more important element of our society that the Founders guaranteed us than safety and security. I rise today in strong support of our Nation's law enforcement officers and join my colleagues in strongly condemning the recent attacks on those who serve and protect our communities.

Peaceful protests have been hijacked by malevolent radical organizations like Antifa, while national political and media-driven narratives have further incited violence against the very people who patrol our streets, stop violent criminals, and keep our communities safe. That is what the blue does.

It is imperative law enforcement have the means necessary to investigate who and which organizations are funding, organizing, and inciting these riots occurring in our country.

As Members of Congress, it is our sworn duty to defend our Nation from enemies both foreign and domestic. While we must always protect the right to peacefully protest, it is imperative that people or entities funneling money to cause disruption and damage

in peaceful communities are held accountable for their actions.

Michigan's First District proudly stands with our law enforcement community, and we honor the good work that so many brave men and women do every day, keeping strong that thin blue line which defends against chaos and anarchy threatening our society.

I fervently urge the Department of Justice and the FBI to take all available further action to ensure that the rioters, and especially those funneling money to them, are held accountable to the maximum extent allowable by the law.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD).

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. He is a great chairman, but also a great friend. I thank him, also, for organizing this Special Order.

Over the past several months we have witnessed lawless anarchists take to the streets and destroy historic monuments, vandalize and burn small businesses, physically assault a U.S. Senator and his wife, harass regular Americans who are simply enjoying an outdoor dinner, and so on. The fact that this activity goes on and is tolerated by Democrat-run cities is outrageous and an insult to every law-abiding citizen of this land.

We need to double the Federal penalties for those who riot and loot. We need to strip Federal funding from cities that refuse to confront this lawlessness in their communities. And we need to put those dithering local officials on the hook legally for the carnage that they allow to happen.

There are people here in Washington who stand for law and order and are trying to regain control of our streets, starting with our President. Violence like this has no place in America. We have to get back to resolving our issues through debate and democracy, not through looting and lawlessness.

If officials in Democrat-run cities won't stand up for all of their citizens, then under the leadership of President Trump, Republicans will.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, a country as ours, a constitutional republic, requires a citizenry that is well-educated and are responsible.

I questioned a colleague of mine from New York about her policies calling for defunding of the police. The city of New York cut funding to the city police department by \$1.5 billion, but my colleague from New York said that is not sufficient, we need 100 percent defunding of the police, while at the same time advocating for people to shoplift if you are hungry.

My question is: Do you suppose that is okay for the shop owner? Do you suppose it is okay for our children

watching those police? Who does the shop owner call and how do the police respond with those kinds of ideas out there? Do you call Antifa? I don't know. I wouldn't.

A civil society needs rule of law. We need policemen who uphold those laws and are willing to serve to protect the citizens. Our lawmakers need to preserve the rule of law, not weaken it.

The dangerous policies of the left espouse no police, free this, free that, free healthcare, it is not your fault. This does not lead to the utopia they promise.

In reality, this leads to the Hugo Chavez/Nicholas Maduro's Venezuela, and that is a short period of time. People don't think it can happen here, but we need our policemen.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments and his efforts and service in Congress as he prepares to retire soon. I thank the gentleman, Mr. YOHO.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), who on the other end of the spectrum is fairly new to Congress.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding some time to me here this afternoon.

First, we are setting up a picture here on the easel to the right of me. And what you see there are not the wildfires in California. What you see is a picture from my district in western Wisconsin of Minneapolis at the end of May as the city was burning.

Organized anarchist groups like Antifa have been engaging in systematic criminal activity including assaults, widespread property damage and destruction, repeated looting, and attacks on law enforcement and others.

They have turned parts of Kenosha, Madison, and Milwaukee in my State, as well as neighborhoods just over the border in Minnesota, into post-apocalyptic hellscapes.

And if I can take just a minute. Growing up in western Wisconsin, I will never forget, it was always a treat to go into the Twin Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. And in the Midwest, Minneapolis and Saint Paul were always known as the best of the big cities to live in. They can no longer say that after what has happened here in 2020.

These are not mostly peaceful protests, and Antifa is not a myth. These are orchestrated assaults on civil society and the American way of life designed to spread terror and chaos, to destroy businesses, and to shake the very foundations of our country.

First, it was Minneapolis and Atlanta, then Portland and Seattle, then Milwaukee, Madison and even Kenosha. Tomorrow it could be your community.

So let's talk about those cities here in Wisconsin.

Madison: In June, a violent mob vandalized the State capitol and other State buildings, shattering windows, hurling Molotov cocktails and destroying historic monuments. In fact, it was

very fortunate that the Molotov cocktail that went into the county building just off from the State capitol did not lead to a loss of life.

They attacked a statue of Hans Christian Heg, a statue that I was just walking past a few months ago as a State legislator in Wisconsin. He was a Civil War veteran, immigrant, abolitionist who fell at Chickamauga fighting to end slavery and preserve the Union. Yes, they tore it down. His nearly 100-year-old sculpture was decapitated and thrown into a lake by rioters.

The mob also tore down the statue of Lady Forward, a monument that is emblematic of Wisconsin being the first State to ratify the women's suffrage movement. The original Lady Forward statue was first placed in front of the Wisconsin State Capitol in 1895.

And for my friends on the other side of the aisle, whether you are a Republican or Democrat, if you don't think they are going to come for you at some point, go ask my former colleague Democrat State Senator Tim Carpenter, who was beaten by rioters during that unrest and needed surgery to recover. He told the media, "I don't know what happened . . . all I did was stop and take a picture . . . and the next thing I'm getting five-six punches, getting kicked in the head." That is a Democratic State senator.

Roving bands of thugs looking to intimidate residents torched and looted State Street. The State Street riots proceeded when they tore down the statues around the beautiful State capitol in Madison, Wisconsin.

But let's talk about Bernell Trammell. In July, Mr. Trammell, an activist known for carrying handmade signs supporting President Trump, was gunned down in broad daylight in Milwaukee. To date, no arrests have been made.

Mr. Trammell is an African American. And, in fact, I am quite sure he supported an African American former state senator that I used to work with.

There is growing public concern that the violence and lawlessness that has plagued Milwaukee for months has rendered local officials either unwilling or unable to thoroughly investigate his murder and bring those responsible for his death to justice. And that includes the top law enforcement official in Wisconsin. We are hearing nothing from him in regard to Bernell Trammell.

The failure of local officials to apprehend any suspects a month after this brutal crime was committed sets a dangerous precedent, one that could encourage more politically motivated killings and undermine the civil rights protections afforded to all Americans.

I have asked Attorney General Barr and the U.S. Attorney to initiate a civil rights investigation into his killing as they did into the shooting of Jacob Blake.

Kenosha: During the Kenosha riots, at least 56 businesses were severely

damaged or destroyed racking up a \$50 million price tag. Thank you, President Trump, for coming to Kenosha and offering your assistance.

The destruction has left business owners devastated and wondering whether they will have the money to rebuild and stay in the neighborhood.

The Uptown neighborhood, home to a majority of minority-owned businesses, was among those hardest hit. One news report described the plight of one local business owner:

Inside La Estrella Supermarket, owner Abel Alejo surveyed the water and smoke damage his shop suffered. Carpeting in a hallway was spongy with water as he surveyed packages of spoiling food that needed clearing out last week. A few pinatas still hung overhead from an intact part of the otherwise broken ceiling in the closed store.

Wauwatosa: According to police, a mob targeted the home of a Wauwatosa policeman, vandalizing his home, physically assaulting him, then firing a shotgun through his back door.

A Democrat state representative participated in the unrest and actually accused the officer, who lives in the home with his girlfriend and two children, of aggressively provoking the confrontation by "choosing to come out of his home."

So I think about my district. I was talking to the mayor a short week after I was sworn in on May 19, when the riots were happening in Minneapolis, and he was wondering, along with lots of other citizens in St. Croix and Polk Counties on the western edge of Wisconsin, are the riots of Minneapolis going to come to our community? We can only hope that that does not happen here as we close out 2020.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, when I reflect on the incident of the weekend when the two L.A. County deputies were shot and they had to tend to each other and apply first aid to each other, and they were rushed to the hospital, the rigid cruelty of the mob that gathered at the hospital trying to block an ambulance from accessing the emergency room, accompanied with hateful shouts and taunts, as evidence of the loss of goodness in our society.

The feckless leaders of some States and cities that have not only permitted the destruction of property, but the wasting of lives and livelihoods are without heart, as well. In many cases they have not only stood by watching the wreckage, they have fomented the rioting, looting, the murder, and mayhem.

□ 1700

One of the enemies of a free society is one who will appease people who are intent on destroying the rights of individuals within that society, those who permit and encourage by inaction criminal conduct.

We saw this when the Portland mayor, Ted Wheeler, was driven from his own home because the mob had turned on him. He is not alone.

Winston Churchill once noted that an appeaser is someone who feeds others

to the alligators with the hopes that he will be eaten last. That is what is being lived out in some American cities before our eyes today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD), my friend.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, who would have thought—who would have thought—that today we would be here discussing this topic.

When I ran for office, when I stood in this room for the first time and took the oath of office to protect and defend the Constitution, I expected that we would have many discussions on this floor with deeply held opposing views on the many issues facing our Nation. I did not expect that one of those issues would be whether this, the law-making body of our Nation, expects the laws to be followed, or whether or not we support the brave men and women tasked with enforcing that law.

Policing is a noble and necessary profession of any civil society, a profession which, by and large, is full of dedicated, courageous citizens who have chosen to serve their community, often putting aside higher-paying professions to work in one of the most difficult, challenging jobs, daily prioritizing public safety over their own.

It is these families for whom the greatest sound one hears is the sound of Velcro at the end of each shift as their loved one removes their body armor and takes up their other most important duty of being a mom, dad, brother, or sister. For too many of our law enforcement officers' families, because of the violence against police, they are now denied the joy of that moment.

Each day, we see images of organized armed riots embracing lawlessness, destroying property, sowing hate, and instilling fear, all in order to advance a political agenda.

The barrage of destruction and violence in major American cities is almost nonstop. The rioters across the Nation have cost over \$1 billion in damages and claimed numerous lives.

In one of the latest acts of horrific violence, two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies were shot and critically injured as they sat in their patrol car at a metro rail station Saturday evening. Protesters gathered outside the hospital where the deputies were receiving treatment, some chanting: "Death to police. Kill the police." This is shameful and cannot be tolerated.

It is notable that this mass chaos is occurring in cities with leftist leaders who have been tragically slow at condemning the violence.

This lack of leadership, we might add, whether by intentional design or perhaps by good but misguided intentions, has kept entire segments of our population in failing schools, in crime-ridden communities, and in generational cycles of poverty and dependency.

We owe it to the American people to protect their homes, families, and businesses from any mob that seeks to tear down our society.

We owe it to our hardworking police officers, who dedicate their lives to upholding the law, to give them respect and provide them with the resources, training, and support they need to do their jobs safely and effectively.

This is why I stand with the American people, with our law enforcement, and will oppose any attempt to, in a matter of fact or even in simply imagining, defund the police.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for being here tonight. I appreciate his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE), my friend.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BIGGS for organizing this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our men and women in law enforcement and to call for the restoration of the rule of law in this country.

Over the past several months, we have heard politicians, pundits, and riot participants vilifying our Nation's law enforcement officers, brave men and women who have sworn an oath to protect and serve their communities.

We must remember that words have consequences, especially when those words are uttered by Members in this Chamber.

The overwhelming majority of police officers are good people. These men and women do the right job for the right reasons, and the people of Virginia's Sixth District strongly support these brave men and women. We have seen Back the Blue rallies spring up across the Commonwealth.

Following the ambush of two sheriff's deputies in L.A. County this past weekend, I was moved to speak today to urge my colleagues to recommit themselves to honoring those in blue.

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, 193 members of law enforcement have been killed this year in the line of duty, nearly 40 of whom were as a result of a gunshot wound.

These brave souls were moms, dads, brothers, sisters, husbands, and wives, each with a story, and each laid down their life for their fellow citizens. Their deaths bring no more holidays, no more anniversaries, no more birthdays, simply no more days.

Regardless of race, gender, or creed, police officers are there in times of crisis. They very literally answer the call and run toward the sounds of danger while others run from them.

Too many have given their last full measure in the line of duty, only to have their memory disgraced with calls to defund and dismantle our police departments, which by doing so would destroy the peace in which Americans are blessed to live.

Some in this Chamber have been actually pushing an antipolice agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I am tired of folks playing politics with people's lives. Over the past few months, we have seen too much death, too much destruction, and too much division. We must restore the rule of law in this country, and we must get our country back on track.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), my friend.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend from the great State of Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for organizing this Special Order so we can focus on the civil unrest that has enveloped our Nation in recent months.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues who have already shared their thoughts on how we can stop the unrest and restore law and order.

Too many Americans are home tonight worried about what will happen if a violent mob descends on their community or on their small business. That is why I join my friends here tonight and rise up to voice my concerns about leftwing activists running through our streets rioting, looting, and destroying people's livelihoods.

But what concerns me the most is that we are not holding them accountable for their actions. That is why I have written a bill that would strip a rioter caught and convicted of looting, vandalism, or violence of coronavirus unemployment benefits.

While we all support the right to protest peacefully, I know I speak for my colleagues and my constituents when I say it is time to put a stop to the destruction of American cities and leaving the taxpayers and small business owners as the ones who are holding the bag.

My bill is called the Support Peaceful Protest Act. Not only would it hold those rioting and looting accountable by preventing them from receiving enhanced unemployment benefits, but it would also force those arrested and convicted to pay the costs of policing these spectacles.

It is time to force these rioters to face the financial costs of their actions. They need to feel the consequences of their actions.

I offer this piece of legislation as part of a solution to stop the rioting and restore law and order across our Nation. The civil unrest is dangerous, and it must come to an end.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. BIGGS, for letting me share about my bill. I hope that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will consider adding their names to it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BIGGS, once again, for holding this important Special Order hour on what is on the top of the minds of so many of the American people.

Thank you. God bless.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) for his words and also for his work on the legislation that I think will be very important.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR), my friend and my seatmate from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BIGGS for yielding to me.

In 1928, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis said: "In a government

of laws, the existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously. . . . If the government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy. . . . Crime is contagious."

Mr. Speaker, let's just look at the lawlessness perpetrated by our own government that the American people have had to endure and for which, regrettably, I have had a front-row seat for in my career here in Congress: Fast and Furious; the IRS attacks on conservatives; Benghazi, where four Americans died; Hillary Clinton's email scandal; the attacks on the press of James Rosen, James Risen, and Sharyl Attkisson; the unmasking of American citizens; Russia-gate; Ukraine-gate; and now, Obama-gate.

Who has paid the time for the crime?

What we are witnessing today in many of America's Democratic-run cities are the repercussions of years of lawlessness and amnesty in Washington, D.C.

Recently, I had a woman leave me a voice mail saying she "thinks it is totally okay for her to come with her gun and shoot me in the head." Only a couple days later, two L.A. County sheriffs were shot in the head.

Do you know what happened as those deputies were fighting for their lives? The mob was blocking the entrance to the emergency room, chanting: "We hope they die. We hope they die."

That is how little regard the mob has for the rule of law and their fellow man in their disavowment of the greatest country in the world, the United States of America.

President Trump is right: We must restore law and order. We must defend our police, not just by fully funding them but by increasing the criminal penalties for assaulting officers, bringing violent groups like Antifa and BLM to justice, and applying existing Federal laws like RICO statutes to combat the patterned commission of violent crime.

Ronald Reagan wisely said: "We must reject the idea that every time a law is broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable" for his or her actions.

I strongly support law enforcement. I firmly disavow the groups and individuals funding, enabling, and partaking in mob violence. And I call on my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the men and women in blue and brown: Thank you.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Arizona, Representative GOSAR, for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE), my friend.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BIGGS for yielding.

Look, we have all seen the out-of-control left hijacking our cities across

the Nation, and we know where the bottom line ends. It is organizations like Antifa, where they are targeting police officers, burning down buildings, destroying private property, besieging Federal buildings, attacking innocent civilians. We have seen what happened with the police in L.A. and the chants that took place there.

But all this type of behavior does not happen in a vacuum. It doesn't happen in a vacuum.

In fact, we are seeing all of this fueled by reckless rhetoric, much of it coming from our Democratic colleagues, where they say things like: All cops are evil, all cops are bad, and cries to defund the police.

The result we are watching? Record numbers of police murdered and killed across the country, record numbers injured.

Yet, the left is still calling to defund the police. Rather than condemn this lunacy that is happening in our country, the majority continues to appease, continues to fuel this horrible behavior.

In fact, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee won't even admit that Antifa violence exists. He calls it a myth. It is unthinkable.

Where is the leadership of the Democratic Party? Where is the Speaker of the House, for that matter? She has consistently downplayed this crisis that is happening in our streets.

It is time that we have leadership here. It is time that we address the issues. The Speaker, frankly, should be ashamed of the absolute failure to address this horrific behavior that is happening and the unrest that is happening in our country.

In fact, when the Senate passed serious legislation, the Speaker went out to say that the Senate is trying to commit murder. My question is, how many murders have occurred on the streets of America since she made that statement?

Rather than work with us, the Democrats and the Speaker call us and the President domestic enemies and enemies of the state, and that is just totally unacceptable.

It is time that we restore law and order in this country, and it begins by restoring it right here in this Chamber.

□ 1715

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN), my good friend.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want every American to look at this picture of what, sadly, has become “the new normal” in many cities across our great Nation. The one common thread for all of these cities is that they are run by liberal Democrats who tolerate these criminal activities: buildings deliberately being set on fire, department stores being looted of merchandise, police cars, as you see here, being bashed and torched, and our brave law enforcement officers being executed in broad daylight.

Imagine, if you are an owner of these businesses who invested a lifetime of savings, waking up to their places of work being destroyed through no fault of their own.

Here is my question: Why have Democrats remained silent on condemning these acts of violence?

Is it any coincidence that there is not one Democrat standing with us tonight? Where are they? They are not here.

I would submit that this is a preview of coming attractions to cities and towns all across our great country if this lawlessness is allowed to continue.

Now is the time to support law enforcement, not defund law enforcement.

Now is the time to enforce our laws and put those criminals behind bars if they destroy private property.

Now is the time to get back to we, the people, not we, the criminals, not we, the government, not we, the politician.

In closing, you do not build up America by tearing down America.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Roy), who will be speaking as fast as a Texan can speak.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Detective James Skernivitz; Police Officer Tamaris Leon-Wesley Bohannon;

Sergeant Ricardo Perez-Ortiz; Police Officer Edelmiro Garza, Jr.; Police Officer Ismael Chavez; Police Officer Anthony Dia; Sergeant Craig Vincent Johnson; Wildlife Officer Julian Keen, Jr.; Deputy Sheriff James H. Blair; Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller; Lieutenant Stephen P. Williams; Police Officer Waldis “Jay” Johnson; Police Officer Nathan James Lyday; Police Officer Cody N. Holte; Police Officer Michael S. Mosher; Lieutenant Glenn Dale Hutto, Jr.; Police Officer Dan Walters; Police Officer Justin Putnam; Officer Breann Leath; Commander Greg Carnicle; Sergeant Ben Jenkins; Police Officer Christopher Ryan Walsh;

Sergeant James R. O’Connor, IV; Corporal Brent William Perry Scrimshire;

Corporal Andrew J. Gillette; Officer David Kellywood; Police Officer Nick O’Rear; Trooper Joseph Jon Bullock; Deputy Sheriff Richard Edward Whitten;

Officer Tiffany-Victoria Bilon Enriquez; Officer Kaulike Kalama; Public Safety Officer Jackson Ryan Winkler;

Captain Stanley Curtis Elrod; Police Officer Bryan Brown; Corporal Bryant Searcy; Police Officer Sheena Dae Yarbrough-Powell; Trooper Caleb Starr;

Police Officer Destin Legieza; Animal Control Officer Darrian May Young;

Police Officer Christopher Eric Ewing;

Police Officer Kaia LaFay Grant; Police Officer Alan Daniel McCollum; Police Officer Katherine Mary Thyne. I have two questions, Mr. Speaker:

Where is the NBA? Where are those names? Where are the names I just read of the 43 police officers who have died in the line of duty this year? I want to know that. I want to know where those names are.

My second question is: Where is the Speaker? Where is the Speaker of the House? Where is this body? Why aren’t we on the floor voting on a resolution honoring these fallen 43? Why aren’t we standing up for law and order? Why aren’t we standing up for security in our streets? Why are we instead turning over this country to mob rule?

These names matter too, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, an article from the Federalist by Joy Pullman today points out: “Contrary to corporate media narratives, up to 95 percent of this summer’s riots are linked to Black Lives Matter activism, according to data collected by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project. . . . Of the 633 coded as riots, 88 percent are recorded as involving Black Lives Matter activists.”

So all of these corporations that are donating money, it is very clear: They are helping a Marxist organization whose ultimate goal will be to relieve these corporations of all of their private property.

Way to go.

Early estimates from insurance agencies apparently say they have set a record in destruction for what the media—the alt-left media or mainstream, whichever you prefer—say is just mainly peaceful uprisings. It is astounding what has been occurring.

This article from The Daily Signal points out, from yesterday, that if you go to the website for Black Futures Lab, a venture of Black Lives Matter founder Alicia Garza, and click on donate, “it will ask you to send your money to an obscure organization, the Chinese Progressive Association, explaining that ‘Black Futures Lab is a fiscally sponsored project of the Chinese Progressive Association.’”

So there you go. You are not only helping destroy America and eliminate private property that you own, you are also helping the Chinese Communist Party.

Congratulations for all of those. You are not making Black lives matter; you are helping the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am still sickened by the sight that I saw, that all of us saw: two officers who showed up to work, an assassination attempt, attempted execution, just for sitting in their car, for honoring their pledge to preserve and protect the safety of the citizens they serve.

For the past month, law enforcement officers have endured attacks, have been shot at, bottles thrown at, fireworks, glass bottles, powerful lasers attempted to blind them.

This year, as my friend from Texas said, 43 law enforcement officers have been killed, nearly twice the rate of last year.

And what is coming from the other side of the Chamber here? You got it. Silence.

When elected leaders refuse to stand with our law enforcement officers and continue to bend to the whims of violent mobs, we lose our civilization. We lose our civil society.

Now, you think, when you watch TV maybe you see it on the news, it is happening far away, thousands of miles away across our country. But right in Pennsylvania where I live, south central Pennsylvania, just on Monday, unfortunately, violent riots came to the streets on the heels of the death of Ricardo Munoz, a mentally ill 27-year-old who was captured on a police officer's body camera charging at the officer with a knife in his hand.

Now, the death of Ricardo Munoz is a tragedy, no doubt, and my prayers are with Mr. Munoz's family. However, an adult man wielding a large carving knife over his head while charging at police—by the way, having a record of doing this in the past, stabbing people—is a clear mortal threat, and the officers are well within their rights to protect themselves.

Let me be very clear. Every person in the United States of America has the right to peacefully protest. Your constitutional right to protest, however, does not include violent riots, setting fires to things, looting, and harming and killing other people.

Now, this is an account from that protest which wasn't a protest:

The mob marched from the scene of the shooting on Laurel Street to the police station, chucking glass bottles, rocks, bricks, gallon jugs filled with liquid, and plastic road barricades at the police. A county vehicle parked in front of the station was damaged.

Numerous buildings and vehicles were damaged, fires were set—all without regard for the owners and individuals who could have been physically harmed by the riotous actions.

Mr. Speaker, anyone in this Chamber, any leader in our community who does not stand up for civil society, for our police officers who take an oath to protect their citizens, is supporting a dangerous and deadly violent mob, and it absolutely must end.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I include the following items in the RECORD:

A letter dated September 10, 2020, to the Honorable William P. Barr, Attor-

ney General; a newspaper article dated September 15, 2020; another one, dated August 26, 2020; another piece which is undated, which I will get the date for; and then another series of articles as well.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, September 10, 2020.  
Hon. WILLIAM P. BARR,  
Attorney General,  
U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR: We write to share our deep concerns regarding the ongoing violence that has gripped American cities and threatened the rule of law across our nation. ANTIFA and other left-wing anarchist groups have unleashed a barrage of totalitarian attacks on our country in recent months, including accosting a sitting U.S. Senator, hijacking peaceful rallies, organizing armed riots, destroying property, burning buildings, stealing livelihoods, and spreading hate.

It is clear that these individuals are well-funded and supported by a national network of left-wing activists committed to perpetrating violence and furthering anarchy in our streets. As such, we urge you to immediately open an investigation to identify and prosecute all individuals and groups responsible for funding and organizing these terrorist acts that are wreaking havoc on our nation.

As you know, 18 U.S. §2101 makes it a federal crime punishable by up to five years in prison to incite a riot; organize, promote, encourage, participate in, or carry on a riot; commit any act of violence in furtherance of a riot; or aid or abet any person in inciting or participating in a riot. Tragically, we are seeing the letter and spirit of the law being desecrated on a daily basis, as ANTIFA and other organized groups of anarchists continue to infiltrate peaceful protests and launch violent attacks against American citizens. Tragically, these activities recently turned deadly in Portland, Oregon, as Michael Forest Reinoehl, who described himself as "100% ANTIFA" shot and killed a supporter of President Trump.

Additionally, the riots in Portland and other major American cities have revealed a targeted effort to destabilize our way of life, including deliberately targeting federal buildings and law enforcement in an effort to undermine the rule of law. The prolonged nature and organization of these violent attacks, including the rioters' use of military grade helmets, gas masks, protective vests, and illegal fireworks, clearly displays the high level of coordination and outside funding supporting these anarchist groups. It is readily apparent that these individuals were outfitted for war and were clearly part of a planned effort to infiltrate peaceful protests, provoke violence, and further subvert our system of government.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated incidents. Well-organized factions of ANTIFA and other anarchist groups have taken advantage of peaceful protests to sow division, threaten free speech, and enflame tensions throughout the nation for more than 90 days.

The violence occurring in our cities cannot continue. The DOJ must take action to stop these dangerous attacks. As such, we urge you to fully investigate the groups responsible for these attacks on our republic and prosecute all individuals who are violating federal law by participating in, inciting, organizing, or funding these destructive riots. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this urgent request and your prompt action to protect our nation.

Sincerely,

KEN BUCK,  
ANDY BIGGS,

BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.,  
TED BUDD,  
DOUG COLLINS,  
BOB GIBBS,  
JEFF DUNCAN,  
STEVE KING,  
Members of Congress.

[From Fox News, Sept. 15, 2020]

LA COUNTY SHERIFF SAYS PROTESTERS CALLING FOR AMBUSHED DEPUTIES' DEATH IS 'ALMOST WORTHY OF ISIS'

(By Joshua Nelson)

Protesters showing up at the hospital treating two deputies who were shot in an ambush and calling for their death is "something almost worthy of ISIS," said Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva on Tuesday.

"It's just a new low for the hatred that I don't think anyone in this nation has ever seen before," Villanueva told "America's Newsroom."

"We just don't expect it on our own shores and we have been here fighting to save people's lives across the county—it doesn't matter who you are and it is not something we are going to expect or tolerate," Villanueva said.

Villanueva on Monday challenged NBA star LeBron James to match and double the reward money, which is currently up to \$200,000, that is being offered for information on the gunman who ambushed and shot two deputies over the weekend.

"This challenge is to LeBron James. I want you to match that and double that reward," Villanueva said. "I know you care about law enforcement. You expressed a very interesting statement about your perspective on race relations and on officer-involved shootings and the impact that it has on the African American community."

"And I appreciated that," he continued. "But likewise, we need to appreciate that respect for life goes across all professions."

The Los Angeles Lakers star has been one of the most vocal professional athletes to speak on social issues and to condemn police misconduct. After Jacob Blake was shot multiple times by officers in Wisconsin last month, James said Black people in America are "terrified" of police misconduct.

"I know people get tired of hearing me say it, but we are scared as Black people in America," James said following the Lakers' Game 4 win over the Portland Trail Blazers last month. "Black men, Black women, Black kids, we are terrified."

Villanueva on Tuesday said he had yet to hear from LeBron regarding his challenge, but that the NBA star needs "to take some ownership of exactly what he said in terms of propagating the idea that people are being hunted" due to the color of their skin.

"I think that is just flat out not the case. I think we need to hold those accountable for breaking the law, be it law enforcement when we are crossing the line, but, then we have to acknowledge the bigger problem of violence overall and this ambush, cowardly ambush, of the two deputies just doing their own job, doing their business there in Compton, really illustrates that. That is that the problem we need to address," he said.

[From Fox Business, Aug. 26, 2020]

BLM BRINGS ECONOMIC STRESS TO COMMUNITIES IT CLAIMS TO REPRESENT: PASTOR

(By Bishop Aubrey Shines)

Early in August a news story jumped out to me and not in a good way my friends. I am still thinking about it.

As Fox Business reported on August 5, a trucking company will no longer deliver to cities that are defunding police. The co-

owner of JKC Trucking, Mike Kucharski, told Fox he was concerned for the safety of his drivers and their cargo going to cities where police had had their budgets slashed.

As an African American and a minister, I knew something like this would happen sooner or later.

My colleagues and I founded Conservative Clergy of Color because we were afraid something like this would happen if Black Lives Matter was the only voice in the room.

We wanted to give a voice to African Americans who believe in real change, not leftist platitudes and want their country to be better.

My father was able to watch this country become a better place from the segregation he knew growing up but now I fear the progress he witnessed is being turned on its head. We've now seen the first domino fall in the rollback of that progress.

It's sad we've come to this, but it's the truth. Black Lives Matter has crippled the police across dozens of cities, and we're now seeing the economic impact.

These, friends, are the first tangible results from Black Lives Matter's mad, anti-police crusade. These are the first far-reaching consequences beyond the violence in cities this summer that has gone so long it's beginning to feel lethargic. These are the consequences that BLM's leadership probably are fully aware of, but that the young misguided social justice warriors that make up their ranks haven't stopped to think about.

When you do stop and think about it, why should the owner put his drivers in danger? Why would he risk the danger in cities where police have been hamstrung and rioters have free reign of the streets?

When young children like poor Secoria Turner in Atlanta are getting gunned down in the streets, I wouldn't want my employees going to those cities either.

It's sad we've come to this, but it's the truth. Black Lives Matter has crippled the police across dozens of cities, and we're now seeing the economic impact.

Cities that normally receive commerce by way of trucking companies and shipping outlets are now going to lose a vital source of income. Depending on the size of the city, the effect could range from negligible to devastating.

Either way, it's a problem none of these communities should have faced. But because city leaders and governments either were bullied into defunding their police or just felt like being politically correct, grocery stores and retail outlets are going to have to find other ways to supply their products.

Now you might be thinking, "I see your point Bishop, but won't another trucking company just step up and fill the void?" Ideally, you'd be right, but I would pose the counter-question of how long it will take before other companies follow JKC's lead if the riots aren't brought to heel soon.

For that matter, how long will it be before other industries start making similar choices? How long will it be before the results BLM's leftist ideology impedes different businesses from providing income to communities?

What if a company like Staples or Walmart decides to build new facilities in Portland but then pulls out at the last second because rioters there are still out of control? And it's not just mega-retailers; I haven't even touched on small businesses and entrepreneurs. If I were a young, bright individual looking to start my own company, I certainly wouldn't want to do it in a place with kneecapped police and no guarantee of stability.

The worst part of this debacle is that minority communities, the very people BLM claims to represent, will suffer the most.

A weaker police force means less business in a community and that's less jobs to go around including for minorities.

Minorities in low-income neighborhoods need the work, not just bloated government welfare programs. These are minorities who could work in shipping warehouses, malls, stores, or startups are worse off if none of those industries decide to do business in their communities.

BLM's "justice" has already gotten black children killed on the streets. Its crusade to replace police authority with an anarchist mob has made it less safe in low-income neighborhoods than before George Floyd's tragic death. But now we're finally seeing the long-term consequences; the purging of business opportunities that will only drive minorities further away from prosperity and into the loving arms of government dependency.

[From Fox News, Sept. 16, 2020]

**LA SHERIFF ALEX VILLANUEVA CHALLENGES LEBRON JAMES TO MATCH REWARD MONEY FOR GUNMAN WHO AMBUSHED TWO DEPUTIES IN COMPTON**

(By Louis Casiano)

Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva on Monday challenged NBA star LeBron James to match and double the reward money being offered for information on the gunman who ambushed and shot two deputies over the weekend.

Speaking with KABC Radio on the John Phillips Show, Villanueva said the reward money reached \$175,000—a combination of donations of \$100,000 from the county and \$75,000 from two private individuals.

"This challenge is to LeBron James. I want you to match that and double that reward," Villanueva said. "I know you care about law enforcement. You expressed a very interesting statement about your perspective on race relations and on officer-involved shootings and the impact that it has on the African-American community.

"And I appreciated that," he continued. "But likewise, we need to appreciate that respect for life goes across all professions."

The Los Angeles Lakers star has been one of the most vocal professional athletes to speak on social issues and to condemn police misconduct. After Jacob Blake was shot multiple times by officers in Wisconsin last month, James said Black people in America are "terrified" of police misconduct.

"I know people get tired of hearing me say it, but we are scared as Black people in America," James said following the Lakers' Game 4 win over the Portland Trail Blazers last month. "Black men, Black women, Black kids, we are terrified."

He earlier tweeted his frustrations about police shootings.

"And y'all wonder why we say what we say about the Police!! Someone please tell me WTF is this????!! Exactly another black man being targeted," James wrote. "This s--- [sic] is so wrong and so sad!! Feel so sorry for him, his family and OUR PEOPLE!! We want JUSTICE."

It was not clear if James was aware of Villanueva's challenge. Messages to the LeBron James Foundation were not immediately returned.

"Let's see what he does," the sheriff said. "I'll be very curious to see what his response is, if any."

[From Fox News, Sept. 11, 2020]

**ST. LOUIS BLM PROTESTERS FROM MCCLOSKEY CONFRONTATION CITED FOR TRESPASSING**

(By Louis Casiano)

Nine Black Lives Matter protesters who were confronted by an armed St. Louis cou-

ple on their lawn have been issued citations for trespassing, officials told Fox News.

The June 28 encounter between the demonstrators, and Mark and Patricia McCloskey made headlines as the country was gripped by nationwide protests over police brutality. The couple—both personal injury lawyers—were seen on video and in photos pointing a handgun and a rifle as demonstrators moved through their neighborhood.

No shots were fired.

Calls and emails to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department from Fox News were not returned.

The office of City Counselor Julian Bush told Fox News in an email that the citations were mailed to the nine people but that Bush has "not yet determined whether to file charges."

The protesters could face up to \$500 in fines and up to 90 days in jail. However, Bush told NPR it was rare for anyone to receive such penalties for a municipal ordinance violation.

Last week, Black Lives Matter activist Ohun Ashe tweeted that she received a summons.

"I was just sent a summons to appear in court for 'trespassing on private property' on Portland P1 aka the street Patricia and Mark McCloskey live on," the post read. "I had a gun waved in my face by them but trespassing is what matters?"

Video footage captured the confrontation as 300 demonstrators marched in the street, claiming they were headed toward the home of St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson. The McCloskeys aimed their weapons at the marchers and have since been charged with felony unlawful use of a weapon.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, has said he will almost certainly pardon the McCloskeys if they are convicted.

The incident landed the couple an appearance during the first night of the Republican National Convention last month, where they asserted their Second Amendment right to defend themselves.

"The radicals are not content just marching in the streets," Mark McCloskey said during a virtual speech. "They want to walk the halls of Congress. They want power. This is Joe Biden's party. These are the people who will be in charge."

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 14, 2020]

**CONFESIONS OF A NEW GUN OWNER**

(By William McGurn)

On Monday it became official: The police issued me a gun permit.

Never did I imagine I'd be here. Not because I was anti-gun. My dad was a career FBI agent, so my siblings and I grew up with guns.

At the same time, my father was never particularly interested in guns. To no avail, we would beg him to go to shoots to show off his skills. More frequently he would remind us that many who keep guns in the house are more likely to shoot a friend or family member than a would-be robber or rapist. His proudest boast about his own career was that not once did he have to shoot anybody.

This may help explain why we all grew up supporting the Second Amendment in principle while not much interested in the practice. What changed? Certainly the rioters played a key part. But far more shocking than the rioters themselves has been the associated spectacle of police and political authorities across America standing down in the face of night after night of criminal behavior directed at the lives and livelihoods of innocent, law-abiding citizens.

Even in suburbia, many are no longer confident our authorities would or could keep us

safe. In a small suburb such as mine, what would happen if even 100 or 200 people bent on violence were to arrive at once? Could our small police force really handle it? Or would we be left to fend for ourselves like Mark and Pat McCloskey in St. Louis, who defended their home and were then treated as if they were criminals?

A few years back, I asked a former colleague whom I knew to be pro-Second Amendment philosophically if he owned a gun. He answered no, and then asked if I had one. I said I wouldn't know what to write down as my reason for wanting one.

He told me, "Write down, 'Because I don't trust the government.'"

That might have worked for the Founding Fathers. But in today's New Jersey—a state ranked by the Giffords Law Center's annual Gun Law Scorecard as the nation's most restrictive after California—the response might be 40 squad cars on the front lawn by morning. I say this only half in jest: Do other Americans buying guns for the first time find it as grating as I do to learn that we need government permission to exercise a constitutional right?

Equally illuminating has been learning about guns and those who own them. Over four decades in the news business, I have often written about the National Rifle Association, usually about some proposed new gun law. Most recently the NRA has been in the headlines over a lawsuit filed by New York's attorney general in which she accuses top leaders of decades-long corruption and misspending.

But our family's decision to buy a gun has introduced us to the side of the NRA more Americans see: the education side. The NRA has courses, online and in person, for almost everything. The NRA instructor my wife and I engaged, Billy De Almedia, was firm, professional and patient.

It's not just the instruction that impresses. It's the sheer Americanness of a private organization established to support a constitutional right in all its manifestations, from defending the Second Amendment legally and philosophically to instilling in newbies such as myself the respect for guns necessary to keep and use them safely. Not to mention a taste of the satisfaction that comes from mastering a new discipline.

Surely if the government were to assume the functions the NRA provides, the experience would be akin to going to your local Department of Motor Vehicles. In America, by contrast, the ethos emphasizes private initiative and responsibility. In our new interactions with gun owners, gun instructors and owners of gun ranges, my wife and I have found them unfailingly eager to help and to answer even the dumbest questions.

This year a record five million law-abiding Americans, like us, have become new gun owners. Many don't fit the stereotype: African-Americans account for the largest percentage jump in gun ownership, while women are 40% of first-time buyers. These new buyers join an even larger demographic: the 43% of American households that already have a gun.

The record gun sales for 2020 may have implications for swing states in November as well. In Pennsylvania alone, the National Shooting Sports Foundation reckons there are 276,648 first-time gun owners this year. To put this in perspective, in 2016 Donald Trump won Pennsylvania by 44,292 votes.

Now, I appreciate how unlikely it is that I will ever reach for a gun to defend my home or myself. But after watching the mayhem that's taken over so many city streets I wonder, probably with plenty of my fellow first-time gun buyers, what alternative I'd have if ever I had to make that terrible 911 call—and it went unanswered?

[From the Washington Times, July 27, 2020]

REP. JERRY NADLER SAYS ANTIFA VIOLENCE IN PORTLAND A 'MYTH'

(By Jessica Chasmar)

Rep. Jerrold Nadler declared Sunday it's a "myth" that Antifa provocateurs are behind the ongoing violent protests in Portland, Oregon.

In a now-viral video posted on Twitter, writer-producer Austen Fletcher caught up with the House Judiciary Judiciary Committee chairman on his way to his vehicle.

"I ran into Jerry Nadler in DC and asked him to disavow the Antifa violence/rioting in Portland. His response? 'THAT'S A MYTH,'" Mr. Fletcher said in a tweet along with the video.

"It is true," Mr. Fletcher tells Mr. Nadler in the video. "There's violence across the whole country. Do you disavow the violence from Antifa that's happening in Portland right now? There's riots—"

"That's a myth that's being spread only in Washington, D.C.," Mr. Nadler responded.

"About Antifa in Portland?" Mr. Fletcher asked.

"Yes," Mr. Nadler replied before a staffer nudged him to get into the vehicle.

"Sir, there's videos everywhere online," Mr. Fletcher continued. "There's fires and riots, they're throwing fireworks at federal officers. DHS is there. Look online. It gets crazy, Mr. Nadler."

The New York Democrat was slammed for his response, which came as Portland entered its 60th day of riots since the death of George Floyd.

Portland is the home of Rose City Antifa, the oldest known so-called anti-fascist group in the country.

[From American News, Sept. 14, 2020]

DHS LEAKED EMAIL CONFIRMS ANTIFA IS AN ORGANIZED GROUP

(By Ian Miles Cheong)

An internal email from the Department of Homeland Security leaked to CBS Catherine Herridge late Monday detailing that the violence in Portland was not "opportunistic," but rather "organized"—confirming long-suspected details about the Antifa movement.

The email explains that Antifa is organized and runs contrary to reports in the mainstream media that Antifa was not responsible for anti-police violence, but an impromptu movement spurred on by anti-fascist sentiments held by most of the American public.

A recent article in the Washington Post by Mark Bray, author of *Antifa: Anti-Fascist Handbook*, attempted to dispel "myths" about Antifa, claims that the group is not an organization, but rather a "tradition of militant antifascism." The article disputed claims that Antifa "masterminds violence at Black Lives Matter protests."

In printed email documents attained by Herridge, the DHS' Acting Under Secretary for Intelligence & Analysis Brian Murphy wrote to his colleagues on July 25 detailing his findings of Antifa in Portland.

Murphy urged for an immediate change of definitions for the violent activity in Portland following a review of the individuals arrested by federal authorities, as well as intelligence surrounding their affiliations and activities.

"The individuals are violently attacking the Federal facilities based on these ideologies," he said in regards to Antifa, which he classed as VAAI or "VIOLENT ANTIFA ANARCHISTS INSPIRED."

"We can't say any longer that this violent situation is opportunistic," wrote Murphy. "Additionally, we have overwhelmingly in-

telligence regarding the ideologies driving individuals towards violence and why the violence has continued."

"A core set of Threat actors are organized, show up night after night, share common TTPs and drawing on like minded individuals to their cause."

TTP stands for Tactics, Techniques and Procedures.

"I recognize we may not be able to attribute every individual as VAAI however we need to look at the totality of the intelligence both current and previous and recognize the motivation for the violence and why people have shown up to commit violence for about 60 days. And why the individuals are using social media to encourage the VAAI on the ground to carry out acts of violence."

The nightly riots in Portland numbered at sixty days when the email was composed. Rioting has shifted from Portland to other cities with some of the same actors, including Washington DC, Seattle, and Kenosha—violence of which was spurred largely by pro-Antifa advocates on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitch, and Twitter.

"Threat actors who are motivated by Anarchist or ANTIFA (or a combination of both) ideologies to carry out acts of violence against State, Local, and Federal authorities and infrastructure they believe represent authority or represent political and social ideas they reject," Murphy concluded.

Phrases like "Every city, every town. Burn the precincts to the ground" are a common refrain at Black Lives Matter rallies, and have been chanted during arson attacks on the Portland Police Bureau, the Mark O. Hatfield federal courthouse in Portland, and other facilities where Antifa and Black Lives Matter militants were present.

The intelligence provided by the DHS validates claims by conservative voices who have long identified Antifa as an organized movement, and flies in the face of claims that the group was not intent on committing violence or conducting an insurgency against the United States government.

[From gatewaypundit.com, Sept. 15, 2020]

MILWAUKEE TRUMP SUPPORTER ARRESTED FOR BRANDISHING A GUN AT BLACK LIVES MATTER MOB THAT WAS SURROUNDING HIS HOME (VIDEO)

(By Cassandra Fairbanks)

A Milwaukee man has reportedly been arrested after pulling a gun on a mob of Black Lives Matter supporters who were surrounding his home for several hours. It is currently unclear who the man is or why the mob was at his house, but he did have a "Trump Train" flag hanging outside.

Members of the mob claimed on social media that their actions were justified because he is a "racist" and had a confederate flag. The flag was not seen in the videos, but an American and Trump flag were hanging prominently on the front of his home.

In livestream footage of the incident, the mob is clearly seen stepping on to the man's property.

"They went specifically to his house to protest him for 'being a racist.' The homeowner was arrested, and the crowd remains outside. They seem to have gone on his property. WTF Milwaukee?" Kitty Shackleford, a Twitter user that archives riot footage, tweeted along with videos.

After the mob was outside his home for more than two hours, police arrived. As they entered the man's property, the rioters cheered for police and called for the man's arrest, yelling about how he had a weapon.

When the man was taken outside, seemingly in cuffs, the crowd went wild.

The militant leftists were threatening the man saying that he was going to have big problems if he dared to step outside.

As they threatened him, shined lights into his home, and pranced all over his property, he pointed a shotgun out the window.

The person who called for the “protest”, livestreamed the mob outside the man’s home for several hours.

It does not appear that any members of the mob have been arrested.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, as we have recognized here today with our speakers the importance of law enforcement to maintaining our rights and the safety of our neighborhoods and communities, I am reminded that it was just a little over a month ago, late July 2020, when the chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives said about antifa, as the city of Portland was being burned by antifa, he said it is a myth. It is a myth.

And then what has happened is an internal email from the Department of Homeland Security revealed Monday that the violence in Portland was not opportunistic but, rather, organized by the antifa organization.

We have got to see that our Attorney General—I urge him, I urge the FBI to investigate and the Attorney General to take every action that the law allows, whether it is civil RICO or prosecution of these individuals, because, if you want to bring our society back into order, you take people who are violent, rioting, looting, causing mayhem and murder, you arrest them. You charge them, you prosecute them, and you convict them.

We know there are law enforcement who do a great job, but right now, in many places around this country, it will take a law enforcement officer 5 or 10 minutes or longer to get to a home or a business that is under attack by a criminal. When that happens, if they are under attack, these individuals need to have the right, as they do under the Second Amendment, to protect themselves. That right must be protected and maintained.

So I am kind of surprised—I am going to give you a fact here. In Pennsylvania alone, this year, you have had an increase in new gun owners by more than a quarter of a million. More than a quarter of a million people in Pennsylvania own guns today who didn’t own them at the beginning of the year. Why? Because of what is going on in our streets, whether it is in Pennsylvania, Oregon, or wherever else it may be.

A mob circles a home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; an individual holds up a shotgun inside as this mob surrounds his home. What does the mob do, the antifa folks? They call the police to have this man arrested for having a gun on the ready to protect himself from that very mob. That is backwards.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, we thank the police. The purpose of the police is to protect the weak and the rights of all.

When our leaders in places like Portland, Minneapolis, you name it, casti-

gate the police or celebrities castigate the police, what they are really saying is: We are content with mob rule. That can’t be the case.

We have heard this tonight from my colleagues who have said this so well. We support the police, and we support the thin blue line that protects our rights. This rioting and this mayhem must end tonight.

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

#### ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON).

RECOGNIZING DEAN C. MATHISEN’S SERVICE TO OUR NATION AND NEBRASKA’S SECOND DISTRICT

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very respected friend from Wisconsin today for yielding. We had our 5-minute speeches cut short, so I appreciate the opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Dean C. Mathisen for 20 years of service to our Nation and Nebraska’s Second District. Dean is retiring from Federal service at the end of the 116th Congress in January 2021.

Dean is a former U.S. Army officer and a combat veteran. He served as a field artillery officer on Active Duty in the U.S. Army during the Cold War, on its front lines in West Germany. He was next assigned as a military police officer who deployed to the desert during the first Gulf war. Dean also commanded a transportation company in the U.S. Army Reserves.

In Nebraska’s Second District, Dean served over 12 years as a senior constituent liaison for the Honorable Lee Terry from 2002 to January 2015. During this tenure, he was instrumental in identifying the need and communicating with the Department of Veterans Affairs about bringing a national veterans cemetery to the district. Dean was a key element in finding the resources to enable the first homeless veterans housing project in Omaha to be completed as well.

Dean then crossed the Missouri River in Iowa in 2016 and continued his Federal service in the office of the Honorable JONI ERNST. Here, he continued to use his personal experience to aid him in understanding the needs of our military servicemembers and veterans while solving constituent issues.

In 2017, Dean became a member of my original Omaha district office team as a senior constituent liaison. During this time, he saw the need for and coordinated the efforts to establish a Federal veterans court for the State of Nebraska. In the summer, Dean was promoted to deputy district director.

In his free time, Dean is active in local animal rescue and animal-assisted therapy. He is known in our of-

fice to be an avid horseman, hunter, and shooter. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and The American Legion and is known as a great Dane.

I want to offer Dean my sincere appreciation for his years of dedicated service to our great Nation and to Nebraska’s Second Congressional District. His retirement is well earned. He should take great pride in his accomplishments in both his military and civil service careers for the citizens of the United States of America and the constituents of the Second District of Nebraska.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dean all the best in his future endeavors.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: HONORING KATHY AND GREG GONZALEZ

Mr. BACON. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to commemorate two wonderful people during Hispanic Heritage Month by honoring a husband and wife pair of wonderful police officers from my district in Omaha. They have given lifetime contributions to law enforcement and have engaged in community efforts for our hometown.

Gregory Michael Gonzalez and Katherine Lynn Belcastro-Gonzalez were born in South Omaha in the early seventies to immigrant families.

One of six siblings, Greg grew up in a military environment as his father was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base.

Kathy’s mother fled from Lithuania to Nebraska after her grandfather was taken as a prisoner of war. Kathy and her siblings were then raised in the basement of a Lithuanian parish in South Omaha.

Kathy and Greg were high school sweethearts at Omaha South High and went on to become married first-generation college graduates. Greg obtained an athletic scholarship at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Kathy attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln while simultaneously working three jobs. She graduated in 1993 and joined the Omaha Police Department the following year. Greg began his career in law enforcement in 1993 as the only Mexican American in the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office.

As assistant chief of the Omaha Police Department, Greg now helps oversee the hiring of officers and works to reflect the diverse community it serves, including Spanish-speaking officers. Additionally, Greg is an adjunct police academy instructor and instructs criminal justice courses at his alma mater.

As captain of Omaha’s southeast precinct, Kathy oversees one of the most culturally diverse areas in Omaha. In addition, her precinct also manages large-scale events and cultural celebrations, including the NCAA College World Series, events at TD Ameritrade Park, and Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium.

Athletics are another passion Kathy and Greg share, and they believe competitiveness and teamwork are interpersonal skills that transfer from sports to the rest of life.

The couple was instrumental in expanding the already successful police-led sports program for at-risk and disadvantaged youth in Omaha called the Police Athletics for Community Engagement, or PACE. This program is led by police officers and volunteers and was founded in 2005 by Detective Tony Espejo, a 30-year member of the Omaha Police Department and veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Currently, retired OPD Captain Rich Gonzalez serves as PACE's executive director.

This September, Greg and Kathy celebrate their 21st wedding anniversary joined by their three children, Izabella, Greg Jr., and Alex. Overall, Kathy and Greg believe they would not be where they are today without the support of parents and extended family.

With an extended list of combined accolades and awards locally and nationally, Greg and Kathy Gonzalez exemplify the American Dream and the quintessential rise to success from hardworking immigrant families.

Mr. Speaker, we salute Greg and Kathy. May the future reward them with health and prosperity to continue to serve and protect our communities.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to address several issues.

The first issue that has been in the paper lately is vitamin D. I have spoken before this Chamber several times in the past on the importance of taking vitamin D. Over 40 percent of American adults do not have an adequate amount of vitamin D in their system.

Several institutions of higher learning have done research and strongly suggest that vitamin D is a way to reduce the number of people who get COVID as well as greatly reduce the effects of COVID on those people who unfortunately get it. This has been found by MIT, by Northwestern in Evanston, and by Trinity College in Iowa.

It has been my disappointment to this point that the appropriate government agencies that have no problem sending out press releases and advertisements on COVID have not addressed vitamin D.

I was, therefore, elated to find out that, late last week, Dr. Fauci came out and supported the evidence behind vitamin D's benefits. Even more than that, Dr. Fauci said that he has been taking vitamin D himself, which is very good. This is a change.

Traditionally, many people out there said that you should even stay inside, and one way to get vitamin D is to be out in the Sun. So, the idea that we need more vitamin D is the opposite of what some of the experts or at least what some politicians have told us.

Vitamin D, of course, is good not only to prevent COVID but to prevent other sorts of infections and respiratory problems as well.

Now that Dr. Fauci has come out and told us that getting more vitamin D is a good idea, and particularly now that Dr. Fauci has admitted that he himself has been taking vitamin D, I strongly encourage the CDC and all other appropriate government agencies to publicize the benefits of vitamin D.

We have to do something other than just wait for a vaccine, which may or may not happen. And we all know, when it does happen, many people will not take that vaccine.

I strongly encourage Dr. Fauci to follow up on his statements with approving TV commercials talking about vitamin D and the fact that he takes vitamin D in his future interviews.

Harvard estimates that 1 billion individuals worldwide may be vitamin D deficient, and of course, the rest of the world looks to the United States for leadership. So, the benefits would not only accrue to American citizens but to citizens around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I remind you to take vitamin D, particularly if you have any friends or relatives who may be vitamin D deficient or have special problems. I would talk to your doctor and anybody who is going in for a regular check-up. I would ask for a vitamin D test as well because there are ways to reduce the number of people getting COVID and to reduce the number of fatalities other than just hanging around and waiting for a vaccine.

Mr. Speaker, the next topic I would like to address tonight is also a medical topic that has been something I would have liked to address since I got here. I came across some information with regard to biosimilars, and that is people who need insulin.

I consider myself an advocate for the Juvenile Diabetes Association, and I am aware of many different people who have diabetes. Depending upon the type of insurance you have, Mr. Speaker, if you have diabetes, you may be spending \$100 a month on insulin. I have run into people who are spending \$800 or \$1,000 a month for insulin.

Can you imagine if you have a child and you have to go out of pocket for another \$1,000 a month just to keep your child alive?

I ran into the fact that people are working on substitutes for insulin called biosimilars. I am introducing H.R. 8190, the Biosimilar Insulin Access Act, which will increase competition in the insulin market by making biosimilars available. Biosimilars are to insulin what generics are to normal prescription drugs.

It would be tremendous if we could get more of these to the market. Right now, for whatever reason, it takes far too long to get these products to market. Sometimes, they aren't available at all. Because they are not available, people continue to have to overpay to keep themselves or their loved ones alive.

Interchangeable biosimilar products are able to be automatically dispensed at the pharmacy counter for their

brand-name reference product or brand-named insulin. We want to generate the same type of cost savings for insulin that we have already done in the past for generic drugs.

I realize it is late in the session, but things can move fast. We all know that bills pass around here relatively soon after they are introduced.

When I think of the people who are having to pay \$1,000 a month or maybe just \$500 or \$600 a month for themselves or their children, I hope people in this building and the relevant committees and relevant leadership find a way to get this bill to the floor.

I will be available to explain the importance of this bill. I am ready to explain the importance of this bill to any of the Members. I will be on the floor the next couple of days talking about it. I hope to get a good cosponsorship list, but I do hope that the relevant committees immediately take up this bill and get it to the floor so that we can save as much money as possible for the people who are stuck with this disease.

The final point I am going to bring up tonight is concerning border security. It is an issue that, because of the COVID, has been pushed to the background. But pushed to the background or not, it remains to be important for this country.

No country can continue to exist if they have open borders and unlimited and unvetted people continue to come here.

Now, there are people who come here whom we do not expect to come here, who are caught or who come in contact with the border security, and there are other people who sneak across the border. They are never contacted by border security because, quite frankly, we have a shortage of agents, though they are caught on cameras.

A year ago in May, right now about 15 months ago, 16 months ago, about 90,000 people came into contact with the Border Patrol and were allowed in this country—people who were not coming here through the normal immigration channels. Since that time—it is something that has been underpublicized, and quite frankly, it ought to be more publicized by President Trump himself because he is not afraid to publicize his successes—we have dropped from 90,000 people to under 2,000 people coming into contact with our Border Patrol and let in the country.

This has been done by three things, all underpublicized.

One, President Trump, in part by talking about tariffs—I believe, maybe not—has gotten the Mexican Government to agree to hold people on the Mexican side of the border instead of having people who are asking for asylum come to the United States and be released into the American interior where we never see them again.

□ 1745

We all know that some of these people are probably drug-running. We

know that some of these people are breaking the law. And we know that some of these people are going to wind up on some sort of public assistance. So we salute President Trump for reaching an agreement and holding people south of the border.

The next thing President Trump has done is he has contacted the countries in Central America, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras and made sure they are holding more people of not only their own nations, but people further south in their countries rather than allowing them into Mexico.

Now, the United States does provide foreign aid to these countries, and I think it is important that we maintain good relations with these countries. But I think it has been under-publicized that President Trump, through negotiations with these countries, is further decreasing the number of people who are coming into this country who we do not necessarily want to have come into this country.

And the final situation, is now people coming into this country, who may have COVID, are immediately turned around and told to go back home.

So you combine these three things, and you go from about 90,000 people coming into contact with the border patrol and being allowed in here to—I am told—under 1,000. It is almost too good to believe. But that is what happens when you have a man of action, a person who is committed to holding people south of the border.

This is particularly true because in the future, we have people talking about giving people coming across the border free healthcare. We already know—unless you are blind—that people are taking advantage of public benefits who are coming here illegally.

So I think at a time when there is so much bad news out of government, we ought to pay attention to exactly what happened when we went over 90,000 to certainly under 2,000—and maybe under 1,000 people—allowed in the country. I will point out that this does not include people who do not come in contact with the border patrol. And in the year that is wrapping up, we estimate that about 10,000 people have come in here without contact with the border patrol. We know this because we have cameras taking pictures of people sneaking across the border. We do not have enough border control to turn these people around.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the border patrol for the number of pounds of cocaine, methamphetamines, and fentanyl which they have turned around at the border in the most recent year. That is certainly a degree of success. I know fentanyl, in particular, has been the newest lately, and I wish Congress would pay much closer attention to the people who are dying of fentanyl overdoses this year as the number of people who are dying of other unfortunate incidents.

In any event, those are three things I want the American public to pay attention to. I, again, emphasize the importance of taking vitamin D.

I emphasize the importance of getting biosimilars to the market so that we can save money for the poor people who have to take insulin.

And I salute the border patrol and the administration for all they have done in greatly decreasing the number of people who are coming into this country illegally.

Now, of course, in the Chamber today, we have many different people. And I am prepared to ask to adjourn, but if the people in the front of the room would rather hear a little bit more about fenofibrates, I would be happy to talk about fenofibrates.

Do you want to hear about fenofibrates?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman yield back?

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the remainder of my time and ask for adjournment.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 5 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 17, 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:

5277. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing four officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5278. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Bradford J. Shwedo, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5279. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting an authorization of Major General Paul T. Calvert, United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of Lieutenant general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777a(b)(4); Public Law 111-383, Sec. 505(a)(1); (124 Stat. 4208); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5280. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of the three officers whose names appear on the enclosed list to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5281. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Major final rule — Covered Broker-Dealer Provisions Under Title II of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (RIN: 3064-AE39) received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5282. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Distance Education and Innovation [Docket ID: ED-2018-OPE-0076] (RIN: 1840-AD38) received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5283. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priority and definitions — State Personnel Development Grants [ED-2019-OSERS-0001] received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5284. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priorities and definitions — Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who Are Blind- Training and Technical Assistance [Docket ID: ED-2020-OSERS-0009] received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5285. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priorities, requirements and definitions — Rehabilitation Training: Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center-Quality Management; and Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center-Quality Employment [ED-2020-OSERS-0104] received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5286. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final priorities — Rehabilitation Training: Innovative Rehabilitation Training Program [Docket ID: ED-2019-OSERS-0163] received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5287. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions For Paying Benefits received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5288. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of the Test for Mycoplasma [Docket No.: FDA-2018-N-4757] (RIN: 0910-AH95) received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5289. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Auctions Division, Office of Economics and Analytics, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final

rule — Auction of Flexible-Use Service Licenses in the 3.7-3.98 GHz Band for Next-Generation Wireless Services; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Up-front Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 107 Scheduled to Begin December 8, 2020 [AU Docket No.: 20-25; FCC 20-110] received September 14, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5290. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, 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.

5291. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, 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.

5292. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, 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.

5293. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting two notifications of a federal vacancy, a designation of acting officer, 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.

5294. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Potomac River, Between Jones Point, VA, and National Harbor, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2020-0245] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 14, 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.

5295. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; North Atlantic Ocean, Ocean City, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2020-0361] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 14, 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.

5296. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; I-5 Bridge Construction Project, Columbia River, Vancouver, WA [Docket Number: USCG-2020-0247] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 14, 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.

5297. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Person in Charge of Fuel Transfers [Docket No.: USCG-2018-0493] (RIN: 1625-AC50) received September 14, 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.

5298. A letter from the Legal Tech, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the De-

partment's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Dolan Fireworks, Lake Erie, Bratenahl, OH [Docket No.: USCG-2020-0532] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 14, 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.

5299. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Cumberland River, Hendersonville, TN [Docket Number: USCG-2020-0518] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 14, 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.

5300. A letter from the Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Passenger Carrier No-Defect Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports [Docket No.: FMCSA-2019-0075] (RIN: 2126-AC29) received September 14, 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.

5301. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Market Dominance Streamlined Approach [Docket No.: EP 756] received September 14, 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. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 6100. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the criminalization of female genital mutilation, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-506). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5546. A bill to regulate monitoring of electronic communications between an incarcerated person in a Bureau of Prisons facility and that person's attorney or other legal representative, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-507). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2733. A bill to direct the Attorney General to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-508, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2438. A bill to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime within Indian lands and of Indians; with an amendment (Rept. 116-509, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Natural Resources discharged from further consideration H.R. 2438 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Natural Resources dis-

charged from further consideration. H.R. 2733 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 8264. A bill to amend chapter 2003 of title 54, United States Code, to protect majority federally owned counties from loss of taxable acreage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 8265. A bill to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to establish a program for second draw loans and make other modifications to the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, 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. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. STANTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SIRES, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 8266. A bill to modify the Federal cost share of certain emergency assistance provided under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to modify the activities eligible for assistance under the emergency declaration issued by the President on March 13, 2020 relating to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. KIND, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 8267. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify the definition of water heater under energy conservation standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 8268. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish mental and behavioral health care to certain individuals discharged or released from the active military, naval, or air service under conditions other than honorable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 8269. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct annual surveys of veterans on experiences obtaining hospital care and medical services from medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr.

OLSON, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. CROW, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. KIM, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. VELA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. HAALAND, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. Sires, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. GALLEGUO, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LESKO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. HECK, Ms. MENG, Ms. KAPTR, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. WILD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. TRONE, Ms. DELAURIO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. COX of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. CRIST, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. BRINDISI):

H.R. 8270. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the responses of the Department of Defense to sex-related offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. MCEACHIN):

H.R. 8271. A bill to provide supplemental appropriations for the cleanup of legacy pollution, including National Priority List sites, certain abandoned coal mining sites, and formerly used defense sites, to replace lead drinking water service lines, to provide grants under certain programs, and to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the issuance of new major source air pollution permits in overburdened communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 8272. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit physically impeding an ambulance from providing emergency medical treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 8273. A bill to establish programs and authorities to facilitate the commercial application of clean energy and related technologies in the United States; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. GALLEGUO):

H.R. 8274. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Dairy Pricing

and Policy Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. McCARTHY (for himself, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. BOST, Mr. DUNN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. COOK, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN):

H.R. 8275. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, and the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, to make certain enhancements to grants and agreements between the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and entities that provide services to homeless veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida (for herself, Mr. CRENshaw, and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 8276. A bill to authorize the President to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Alwyn C. Cashe for acts of valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 8277. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to provide for consultation with State, Tribal, and local governments, the consideration of State, Tribal, and local concerns, and the approval of post-shutdown decommissioning activities reports by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Financial Services, 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. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 8278. A bill to require the disclosure of determinations with respect to which Congressional staff will be required to obtain health insurance coverage through an Exchange; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ZELDIN (for himself and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 8279. A bill to establish and support a quantum network infrastructure research and development program at the Department of Energy and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. HURD of Texas (for himself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CLOUD, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H. Con. Res. 116. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the principles that should guide the national artificial intelligence strategy of the United States; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Oversight and Reform, Foreign Affairs, Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H. Con. Res. 117. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should resume normal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, negotiate a bilateral free trade agreement with Taiwan, and support Taiwan's membership in international organizations; to the Committee on

Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Mr. McCaul, Mr. McCARTHY, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BABIN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. ROY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. FLORES, Mr. CRENshaw, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. WILLIAMS):

H. Res. 1115. A resolution calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed, a United States citizen who was unjustly sentenced to 9 years in a Russian prison; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER:

H. Res. 1116. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7664) to permit the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to deem certain nonprofit organizations serving developmentally disabled individuals as eligible to participate in the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 1117. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2020 as Peripheral Artery Disease Awareness Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. RYAN, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. Sires):

H. Res. 1118. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2020 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 8264.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 8265.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 8266.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 8267.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 8268.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS, 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 Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 8269.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS, 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 Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 8270.

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 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. HAALAND:

H.R. 8271.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 8272.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S.C. Article I, Section 8

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 8273.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 8274.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. McCARTHY:

H.R. 8275.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 12

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 13

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 8276.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, which gives Congress the power to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; to raise and support armies; and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 8277.

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. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 8278.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 8279.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 125: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 594: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 683: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 832: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 989: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1034: Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee and Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 1108: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 1130: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1224: Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 1450: Mr. DELGADO and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1560: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 1857: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 1873: Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 2031: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 2168: Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 2295: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 2442: Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MCADAMS, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. FRANKEL, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2453: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 2653: Mr. VAN DREW and Ms. KAPTRU.

H.R. 3086: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 3114: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. BRINDISI, and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 3548: Mr. MAST.

H.R. 3570: Ms. KAPTRU, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. NEAL, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3572: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3771: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3797: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.

H.R. 3821: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 3969: Mr. MAST.

H.R. 4172: Mr. BOST and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 4549: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 4924: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 5046: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 5086: Mr. BURGESSION.

H.R. 5098: Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 5141: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CRIST, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. MCBATHE, Mr. CROW, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. PORTER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. BASS, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 5194: Ms. DEAN and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 5427: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 5589: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 5605: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SPANO, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 5610: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 5701: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.

H.R. 5754: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 5995: Ms. FUDGE and Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 6032: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 6195: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 6425: Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 6563: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 6626: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 6645: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 6794: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 6829: Mr. SPANO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. CROW, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 6833: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 6919: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 6934: Mrs. TORRES of California and Mr. GOODEN.

H.R. 7024: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 7039: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 7040: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 7052: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 7071: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 7072: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 7078: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 7154: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 7233: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 7490: Mr. GOODEN.

H.R. 7499: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 7564: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 7565: Ms. FRANKEL.

H.R. 7620: Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, and Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 7632: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 7642: Ms. GABBARD, Mrs. LURIA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. Danny K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 7666: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 7690: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 7739: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 7749: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 7759: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 7766: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma.

H.R. 7809: Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 7821: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 7832: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 7839: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 7910: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 7919: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 7961: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 8030: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 8031: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 8044: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 8109: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 8113: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 8171: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 8180: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 8200: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 8201: Mr. SPANO.

H.R. 8254: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H. Res. 908: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. CRIST.

H. Res. 1078: Ms. PINGREE.

H. Res. 1110: Mr. ZELDIN and Mr. ROSE of New York.